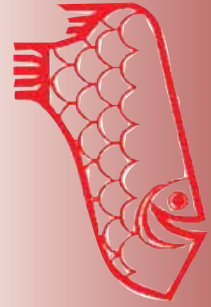


# Victorian Cichlid Society Incorporated



# Handbook

(Fourth Edition)

## Introduction

The Committee and Members of the Victorian Cichlid Society Incorporated bid you ...

*Welcome to the Victorian Cichlid Society*

... this Handbook is intended to familiarise you with the club's facilities, activities and rules.

The first Handbook of the Society was produced in 1985, the identity of its publisher, like a lot of information from that era, has been lost. It contained the Constitution of the time, line drawings, and the same society records and "honor rolls" that we find in the subsequent editions.

The second version was produced by Daryl Hutchins, and with the availability of offset printing, it contained photographs and detailed line drawings.

Under the auspices of the newly formed Handbook Sub-committee, Handbook #3 had substantial improvements. The Constitution had a major overhaul at the time, and has had a few small tweaks since then concerning the Financial Year and Committee Constitution.

Most of the information previously available in the handbook, including an up-to-date version of the Society's Constitution, is now available at any time via the Web Site -- [cichlids.web.com](http://cichlids.web.com). This fourth version of the handbook will be produced in small numbers and updated as need be.

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# History



## Victorian Cichlid Society Incorporated

The Victorian Cichlid Society was formed at Mulgrave in March 1972, thus becoming the first specialist fish society in Victoria.

Heinz Staude was elected President, and for 12 months meetings were held at Dunoon Court, Mulgrave.

The first newsletter of the Society appeared in April 1972, thanks to the efforts of Robert Dinn.

Society meetings were moved in April 1973 to Noble Park Hall (Dunblane Road, Noble Park). Subsequent changes of venue were made to the AMRA Hall (Wills Street, Glen Iris) in November 1975; the Ashburton Library (High Street, Ashburton) in July 1982; the Ashburton Primary School (Fakenham Road, Ashburton) in October 1986; the Northvale Primary School (Albany Drive, Mulgrave) in February 1989; St John's Church Hall (Finch Street, Malvern) in March 1992; the Courtyard Room (Nunawading Community Centre, Whitehorse Road, Mitcham) in February 1994; Antonio Park Primary School, (Whitehorse Road, Mitcham) in February 2001; and Mitcham Scout Hall, (Brunswick Road, Mitcham) in February 2002.

In March 1973 the Society became a Foundation Member of the Victorian Federation of Aquarium Societies. Due to a perceived lack of any benefit to the society or the hobby from its continued membership, the VCS withdrew from the VFAS in April 1991.

November 1976 saw the staging of the inaugural 'Cichlid Expo' which was held at the Australian Model Railway Association (AMRA) Hall, Wills Street, Glen Iris. In March 1978 the VCS combined with Eastern Districts Aquarium Society and other societies to stage the first of six annual 'Aqualife' exhibitions. 'Cichlid Expo' was again staged in 1988 by the VCS as its contribution to Australia's Bicentenary celebrations.

May 1979 saw the first of the bi-annual meetings held at the Melbourne University, hosted by Professor Angus Martin, a keen cichlid-keeper, honorary member for many years and a member of the university's Zoology Department.

In 1984 the 'Elaine Turner Memorial Art and Photographic Competition' was established to honor the late fish enthusiast who contributed so much to the Society and the hobby in general.

A significant milestone in the history of the Society was reached with its incorporation on 11 March 1987 (Certificate of Incorporation Number A12794D). Steve Butcher was the Society's first Public Officer.

The Society was keenly involved with the Australian Federation of Cichlid Societies (AFCS) from its formation in 1987 until it appeared to “go into recess” in 1994. VCS members travelled to interstate AFCS conferences and the Society was host to the national ‘Cichlid Conference’ in June 1989; and again in 1993. Despite the lack of a national body, good interaction continues between the various cichlid societies both as clubs and at a personal level.

The January Pool Party/BBQ day was a popular family function for many years until 1997 when it lapsed due to waning attendances. Weather permitting, a lively volleyball match took place and was usually very entertaining for both the spectators and survivors.

## Aims

***The main aims of the Victorian Cichlid Society Incorporated are:***

1. To promote the keeping of cichlids;
2. To gain and disseminate knowledge of cichlids, their habits and attributes through the use of slides, films, books, lectures, practical demonstrations, local and overseas magazines, articles by members and discussion with fellow members or experts in the field;
3. To assist, in any way possible, the establishment and/or maintenance of approved public aquaria;
4. To be involved in the education of the general public with regard to the benefits of fish-keeping (particularly cichlids), and the potentially harmful effects of animal mismanagement;
5. To promote fellowship between the members;
6. To further the conservation of species and their natural habitats; and
7. To further the identification, distribution, breeding, maintenance and enjoyment of species in the Family Cichlidae.

## Life Members

Graham Rowe (1979)  
Heinz Staude (1980)  
Kevin Archibald (1984)

Keith Patford (1987)  
Danny Genovese (1994)  
Daryl Hutchins (1999)

