

MASWA Newsletter

(November 2000)

ATTENTION: This month's MASWA meeting is Wednesday, **29th November**. Check your calendar, because it could be the day you receive this!!!

This Month's Meeting

The meeting is to be held at the special location of Fremantle Ocean Farm. Dennis from Fremantle Ocean Farm has kindly offered to hold a meeting there so that we can all get an idea of what goes on in the world of commercial fish farming. Fremantle Ocean Farm breeds and raises commercial food fish, but they also have a new venture - producing fish for the ornamental market. So come along to find out some of the secrets of breeding marine fish. There will probably be the opportunity to see large scale brine shrimp production, also. Overall, it will make for a very interesting night! **MAKE SURE YOU WEAR WARM CLOTHES, IF IT IS A COOL NIGHT, AS IT IS A BIT EXPOSED THERE.** The address is **South Mole, Fleet Street, Fremantle (can be seen in UBD Street Directory)**. The meeting will begin at **7.30pm**.

Last Month's Meeting

The last meeting was at Grant Magill's house. Grant's tank was coming along nicely and, as usual, had some new bits and pieces that we didn't see at the last showing. There is a particularly interesting colony of a large species of hydroid that has been growing in Grant's tank for quite some time now and it was good to see that it was as healthy as ever. This particular meeting was so much fun and there were so many points of interest during the night, that it was hard to pick the highlight of the evening, but some of the best bits were:

- the hot party pies and sausage rolls that Grant put on for us all (I think most of us found those VERY interesting)
- the ritual hitting of the head on Grant's lounge room light (prize to David Bloch for "most consistent over the long term")
- the fish-bag tie-off competition (won by Greg Weryk), and
- the (relatively) low priced chillers that Rob has managed to organise for all MASWA members (see below for more details).

Corals of the World

They've arrived!!! And they look pretty bloody good! Those people that were lucky enough to get their orders in on time will be able to pick up their books at the meeting this week. They are not light (each set weighs 7.5kg and I have 12 sets), so don't expect me to lug them around to every meeting. I will bring them to this meeting and they will be at the December meeting (which is at my house) but from January 2001, if you haven't already collected yours, I will only be bringing it along to a meeting if you ring me the week before to confirm that you will definitely be there to collect it.

Live Sand Samples. Thankyou!

Thankyou to Paul T, Grant (again) and Steve M for the live sand (actually, I still have to collect it from Steve). My sand bed is doing quite well now and my tank has almost finished cycling (again). It should be in reasonable enough order for viewing at the Christmas meeting next month. Again, I really appreciate your efforts and generosity.

Cheap Chillers!!!

Thanks to Rob Fowler, MASWA members now have the ability to buy excellent quality, custom made chillers at a relatively low price. Rob has done all the haggling and legwork and managed to finally find someone who would build some chillers suitable for the hobby. Currently, two models are available:

1/8HP (93W) ~\$1000

1/4HP (186W) ~\$1350

It's a lot of money, but a very low price compared to what you will find and ANY aquarium store. And for those of us that have problems with our tank temperature during Summer, this might be the answer. For more details, talk to Rob at one of the meetings.

Head and Lateral Line Erosion in Purple Tang

By Greg Weryk (The Fish Boy)

Very short story about my purple tang.

I am pretty sure that most of the guys have seen the tang that is of concern. It came in to the shop about three months ago and was promptly put into the display tank. Straight away we noticed the lateral line disease and thought, *Oh no!*. First of all, we checked for earth leakage and water quality just to make sure that there was nothing in our water that would continue to upset the tang. After a quick look around the internet and a few peoples' opinions, we decided that there was only one way to try to fix the problem: **FOOD**. From the research I did, there seemed to be a great deal of the blame for lateral line disease seemed to be associated with poor housing and inadequate diet. Being a tang we know they like greens, so we started to feed copious amounts of lettuce. Yes, that's right, run of the mill, \$2.00 lettuce leaves. However, I should define "copious" - I mean we put **huge** amounts of food in - about four whole leaves per day and these leaves were made very short work of. In the first few weeks, all the fish in the tank (yellow tangs, clown fish, blue tang) contributed towards eating one whole lettuce head - an incredible amount of food! We then started the fish on marine green and enriched live brine shrimp, but we still put large amounts of green foliage in as well (the fish seem to love anything green, as would be expected).

Three months later, I am happy to say that the tang is doing very well. One side of its head has healed completely and the other side is slowly getting better - there are only small marks on the front of the head at the moment and no marks on one side of the body. We will be maintaining the regular green feedings and we expect that the fish will fully recover. Now all I hope for is that other countries reach some sort of agreement on how to police the collection part of the hobby as fish shipped in as poor health as this one would only very rarely survive, let alone recover from their injuries and this means a lot of animals needlessly dying.

I will keep you posted on the Purple Tang's progression.

Raffle Time

Last meeting

Seven prizes were up for grabs at the October meeting; 3 separate prizes of purple and orange corallimorphs (mushroom polyps) donated by Grant Magill, a 115mL bottle of Kent "Zoe Marine" vitamin and mineral supplement/food additive, a 235mL bottle of Kent Poly.Ox organic material oxidiser and 2 x Lettuce Clips.

Paul's ticket was drawn out of the bowl first and he decided that first prize would be some corallimorphs. Next prize went to Nathan who also chose the corallimorphs. Grant came third, and not surprisingly, didn't pick corallimorphs, he chose Zoe Marine, instead. Tony took the Poly.Ox as fourth prize and Wayne took the last pack of corallimorphs as 5th prize. That left the two lettuce clips for Rob and Greg.

This meeting

This month's prizes are: 2 x Lettuce Clips, a 115mL bottle of Kent "Zoe Marine" vitamin and mineral supplement/food additive, an UltraLife Reef Products X-Terminator Mantis Shrimp Trap and a 200g jar of Kent Expert Series "Turbo Calcium". A \$2 raffle ticket puts you in the draw to pick one of 5 great prizes!

Anyone who would like to see different types of prizes used in the raffles or perhaps some particular types of prizes removed from the raffle, please let either David Bloch or Nathan Cope know, so that we can adjust the prize line-up accordingly.

That's All Folks

Unfortunately, "Underwater World" is working David Bloch like a slave in order to get their major renovations finished by the start of the new year. Consequently, he wasn't able to finish his article in time for this month's newsletter. Hopefully he will get some reprieve before the next edition.

Remember everyone, this is your newsletter and it always needs articles! If you've got a story to relate, something to ask, a joke to tell, a piece of trivia to impart or anything at all, send it in so that it can be added to the newsletter. It doesn't have to be huge, just relevant to marine life!

Upcoming Meetings

November 29th: **Fremantle OceanFarm**
South Mole, Fleet Street
Fremantle
December 20th: Nathan Cope

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
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
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, Darren & Raqual Collins, Nathan Cope, Andy Dolphin, Tony Fiorentino, Rob Fowler, Achille Gaglia, Paul Groves, Sid Harrison, Sean Hooper, Frank & Ben Krause, David Lee, Grant Magill, Stephen May, Phil & Caron Melvin, Wayne Mothershaw, Phil Searle, Ronald Tan, Paul Tayler, 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 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.