

# MASWA Newsletter

**ATTENTION:** This month's MASWA meeting is **THIS WEEK** (Wednesday)! It may even be the meeting day when you receive this newsletter, so please take note and do your best to come along as it is the final for the year and an important one, too (see below).

## Next Meeting

**November's** meeting will be the final one for 1999. It is to be held at Nathan Cope's house, again. The reasons for this are twofold; we only had one other offer (thankyou to David Bloch) and we needed this month's meeting to be as central as possible, as it is a very important meeting and we need as many members to come along as possible (see "*Changes for the Year 2000*", below).

For those of you who didn't get to October's meeting at Nathan's house, it is located at **21A Norton Street, South Perth**. The meeting will begin at **7.30pm**.

Nathan's tank is somewhere between 1000 and 1500 litres (he has yet to work it out) and you'll be amazed by the amount of food that he puts into it! Last month, he had accidentally stirred up the sediment in his sump just before the meeting started, so his aquarium wasn't looking the best. Hopefully everything will be okay this month.

Last year Nathan also held the last meeting of the year and provided some Christmas Nibbles such as Fruit Mince Pies. This year will be no exception, so its well worth coming along.

## Previous Meetings

**September's** MASWA meeting was held at Phil and Caron Melvin's place in Ballajura. I really have to say, the quality of the aquariums we are seeing at members' houses these days are just phenomenal - Phil's was an excellent example. His 6ft long x 2 ½ ft wide x 2 ft tall aquarium was just beautiful and the cabinet was a work of art, too (Phil made it himself with the help of some very expensive equipment that he borrowed from a cabinet-maker friend).

Many people know Phil as "Gadget Man". With his temperature controlled cooling fans and LED's flashing away to tell him that his kalkwasser tank level is getting low, its no surprise that they've made a movie about him - keep an eye out for "Inspector Gadget" (due for release in the next week or two).

Phil and Caron have a café-style coffee maker and they whipped up cappuccinos for everyone. If you didn't get to this meeting, you missed a lot!

**October's** MASWA meeting was held at Nathan and Niloufar Cope's place in South Perth. Unfortunately, Nathan had accidentally stirred up the sediment in his sump just before the meeting, so the tank was looking a bit cloudy. The Cope's aquarium is 3 ft wide x 7.5 ft long and is viewable from both sides so the crest of rockwork runs along the centre line. Tony Fiorentino mentioned that he thought the rockwork had turned out looking very natural which is quite a difficult thing to do when the tank is viewed from both sides. Nathan is a firm believer that feeding a lot of food to a reef aquarium is very important. Consequently, there were a few jaws hitting the ground when he demonstrated just how much he feeds.

The attendees were in for a treat later in the evening when Niloufar cooked up and served sausage rolls to all attendees - these meetings are getting really sophisticated!

## What Happened to the Newsletter?

Some of you may have noticed that Andy Dolphin has been absent from the last 4 or 5 meetings. Andy had been doing a great job with the organisation of the society and we were all hoping that his absence would only be temporary. Nathan Cope and David Bloch have been creating the newsletters for the last year (*Ed. - as you may have noticed from the less than professional rag that you are getting these days*) but they had been reluctant to take on any of the other duties or make any changes as it was expected that Andy would return at any time. Unfortunately, Andy still has a lot on his plate and has decided to step down from all duties associated with MASWA. He probably won't be able to get back to attending meetings until mid-2000. Consequently, the running of the show has been left to David and Nathan.

Andy had a great desktop publishing package to create the newsletter on, but unfortunately, that is isn't available to Nathan or David. Consequently, to make it easier to produce the newsletter, it is going to be in A4 format from now on (*Ed. - Those of you who preferred the A5 size, just fold the newsletter in half!*).