## Fellow of the Society

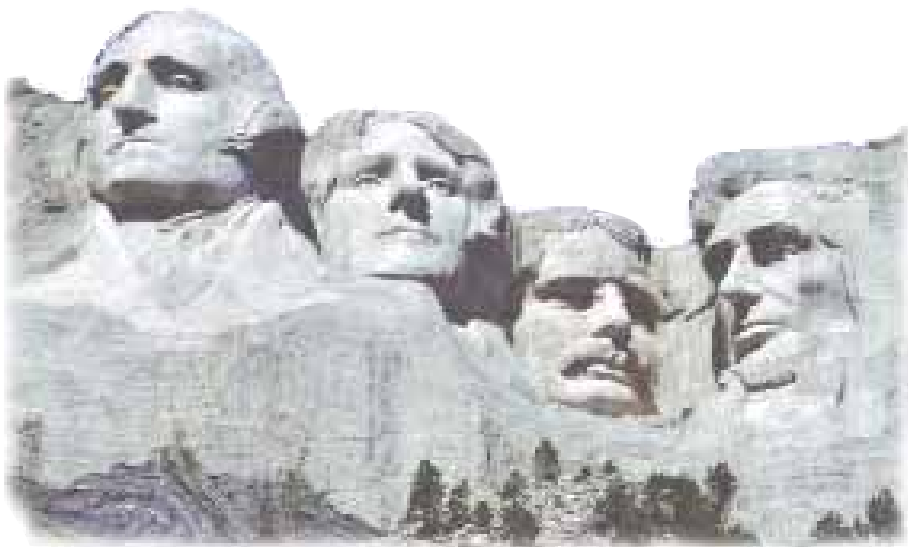
Graham Rowe (1999)

## Meetings

- General Meetings – 8 pm on the first (1st) Wednesday of each month except January.
- Annual General Meeting – concurrently with the February General Meeting.
- Committee Meetings – 8 pm on the Wednesday following the General Meeting each month, or at such time as appropriate.
- Fish House Nights – as detailed in ‘TCM’ from time to time.

## Past-Presidents

1972-73	Heinz Staude	1988-89	Graham Rowe
1973-74	Heinz Staude	1989-90	Aart Langelaar
1974-75	Heinz Staude	1990-91	Aart Langelaar
1975-76	Peter Robinson	1991-92	Aart Langelaar
1976-77	Max Davenport	1992-93	Danny Genovese
1977-78	Max Davenport	1993-94	Daryl Hutchins
1978-79	Bill Paterson	1994-95	Dave Thorn
1979-80	Bill Paterson	1995-96	John McCormick
1980-81	Heinz Staude	1996-97	John McCormick
1981-82	Kevin Archibald	1997-98	John McCormick
1982-83	Danny Genovese	1998-99	Aussie Magnussen
1983-84	Danny Genovese	2000	John McCormick
1984-85	Danny Genovese	2001	John McCormick
1985-86	Stephen Butcher	2002	John McCormick
1986-87	Danny Genovese	2003	Peter Clarkson
1987-88	Heinz Staude	2004	Peter Clarkson



## Activities

As well as regular monthly meetings, the members of the Victorian Cichlid Society enjoy a few social functions from time to time. The major function of the year is the Annual Dinner, which is usually held in July or August at varying locales.

Always standing ready to participate in useful inter-club activities – social, sporting and the promotion of the clubs or the hobby in general – the VCS encourages the promotion of friendliness and cooperation between like-minded societies.

Supper is partaken of following each General Meeting – a time at which members have an opportunity to relax and talk among friends.

In the past, the occasional live-food collecting days have been organised during the year, adding yet another enjoyable activity to the calendar.

Fund-raising activities are organised at each meeting to assist in covering the cost of prizes, trophies, publications, etc. A major fund-raiser is normally conducted in conjunction with our Annual Dinner. These activities all aid in keeping the cost of our activities at a minimum.

Fish house nights are organised from time to time, and are extremely popular events.

# Magazine

*The Cichlid Monthly* is a medium for the exchange of information and ideas, including society information. It is distributed to all financial members and visitors to the monthly meetings as well as being made available through selected aquarium shops.

## Past Editors/Editorial Committees:

VOL	YEAR	EDITOR/COMMITTEE (EDITIONS PUBLISHED)
1	72-73	Robert Dinn
2	73-74	Vic Cottren/Peter Dedrick
3	74-75	Vic Cottren/Peter Dedrick
4	75-76	Daryl Hutchins
5	76-77	Klaas Zylstra (9). Committee: Bob Lee, Lou Mingaars, John O'Brien, John Shortreed
6	77-78	Max Davenport/Peter Dedrick
7	78-79	Peter Dedrick
8	79-80	Bill Paterson
9	80-81	Viviane Farley (8), Graham Rowe (3). Committee: Kevin Archibald, John McCormick, Bill Paterson, Les Sholl
10	81-82	Peter Southern
11	82-83	Adrian Lane
12	83-84	Alex Caughey/Russell Pearson
13	84-85	Kevin Archibald
14	85-86	Amanda Genovese
15	86-87	Amanda Genovese
16	87-88	Steve Morton
17	88-89	Daryl Hutchins
18	89-90	Daryl Hutchins
19	90-91	Daryl Hutchins
20	91-92	Paul Greaves (8), Lynda Van Pooss (1), Daryl Hutchins (1), Lynda Van Pooss/Aart Langelaar (1)
21	92-93	Daryl Hutchins
22	93-94	Daryl Hutchins (7), Lynda Van Pooss (4)
23	94-95	Aart Langelaar
24	95-96	Daryl Hutchins
25	96-97	Elias Iliopoulos (9), Helen Rowe/Daryl Hutchins (1) (#11 not published)
26	97-98	Daryl Hutchins
27	98-99	Daryl Hutchins (9 editions due to alignment of financial and calendar years)
28	1999	Daryl Hutchins
29	2000	Daryl Hutchins
30	2001	Daryl Hutchins
31	2002	Peter Clarkson
32	2003	Vicki Clarkson (12 editions)
33	2004	Daryl Hutchins

## The Editor's Prize:

This award was created in 1989 by the Editor of *TCM* at the time to acknowledge the efforts of contributors and in the hope that it would encourage new authors.

The final duty of the outgoing Editor each year is to select an outstanding article to do with fish or fishkeeping, printed in the just-completed volume of *TCM* and award the 'Editor's Prize' (free membership for one year) to the author.

The award is strictly for original\* articles. It is not a "best-article" award, and is unashamedly biased toward *new* authors. It need not be presented at all if, in the opinion of the Editor, no article was suitable.

