

# MASWA Newsletter

(April 2000)

**ATTENTION:** This month's MASWA meeting is Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April. The day after **Anzac Day**. Check your calendar, because it could be the day you receive this!!!

## This Month's Meeting

The meeting will be held at Darren and Raquel Collin's house. Darren and Raquel are a couple of our newer members and this will be the first time they have hosted a meeting. The Collins' reef tank has an unusual lighting setup consisting of metal halide and mercury vapour lamps. It will be worth checking out their tank if you are considering alternative light sources for your aquarium. The address is 3 Cleaver Terrace, Rivervale. The meeting will begin at 7.30pm.

## Last Month's Meeting

March's MASWA meeting was held at Jan Anderson's house in Bibra Lake. I was supposed to be giving a presentation on algae removing tools, unfortunately, due to triple-booking myself, I was unable to attend the meeting. It was difficult to decide which two of the three bookings I should cancel but after tossing up the pro's and con's of each, I decided that I really would like to father a second child, so I had better go along to my wife's birthday dinner.

Thankyou to Tony Fiorentino for taking on the administration duties for the March meeting at such short notice. Here's Tony's description of the March meeting:

The trip "down south", if for no other reason, was worth the effort just to see Jan's electronics. Microprocessors, silicon chips, thermonuclear devices...he had it all...must have shares in Dick Smith. Jan's aquarium holds 880 litres of water. It is a five-sided tank and therefore, we didn't take measurements, suffice to say that it is big. In a closet alongside the tank is a small sump where an effective, home-made downdraft skimmer and heating equipment are in use. There are two large (3200lph) Project pumps driving Jan's tank. The closet is cooled by a fan wired up to a microprocessor (of course). The lighting is provided by way of two 250 watt metal halides and an actinic fluoro' unit. This is timed (electronically) to come on at about 10am and remain on for 11 hours.

Now, we didn't have the benefit of David's or Nathan's knowledge of corals but we managed to identify nine different corals: Sinularia, Sarcophyton, corallimorphs, Trachyphyllia, Zoanthus, brain coral, Clavularia, Acanthophyllia (*Tony had me there, I had to look this one up! Acanthophyllia is also called Cynarina - Ed*) and Porites. Unfortunately, so much effort was put into identifying the corals, that I forgot to take note of the fish. Sorry Jan. Jan got his live rock from Quobba.

We also watched a video of Jan's aquarium when he lived in Norway. It was impressive and I think that it is worthy of another look at a future meeting.

## Raffle Time

### Last meeting

Four main prizes were up for grabs at the March meeting; a 115mL bottle of "Kent Zoe Marine" vitamin and mineral supplement/food additive (\$21.26\*), a 250mL bottle of "Seachem Reef Calcium" calcium restoration (\$16.14\*), a 250g jar of "Kent Marine Superbuffer dKH" KH builder/buffer (\$15.29\*) and a "Kent Pro.Scraper1" algae scraper (\$12.12\*).

Over to Tony for the details of last month's raffle draw:

The highlight of the night surely was Tony Fiorentino winning first prize. Or perhaps it was Grant Magill not winning anything (no smugness intended - hehehe). Tony chose the Kent Zoe. Second prize was taken by Jan Anderson and he chose the Superbuffer dKH. Third prize went to Darren Collins (I'll never get in a car with him again) who picked the Reef Calcium. And the fourth prize went to Rick White who chose, and promptly broke, the Kent Pro.Scraper. Obviously he had to be seriously admonished.

### ***This meeting***

This month's prizes are an X-terminator Mantis Shrimp Trap (\$29.65\*), an Aquarium Systems "fasTesT" nitrate test kit (\$25.02\*), and a 115mL bottle of "Kent Zoe Marine" vitamin and mineral supplement/food additive (\$21.26\*). A \$2 raffle ticket puts you in the draw to pick one of 3 prizes with a total value of more than \$75!

(\* These are Reefs Downunder retail prices. Due to Reefs Downunder's low retail pricing policy, they are probably not representative of prices in most stores. All main prizes were supplied to the society at cost-price by Reefs Downunder.)

### **This Month's Presentation**

As I was supposed to do last month, I will be giving a demonstration of the different tools available for removing algae from glass. Tools demonstrated will include the new Kent Pro.Scrapers and the Tunze Algae magnets. Hopefully the Collins' will leave some algae on their aquarium glass for the demonstration.

### **New Marine Specialty Shop**

I'd heard that there was a new marine speciality shop opening in Malaga but after talking to a few members at the last meeting, it seemed there was a rumour that it was just Manta Marine changing its name. After visiting W.A. Reef this week, I'm happy to report that this is not the case.

The shop is run by Stephen and Marie May and has only been open for two weeks. Despite the recent opening, all tanks look clean, the fish look healthy and except for one *Tridacna maxima* that was gaping and on its way toward bleaching, all invert's also look healthy.

W.A. Reef's EFTPOS and electronic CC facilities have not yet arrived (they are apparently in transit from Melbourne), so when I tried to pay for the fish I'd purchased, they apologised and said they could only take cash at the moment, so I had to run out and find a bank. I wasn't gone for more than 15 minutes, but when I came back, I discovered that Stephen had floated my purchases in a tank to ensure that the temp in the bags didn't drop - nice attention to detail! I didn't get much of a chance to quiz the owners on their knowledge of marine husbandry but upon asking to buy two Blue Tangs, Stephen did ask me if I had a big tank, so that is a good sign, also.

Stephen tells me that quarantine bays are being installed in the rear of the shop so that if any fish in a shipment is sick, it can be looked after in a low stress environment. He also said, that if any fish on the shop floor becomes sick, all the fish in that tank will be quarantined until all signs of disease have gone. Its attention to detail like that described above, that makes a good shop and helps maintain a low stress environment for the animals, in my opinion.

W.A. Reef can be found at Unit 3, 1890 Beach Road, Malaga (across the road from the Malaga Markets). You can phone (or fax) them on 9248 3111 or reach them electronically via [stepmay@one.net.au](mailto:stepmay@one.net.au).

If you are in the area, drop in and have a look, I think you'll be impressed.

*(For the cynics out there, I have absolutely no connection with the store and I wasn't provided any incentives, financial or otherwise, to write the above review - Ed)*

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

April 26<sup>th</sup>: **Darren & Raquel Collins**  
**3 Cleaver Tce**  
**Rivervale**  
May 31<sup>st</sup>: Sid Harrison  
June 28<sup>th</sup>: Tony Fiorentino

#### **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:  
[aquatech@opera.iinet.net.au](mailto:aquatech@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 & Raquel Collins, Nathan Cope, Andy Dolphin, Tony Fiorentino, Jim & Gloria Fletcher, Paul Groves, Peter Harris, Mike Hudson, Frank & Ben Krause, Craig Lawrence, Grant Magill, Phil & Caron Melvin, Peter & 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**

The Marine Aquarists Society of WA is a name that we, as a group of friends with like interests have applied to ourselves for the purpose of information exchange. No one person, nor the group as a whole, can be held responsible for liabilities, injuries or other that may result either directly or indirectly as a result of our gatherings or the information exchange therein. The same applies to the information contained in this newsletter.