## Changes for the Year 2000

There are a lot of other changes scheduled for next year, too:

- 1) The newsletter will probably be coming out monthly. This should help all those people with bad memories to remember to attend more than every second meeting (*Ed. - Tony Fiorentino reckons he has Alzheimer's Disease*).
- 2) An event will be scheduled for each meeting. This event will usually be a presentation (talk, demonstration, experiment, etc) by a member or a guest speaker, but may include tours of certain establishments such as the Marmion branch of the Fisheries Department or the Fremantle Ocean Farm facilities. Presentations will cover both advanced topics and the basics of marine aquarium keeping. The basics are necessary so that newer members and beginners can get up to speed with the jargon, so that they can discern fact from fiction when talking to staff at the local aquarium shop (LAS) and, by the same token, so that they can determine which LAS's are better than others.
- 3) Trade of live reef organisms, especially fragments of coral will be encouraged at meetings. Selling of tank bred or propagated organisms at meetings will *not* be encouraged (unless an appropriate and current aquaculture licence is held - it is, in fact, illegal without the licence).
- 4) There will be a some time devoted at each meeting to swapping or selling second-hand equipment.
- 5) MASWA will finally become officially incorporated. This will bring a lot more formality to the meetings which is something that has probably been severely lacking in the past (*Ed. - especially since Andy hasn't been able to attend*), but plenty of time will be left at each meeting for informal chats between members.
- 6) Following on from 5), there will be elections for an official MASWA committee (David and Nathan are currently the unofficial committee).

The next meeting will be mostly the same as normal meetings (with a bit of early Christmas festivity), but some time will be taken for a semi-formal discussion of the above issues. Of particular importance will be what topics members would like to see presentations on and where they would like to have tours next year. Please have a think about this before the meeting, so that we have plenty of suggestions to work with for the new year.

## That's All Folks

Unfortunately, due to an overwhelming lack of support from members, no articles have been included in this months newsletter. David and Nathan (and Grant Magil on one occasion - thanks Grant) have provided all the articles for the rest of the year and have decided to take time off for good behaviour for this newsletter. Please people, how about contributing something to the society. It doesn't have to be long, it doesn't have to be amazing, it doesn't even have to be spelt correctly (*Ed. - that's what I'm for*) it just has to be somehow associated with marine aquariums.

### Upcoming Meetings

November 24<sup>th</sup>: Nathan and Niloufar Cope's house,  
**21A Norton St, South Perth**

December: NO MEETING

January 26<sup>th</sup>: Your house?

February 23<sup>rd</sup>: Your house?

### MASWA's World Wide Web address

<http://www.wantree.com.au/~conquest/andy/maswa/>

### Newsletter and General Inquiries

to Nathan Cope E-mail address: [copen@one.net.au](mailto:copen@one.net.au)  
or phone on (08) 9367 9251 a/h or 0416 09 2000 b/h

### Membership and Treasury Inquiries

to David Bloch E-mail address:  
[aguatech@opera.iinet.net.au](mailto:aguatech@opera.iinet.net.au)  
or phone on (08) 9375 2438 a/h

### MASWA Membership

Currently MASWA requests an annual \$20 donation from members, \$10 for Junior members. This covers the cost of newsletters, drinks, nibbles and other costs associated with the society. Members will receive information sheets and discounts on some products.

### Friends in Common

Jan Anderson, David Bloch, Dennis Bozil, Darren Collins, Nathan Cope, Andy Dolphin, Tony Fiorentino, Jim & Gloria Fletcher, Paul Groves, Peter Harris, Mike Hudson, Frank Krause, Craig Lawrence, Grant Magill, Phil and Caron Melvin, Peter and Marina Olive, Steve Tofts, Greg Weryk, Rick White.

If you've paid your money and your name is not on this list, tell David! Members on the web should check they are on the web site members list.

If you've paid your money and your name is not on this list, tell Andy! Members on the web should check they are on the web site members list.

*If there is anything you would like to know more about or anything you would like to add to the newsletter, call or send comments to the current editor, Nathan Cope. Remember, this is your newsletter.*

### DISCLAIMER

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