(\* Material first published in *The Cichlid Monthly*.)

## Past Winners:

VOL	AUTHOR/TITLE
18	Tracey Spain - 'Indiana Baddy and the Forging of the Torrent' (#5).
19	Jon Shields - 'Cichlasoma festae' (#7).
20	Jon Shields - 'Cichlasoma umbriferum: the Blue-Freckled Cichlid' (#8).
21	Lynda Van Pooss - 'Tropheus duboisi "Babimba" Strain (Narrow White Band)' (#4).

- 22 John McCormick - 'Where Did It All Start' (#9).
- 26 Peter Robinson - 'Aquatic Butterfly' (#6).
- 27 Peter Robinson - 'The Aquatic Prairie Dog - Nannacara aureocephala' (#4).
- 28 Jon Shields - 'Tilapia buttikoferi - Hornet or Zebra Cichlid' (#9).
- 29 Peter Robinson - 'Gymnogeophagus balzani - A Treasure Revisited' (#5).
- 30 Peter Robinson - 'Cyprichromis leptosoma - the Sardine With Colour' (#5).

## Library

This valuable Society asset contains a comprehensive range of books dealing with most subjects pertaining to cichlids, aquatic plants and aquarium fish in general. A list of available books can be found on the Society's Web Site, [cichlids.web.com](http://cichlids.web.com).

Most of these books are loaned at a nominal fee, on a monthly basis - naturally there is a small penalty for late returns.

Exchange magazines from both Australian and overseas societies are also available.

## Trading Table

The Trading Table makes a variety of aquarium products available for purchase by the members and provides all new members with a focal-point for trading between themselves.

### Products Available:

- Flake and pelletised foods;
- Brineshrimp Eggs;
- Club Insignia (car stickers, fridge magnets, cloth badges);
- Members' trade items (eg surplus fish);
- Various other goods when available (eg fish buckets, baby-savers, etc).

## Breeders Achievement Award

The Breeder's Achievement Award (BAA) is designed to encourage members to breed a variety of cichlid species and to assist in their maintenance (especially in Victoria).

A series of lapel pins and certificates are awarded to a member when that person achieves the totals of species bred, as detailed hereunder:

<b>5 Green</b>	<b>10 Yellow</b>	<b>25 Red</b>	<b>50 Blue</b>	<b>75 White</b>
<b>100 Gold</b>	<b>125 Gold/Red</b>	<b>150 Gold/Blue</b>	<b>175 Gold/White</b>	<b>200 Gold</b>

These color-codes have been adopted by many aquarium societies within Australia as a common form of acknowledging these respective achievements. However, as the VCS deals with just the one family of fishes, a badge is given for five species bred, whilst general aquarium societies begin with the 10-species badge.

### Rules:

1. For the purpose of BAA points, any fish listed in the current edition of the *Cichlid Register* may be claimed except where it is listed as an aquarium strain.
2. Albinos and other color varieties are considered aquarium strains.
3. The parent fish and fry must be inspected within two (2) weeks of the fry becoming free-swimming, a second inspection takes place at least sixty (60) days after spawning.

4. Both the abovementioned inspections must be made by a person (or persons) who is/are (a) financial member/s of a recognised aquarium society.
5. At these inspections the witness shall sign BAA registration forms in the appropriate places.
6. Registration forms are available from the BAA Secretary to who they are to be conveyed within 120 days post-spawning.
7. Species registered with any recognised aquarium society shall be added to the member's total on production of a letter from the secretary of that society attesting to the validity of the claim.
8. Financial members who have a valid reason for so doing may ask for information to be extracted from BAA records (eg: a list of fishes bred by the member; whether or not a species has been claimed). Under no circumstances will information about another members' spawnings be disseminated without their permission.

## Table Show

The Society conducts a Table Show in which members may exhibit fish at each monthly General Meeting.

Ribbons are awarded for first, second and third places and a Popular Choice award is presented for the fish voted by the members to be the most popular on that night

Prizess are subsequently awarded to the three most successful (highest aggregates of the year's votes) exhibitors for the year and also to the most successful Novice Exhibitor (an exhibitor who has not shown a fish prior to the current club year).

All members entering a fish in the Table Show are awarded one point with first, second and third placings receiving an additional three (3), two (2), and one (1) point/s respectively.

Judging is conducted by an experienced club member, selected by the Table Show Steward from a panel nominated by the Committee. Points are awarded on the following criteria up to the maximum points indicated -

General condition	Condition of fins	Shape	Scales	Age (maturity)
30	30	20	10	10

At the table show's inception a different group of fishes was shown each month (except for 'Pairs' and 'Cichlid of Your Choice'), eg: Apistogrammas one month; Haplochromis the next, and so on. Each group was only shown once during the show year.

In an attempt to generate more participation, the format was adjusted to alternate between African and American cichlids (again excluding "special" shows) with Asian and (from 2004) Madagascan cichlids being eligible at all shows.

In an attempt to regenerate interest in the table show, the new parallel American/African system formulated by Graham Rowe and Travis Hingston was instigated in 1995.

In December, a separate "Baby Show" is held. This is a novelty event and is run concurrently with the normal show. Judging is by popular choice and points are not allocated toward a contestant's tally for the year, but small trophies are presented for "under three months" and "three months and over".

### Rules:

1. Only financial members may exhibit fish.
2. Fish must be the property of the Exhibitor.
3. Entries are restricted to cichlids.
4. An exhibitor is allowed only one entry per section at each meeting.
5. Only one specimen per species may be entered during the club year - exceptions are made for special shows (eg: Pairs, Cichlid of Your Choice and Baby Show).
6. Fish must be shown in a clear, flat-sided tank of appropriate size - buckets or opaque containers are not to be used to display fish.

7. Tanks may not contain any decoration other than gravel. Any type of gravel may be used.
8. The base, back and/or sides of tanks only may be painted or covered with plain-colored backing material (printed, drawn or photographic backgrounds are not allowed).
9. The society provides lighting and aeration for all show tanks entered.
10. Any variation to shows is advertised in the Society's magazine.

### Past Winners:

YEAR	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	NOVICE
73-74	Theo Geitenbeek	Graham Rowe	Max Davenport	
74-75	Peter Robinson	Ron Jeffs	Dot Jeffs	
75-76	Max Davenport	Daryl Hutchins	Graham Rowe	
76-77	Riv Halford	Graham Rowe	Kevin Archibald	
77-78	Heinz Staude	Kevin Archibald	Graham Rowe	
78-79	Graham Rowe	Heinz Staude	Keith Patford	
79-80	Kevin Archibald	Heinz Staude	Graham Rowe	
80-81	Danny Genovese /Kevin Archibald		Peter Southern	Danny Sorensen /Chris Andersen
81-82	Gordon Freese	Chris Andersen	Danny Genovese	Warwick Gill
82-83	Gordon Freese	Teny Rowlands	Amanda Genovese	John Emmanuel
83-84	Danny Genovese	Gordon Freese	Bob Loudon	Don Olney
84-85	Kevin Archibald	Steve Butcher	Scott Haymes /Sid Solch	Sid Solch
85-86	Aart Langelaar	Craig Lee	Matthew Riley	Aart Langelaar
86-87	Scott Haymes	Aart Langelaar	Luke McCrae	Luke McCrae
87-88	Aart Langelaar	Dave Thorn	Dale Berry	Manny Vella
88-89	Dave Thorn	Jeffrey Staude	Jon Shields	
89-90	Di Parbery	Jon Shields	Aart Langelaar	Di Parbery
90-91	Ken Whelan	Jon Shields	Paul Greaves	Ken Whelan
91-92	Lino Avellino	Jon Shields	Garry Van Ekeren	Garry Van Ekeren
92-93	Lino Avellino	John McCormick	Steve Young	Steve Young
93-94	Maurice Breward	John McCormick	Steve Young /Lynda Van Pooss	Maurice Breward
94-95	Irene Alger	David Thorn	Maurice Breward	Irene Alger
95-96				
96-97				
98-99				
2000	Granville Lawrence	Marty Bell	Peter Robinson	
2001				
2002				

## Home Show

### Rules/Guidelines:

1. Any financial member of the VCS may enter one tank only.
2. The fish displayed in that tank must be predominantly cichlids.
3. The tank and internal decor are to be arranged in a way that makes the inhabitants comfortable; is attractive to the observer and usually is a fair representation of a natural, appropriate cichlid environment.
4. The Committee shall appoint a Home Show Convener who will select the judges – one of whom must be a member of the VCS.
5. Points will be allocated in the following areas:

Fish	Decor	Impact	Compatibility
30	30	30	10
6. The judges' decision shall be final.
7. As it is very unlikely that the judges will be able to maintain a timetable on the day of judging, entrants are requested to ensure that access to their tanks is provided.
8. Trophies/prizes shall be awarded for first, second and third places as well as Best Novice (first-time) Entry.

### Past Winners:

YEAR	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	NOVICE
1981	Erich Goelz	Peter Sorensen	Bob Lee	
1982	Erich Goelz	Geoff Gunn	Adrian Lane	
1983	Erich Goelz	Peter Sorensen	Geoff Gunn	
1984	Scott Haymes	Geoff Gunn	John Reeves	
1985	Mark Lee	Kevin Archibald	John Reeves	
1986	Marion Hartley	Andrew Challingsworth	David Hitzler	

1987	Jonathan Shields	Aart Langelaar Peter Thomas		Jonathan Shields Martin Criddle
1988	Jonathan Shields	Scott Haymes	Martin Criddle	Martin Criddle
1989	Jonathan Shields	Scott Haymes	Manny Vella	
1990	John McGrath	Willem Brouwer	Aart Langelaar	John McGrath
1991	Jeff Ross	Lino Avellino	Lynda Van Pooss John Reeves	Jeff Ross
1992	Glenn Briggs	Lynda Van Pooss	Scott Haymes	Glenn Briggs
1993	Scott Haymes	Steve Young	Brian Bone	Brian Bone
1994	Dave Thorn	Scott Haymes	Lynda Van Pooss	Maurice Breward
1995	Irene Alger	Dave Thorn	Maurice Breward	Irene Alger
1996				
1997	Jason Taylor	Chang Ling	Helen Jackson	Jason Taylor
1998				
1999	Chuong Hong Le	Carl Bentin	Maurice Breward	Chuong Hong Le
2000	Marty Bell	Sebastian Zwalf /Anthony Caiolfa		Marty Bell
2001	<u>Granville Lawrence</u>	Ben Carbone		
2002	<u>Vicki Clarkson</u>	Granville Lawrence		

— = Popular Choice

## Species Maintenance

A most important aim of the Victorian Cichlid Society is the maintenance of cichlids to ensure that we do not lose species, especially those that are not on the Allowable Import List and may be difficult to have placed there. These fishes are always in danger of being lost to the Australian hobby forever.

The Species Maintenance Committee maintains a list of cichlid fishes and tries to remain aware of their status within the hobby in Australia.

Should a species be, in the opinion of the SMC, in danger of disappearing, the SMC has a program in place to support members technically and/or financially, who wish to maintain that species.

Of course, there are some rules to be observed in the acquisition and disposal of fishes under the Species Maintenance Program. For instance, the program is not to be used for fishes that are expensive but readily available. All applications will be treated confidentially on their merits and will receive a reply.

### Rules:

1. Applicants may request pairs, colonies, or a single fish to complement existing stock (forms and details available from SMC chairman).
2. The Species Maintenance Committee will, upon receiving an application, determine if the applicant has the correct aquarium set-up for the requested species.
3. If the applicant meets the above requirement, the SMC will endeavor to acquire the requested fish. If obtained, the fish are supplied free-of-charge but the recipient must agree to return a percentage of the fry to the Society. These fry will be auctioned at a general meeting and the proceeds of the sales will be recorded by the SMC. When the purchase price has been recovered, the fish become the property of the applicant.
4. The SMC may negotiate a sale between one of its contacts and an applicant. This will lessen expenses for the Society, impose less responsibility on the applicant and will only require a token percentage of fry to be donated to the society.
5. If, after being supplied with fish at the society's expense, the recipient fails to continue to competently maintain the species in the agreed-to aquarium set-up, the Society may take possession of the fish.
6. Hybridisation, either deliberate or as the result of neglect, will void the agreement and the fish must be returned to the Society.
7. The applicant will not be held financially responsible in the event of accidental loss or non-spawning of the fish.

# Auctions

Normally, two Auctions of Fish and Aquarium Accessories are held each year in March/April and October.

These auctions are usually held on a Saturday. Doors open at Noon for the receipt of goods, the auction itself starts at 1.00 pm. The auction is finished when the last of the goods have been processed – on some occasions this has been known to be as late as 8 pm, but is usually between 5 pm and 6 pm.

Because they attract many non-members, these auctions contribute significantly to the financial well-being of the club.

Over the years the following rules have been devised to protect both buyers and vendors, uphold the standards of the Society, but most importantly to ensure the humane treatment of the animals.

## Rules:

### 1. Reserve Price:

1.1 The Reserve Price (if any) of an item shall include the Society's commission.

### 2. Scrutineers:

2.1 Official Scrutineers shall be appointed by the Committee and empowered to remove sub-standard fish from sale.

### 3. Care of Goods:

3.1 Upon delivery to the scrutineers, all items come under their care and control.

3.2 There will be no access to an item unless, under special circumstances, the scrutineers permit such access.

### 4. Eligibility of Goods for sale:

4.1 At the discretion of the Auction Committee, the sale of non-aquarium-related items may be deferred until all aquarium-related items have been processed.

4.2 All goods shall be auctioned, where practicable, in order of arrival.

4.3 No more than four (4) lots of the same item may be offered for auction by any vendor.

### 5. Packing Standards:

5.1 At the discretion of the scrutineers, a fee may be charged for re-bagging fish if this is necessitated by obvious poor or inappropriate bagging.

### 6. Accounts:

6.1 Anyone wishing to run an account must make arrangements with the Accounts Clerk prior to commencement of the Auction.

6.2 All accounts will be settled immediately following the Auction. Payment by cheque, only by prior arrangement with the Accounts Clerk. Suitable photo ID required.

### 7. Marking of Items:

7.1 All lots are to be clearly marked as to contents and reserve price, if any, consistent with the Auction Form.

7.2 Any item without a reserve price marked on it will be auctioned as if there is no reserve price.

7.3 Second-hand equipment not marked "working" will be treated as if it is "not working".

### 8. Non-Members:

8.1 Non-members goods will incur an additional levy of five per cent. This will be waived in the event that the vendor should decide (and apply) to join the Society prior to commencement of the Auction.

**NOTE:** Like all rules, these are subject to change. Any changes will be notified in the magazine prior to the auction and notices will be displayed at the venue.

# ASCC

In 2001 the Department of Natural Resources and Environment set up an **Aquarium Sector Consultative Committee** to assist the department in deciding on changes to the Victorian Noxious Species List. The VCS is represented on this committee.

# Art Competition

The first VCS Art and Photographic Competition was held in conjunction with the 10th Anniversary Dinner in July 1982.

In 1984 the VCS decided to honor the late Mrs Elaine Turner, her knowledge of, her dedication and contribution to the aquarium hobby, by dedicating this competition to her memory.

Elaine, affectionately known as ET, was of one of the Victorian aquarium hobby's most-loved and respected members. Mrs Turner passed away on 15 September 1984, after a long and valiant struggle with cancer.

The format of the competition has been adjusted over the years and at present eight trophies can be presented in four categories -

<b>Art:</b>	Senior		1-3
	Junior	Primary	1
		Secondary	1
<b>Photographic:</b>	Open		1-3

Note that the photographic section is open to all ages.

A rich variety of the art forms have been represented from pencil drawings to paintings, embroidery, knitting and even computer art. The photographic section is hotly contested, at times even attracting entries from interstate.

## Rules:

1. Each entrant may enter any number of works in any or all sections that they are eligible to enter.
2. Each entry must be the original, uncopied and unaided work of the entrant and must not have been previously entered in the competition. If appropriate, the work may be framed or mounted with adequate fittings for hanging.
3. Completed entry forms should accompany the works which should be presented no later than 8.00 pm on the night of the meeting at which the competition is to be judged.
4. Each exhibit should be marked (if practicable) on the back/underside with the name and address of the artist and/or photographer.
5. The organisers may allow any work entered to be reproduced by any media, solely for the purpose of publicising the event
6. The judge(s) shall be practising artist/s, photographer/s and/or aquarist/s. The decision of the judge/s shall be final.
7. Entries may be delivered to the Secretary (please call) prior to the day of the meeting, or presented at the hall by 8.00 pm on the evening of the meeting.
8. Trophies/prizes awarded for all placings in each of the following four sections: Art Senior, Art Junior (Primary), Photographic ("open"), Art Junior (Secondary).
9. Entry shall be restricted to financial members of the Society and their immediate families.

## Past Winners:

YEAR	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
1982	<i>Photo:</i> Steve Butcher	Bill Patterson	Chris Andersen
	<i>Senior Art:</i> Nick Grabowski	Margaretta Plevier	Joyce McCourt
	<i>Junior Art Primary:</i> Lyndal Archibald		
	<i>Junior Art Secondary:</i> Anthony Staude, Jeffrey Staude, Adam Genovese		
1983	<i>Photo:</i> Eric Goelz	Graham Rowe	Steve Butcher
1988	<i>Photo:</i> Martin Criddle	Scott Haymes	Hanno Van Dyk
	<i>Senior Art:</i> Amanda Genovese	Paul Dundas	Paul Dundas
	<i>Photo:</i> Scott Haymes	Martin Criddle	Scott Haymes
1990	<i>Senior Art:</i> Jenny Briggs		
	<i>Junior Art Primary:</i> Ben Thorn		
	<i>Junior Art Secondary:</i> Lyndal Archibald		

- 1992 Photo:  
Lynda Haymes Lynda Haymes Scott Haymes  
*Junior Art Primary:* Lyndal Archibald, Justin Hawkins  
*Senior Art:* Daryl Hutchins
- 1993 Photo:  
Steve Young Steve Young Scott Haymes  
*Junior Art Primary:* Ricky Godden, Justin Hawkins
- 1994 Photo:  
Scott Haymes Scott Haymes Travis Hingston  
*Senior Art:* Daryl Hutchins  
*Junior Art Primary:* Lauren McCormick, Brendon McCormick (Highly Commended)
- 1995 Photo:
- 1996 Photo: Graham Rowe  
*Art Senior:* Kathy Breward
- 1997 Photo: Scott Haymes  
*Junior Art Primary:* James Reeves  
*Junior Art Secondary:* Matthew Malone, Matthew Thoday, Josh Monks  
*Senior Art:*  
Kevin Archibald Jocelyn Howard Lynda Haymes  
*Popular Choice:* Kevin Archibald
- 1998 Photo:
- 1999 Photo: Lynda Haymes  
*Junior Art Secondary:* Lauren McCormick  
*Senior Art:* Robbie Toth
- 2000 *Art Senior:* Val Hutchins  
Photo:  
Lauren McCormick Dave Thorn Maurice Breward
- 2001 *Junior Art Secondary:* Lauren McCormick

## Web Site

# cichlids.web.com

The Victorian Cichlid Society Inc began life in 1996 as blaze.net.au/~darylh. As no-one was particularly interested in the internet at that time it was not heralded, used or even managed for some years. At some point during these dark years it moved to hotkey.net.au/~darylh where it remained until mid-2003.

When the world was finally ready for it, the url was displayed across the top of page 1 for a couple of years in fairly large lettering. This address proved unsatisfactory (hard to remember?). So in 2000 the url **cichlids.web.com** was purchased and this address has been advertised in *The Cichlid Monthly* ever since.

The site contains a wealth of information about the Society for prospective members, a Gallery of cichlid pictures by members and a facility to join up online.

The *Cichlid Register* is available for download as is the Constitution and various forms.

There are links to other cichlid societies and local general aquarium societies.

New content is sought/ added constantly.



# Committee

*The following is a guide for aspiring committee persons and an indication of what committee people do to earn their fame and, of course, the undying gratitude of all.*

## President

1. Chairs general and committee meetings according to the society's rules and/or the "rules of order".
2. Makes him/herself aware of the rules and policies of the society.
3. Ensures that the society's rules and policies are safeguarded.
4. Promotes at all times the society's views.
5. Makes him/herself available to the members and assists in the efficient running of the society.
6. Ensures that the committee runs "on-line" and performs all of its functions efficiently.
7. Correctly handles motions moved at committee/general meetings.

## Vice-president

*At each meeting:*

1. Performs the duties of any committee member who is absent.

*Between meetings:*

1. Performs any tasks assigned by the committee.
2. Gets to know the duties of the other committee positions that he/she may be required to perform at short notice.

## Treasurer

1. Takes charge of receiving, managing and distributing the moneys of the Society.
2. Accepts membership fees and issues receipts and membership cards.
3. Accepts all other inward moneys and, where appropriate, issues receipts.
4. Issues cheques/cash for goods purchased by authorised committee persons.
5. Completes journal; noting all credits and debits (allocated to proper categories), including bank charges/fees and stamp duties.
6. Reconciles journal to bank statement (issued monthly).
7. Banks moneys as soon as possible after their receipt.
8. Provides monthly meeting with reconciliation of monthly balances.
9. Provides AGM with reconciliation of annual balance (including a report on the "activities" within the cash journal).

## Editor

*Between meetings:*

1. Writes editorial.
2. Chases members for promised articles, photographs, drawings, etc.
3. Keeps an ear to the ground for topical things of interest to members (eg: notable spawnings and other newsworthy items). This requires a little cooperation from the general membership.
4. Edits articles:
  - (a) Fleshes-out "rough notes" into readable English;
  - (b) Corrects grammar and/or spelling if necessary without changing the meaning;
  - (c) Removes unnecessary personal or libellous comments;
  - (d) If (c) is incompatible with (a) and/or (b) then returns copy to the author for revision;
5. Types or scans articles, advertisements, notices, and regular information.
6. Types or scans a supply of interesting reprints to choose from as fillers. (Selection of suggested reprints is best delegated to someone who reads a lot.) The society owns OCR software that accomplishes this job very efficiently.
7. Delivers artwork to the club's printer (preferably two weeks prior to the next meeting).

*At General Meetings:*

1. Collects articles from members.
2. Listens to complaints about the current issue.

3. Ignores silly complaints.
4. Makes a note to take action on (very rare) constructive criticism.

*At Committee Meetings:*

1. All of the above.
2. Takes down information for meeting notices, etc.
3. Collects written notices from other committee members about their areas of responsibility (unless you have done an incredible amount of delegating, you have enough to do without writing notices).
4. Listens to even more complaints about editing. (Regarding this point, it usually helps to offer to swap jobs with the complainant.)

*Annually:*

1. At the end of the volume, selects recipient for the Editor's Prize.

## Secretary

*At General Meetings:*

1. Makes sure last month's minutes are available to the members.
2. Reads correspondence, if required.
3. Takes minutes of meeting.
4. Makes sure the Visitor's Book is available in a convenient place.
5. Ensures all members know the location of the next committee meeting.

*At Committee Meetings:*

1. Ensures that all committee members know the agenda.
2. Takes notes of the meeting.
3. Ensures that the names of all new members are put forward for acceptance.
4. Raises issues pertinent to the efficient running of the Society.

*At other times:*

1. Is the contact person for the Society; accepts mail, e-mail and telephone calls on its behalf.
2. Answers all correspondence.
3. Keeps a permanent record of the minutes.
4. Makes a copy of the minutes for publication in the magazine.
5. Keeps the membership list up to date.
6. Informs the Mailing Sub-committee chairperson of any changes to the mailing list
7. Prepares the visitor's book for the meeting.
8. Conveys exchange magazines to the librarian.

## Social Secretary

*Between meetings:*

1. Organises dates, venues and catering (if required) for regular and special social events.
2. Purchases materials for supper.
3. Organises catering for auctions.

*At General Meetings:*

1. Takes the society's equipment to the preparation area.
2. Supervises the many willing helpers to organise supper.
3. Supervises the clean-up.

## Trading Table Steward

*Before each meeting:*

1. At the best possible price, buys goods for sale to members.
2. Ensures that goods are packaged and priced ready for sale.

*At each meeting:*

1. Mans the trading table and sells goods to members.
2. Balances the trading table accounts and passes money to the treasurer.

## Librarian

*At General Meetings:*

1. Arrives at each monthly meeting at approximately 7.30 pm to set-up and loan books before the meeting starts (8 pm).
2. Uses the library-card and stamp system to keep track of all books, magazines and videos that are borrowed.
3. Keeps records of deposits left on loaned books and collects fines (\$2 per month) for overdue books.

*At other times:*

1. Gives a list of overdue books to the Editor for publication.
2. Equips each new book with a sleeve and library card.
3. Advises the committee of the library's requirements ie: new books, replacement books, dual copies, protective materials, etc.
4. Keeps a list of books held in the library.
5. Binds magazine volumes together.
6. Repairs, or has repaired, any damaged books.

## **Table Show Steward**

The table show steward is responsible for all business relating to the operation of the table show, tasks include

*At General Meetings:*

1. Setting-up lighting and air supply for the fishes.
2. Arranging Popular Choice voting.
3. Filling-out names of entrants and their fishes on the score sheet.
4. From the list of table show judges, selecting and locating a judge who is both qualified and willing to judge on the night
5. Checking the score sheet after judging and adding-up Popular Choice votes.
6. Presenting prizes/awards.
7. Packing-up table show equipment after the meeting.

*At other times:*

1. Maintaining a running tally of table show entrants, their entries and scores.
2. Ordering table show prizes/awards.

## **Non-elected Positions**

### **Standing Sub-committees**

Sub-committees are not elected, but are appointed by the elected committee to perform special functions and continue until their job is finished or the elected committee replaces them.

Normally only a chairperson is appointed by the elected committee and he/she seconds other willing persons to help with the work. Although it is usual (and preferable) that at least the chairman is a member of the elected committee, neither he/she, nor the other sub-committee persons need to be.

A list of Standing Sub-committees and their chairpersons can be found in every edition of *TCM*.

### **Public Officer**

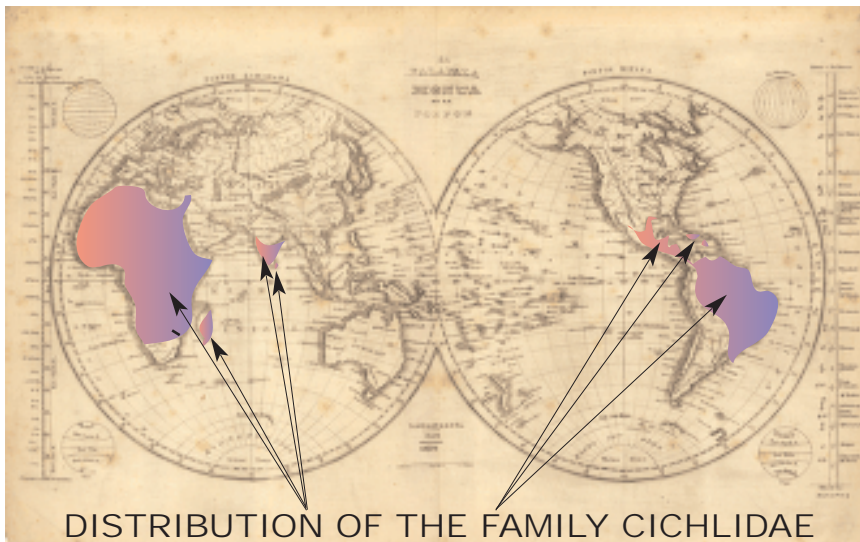
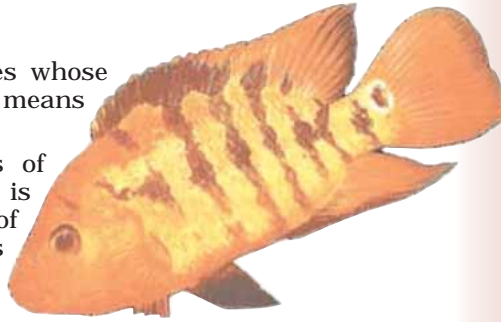
The Public Officer is also an appointed position, though a committee member may hold the position. He/she is the contact point for the Department of Justice Victoria, Office of Fair Trading and Business Affairs (OFTBA). The main responsibilities of the Public Officer are:

1. To maintain a list of all the financial members of the Society complete with current addresses.
2. To see to it that the DFTBA receives a form each year detailing the Society's financial activities and status.
3. To forward a list of the Society's assets to the Auditor by 15th December each year.
4. To notify the DFTBA of any changes to the Statement of Purposes of the Society or its Constitution.
5. Perform all the duties of the Secretary in the event of the position being vacant.

# The Family Cichlidae

## Definition:

1. Cichlids are bony, perch-like fishes whose bodies are usually, though by no means always bilaterally compressed.
2. Most bony fishes have two pairs of nostrils, but in all cichlids there is only a single nostril on each side of the head - this feature alone is enough to distinguish it from most other families.
3. There is a single, well-developed dorsal fin whose anterior rays take the form of spines and are usually more numerous than the soft posterior rays.
4. The pelvic (ventral) fins, which have an outer spine and five soft rays, are located well forward on the body.
5. The mouth is protractile (able to be lengthened).
6. All the teeth located in the mouth are on the jawbone - there are none on the palate.
7. Cichlids are unique among freshwater perch-like fish in that their lower pharyngeal bones are more or less united, forming a roughly triangular shape, the apex of which points forward and whose upper surface is covered with teeth.
8. The lateral line is interrupted and is usually in two separate sections.
9. The swim bladder is closed (physoclistous) - it has no direct connection with the gut. This imparts virtual weightlessness to the fish, enabling it to hold its position with ease - a distinct advantage when tending eggs.
10. The head is incompletely covered with scales.



Cichlids are found naturally in a variety of habitats throughout the tropical and temperate regions of Central and South America, Africa, Madagascar, Syria, the Jordan Valley, southern India and Sri Lanka. The latter two localities being home to a single, endemic genus (*Etoplus*) which contains only two species.

Unfortunately, deliberate introductions of cichlid fishes have been made into other tropical areas as food or sport fishes.

## RELATIONSHIPS:

The family Cichlidae is most closely related to the marine perches, wrasses and pomacentrids - those usually highly colored fishes that help to make coral reefs such a delight to see.

# Message Board

<http://pub37.ezboard.com/bvictoriancichlidsociety>

In July 2002, due to popular demand, the Society established a Message Board.

The board has forums where fishkeepers from all walks of life and geographical areas can gather to discuss topics of interest in the comfort of their own homes.

Anyone can peruse the board, but to post messages you must first register. A simple process that takes only moments.

Opinion posted on this public board are those of the poster and are not necessarily facts. They do not necessarily represent the views of the Victorian Cichlid Society Incorporated or the board's Administrators and/or Moderators. Please do not flame any individual or organization by making inflammatory posts, these will be removed on sight.



**Victorian Cichlid Society**  
 Invite Friends! 200 Live Chat 224 registered members  
Logged in as **Diffic**  
KID940

[My Control Center](#) | [Logout](#) | [Blow new only](#) | [Mark ALL forums read](#) | [Search](#) | [Help](#)

5 visitors in the last 15 minutes; 2 Members - 3 Guests - 0 Anonymous  
 Moderator: Diffic

Forum	# Posts	Last Comment
<b>WELCOME TO THE VICTORIAN CICHLID SOCIETY'S MESSAGE BOARD</b>		
<b>Hi there ... don't be shy ... come sit in and introduce yourself</b> Take a few moments to introduce yourself -- your name/handle in the subject line would be good.	341	4/8/04 22:08
<b>Discussion Areas</b>		
<b>Cichlid Discussion</b> This is where we talk about cichlids, cichlids and nothing but cichlids ... most of the time	863	4/18/04 18:51
<b>All Other Species General Aquaria Discussion</b> Subjects of an aquatic nature that do not fit into the more dedicated forums.	188	2/23/04 18:24
<b>General Discussion</b> If you need to waffle, this is the place ... by to work fish into the conversation occasionally	330	4/13/04 15:21
<b>Breeders Discussion</b> Our favorite pastime. Share tips, seek information or just beat your chest. It's all good.	81	3/30/04 11:38
<b>Water Chemistry, Substrates &amp; Plants</b> Water, gravel and plants.	64	4/6/04 23:11
<b>Do It Yourself Projects</b> For the stout-hearted handypersons among us ... and the Frugal McDougals	77	2/23/04 8:45
<b>Feeds &amp; Feeding</b> Feeding do's and don'ts, recipes ...	38	10/25/03 23:24
<b>Suggestion Box</b> Suggestions, requests or complaints about the look, management of, or anything to do with this message board ... keep it nice.	22	3/21/04 1:28
<b>Victorian Cichlid Society News and Announcements</b>		
<b>VCS Club News and Announcements</b> If it's happening in the Victorian Cichlid Society, you'll read it here first.	87	4/18/04 18:53
<b>Non-ezBoard Message Boards</b> Use the Web Ring at the bottom of this page to swap ezboards -- links to other Boards in here.	12	4/2/04 23:15
<b>Trading Post</b>		
<b>Wanted to Buy/Sell/Trade</b> Buy, sell or trade pre-loved fish and aquarium accessories.	99	4/18/04 12:17
<b>Admin Only</b>		
<b>Moderators and Administrators Only</b>	0	4/2/04 8:44

Victorian Cichlid Society Information | [View Community Profile...](#)

<b>Founded:</b> July 17, 2002 Daily Posts: 3    Total Posts: 3141 Daily Visits: 224    Total Visits: 155030	<b>224 Registered Members</b> Welcome our newest member, <a href="#">ginger</a> - first post. <a href="#">View Active Members List...</a>
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**Hottest Discussion:** [Fish Time #11](#) (26 posts) - [view](#)

These forums have new messages

 [Make a Contribution](#) | [Direct Payment](#) or [Accept Offer](#) | [View Contributors](#) (7)

We currently have \$0.00 in our chest.  
 If you make a few dollars in the Trading Post it would only be right to pop a few coins in the Community Chest.

ezboard Ring: [ezboard.com Support Forums](#)

**Next VCS Auction ... Sat, 9 October 2004**  
**BRUNSWICK ROAD, MITCHAM**

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LAST UPDATE: Sunday, 18 April, 2004 - 16:40