



**January 2002**

**ATTENTION:** This months **MASWA** meeting is on **Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2002**. Check your calendar, because it could be the day you receive this!!!

#### **THIS MONTH'S MEETING**

We are proud to announce that the winner for this month's meeting is Denis Robinson of **Fremantle Ocean Farm**. We have had a meeting here before and it was great. The address is **Fleet Street Fremantle** – in case you were not there last time it's on South Mole (the southern rocky groin at the mouth of the swan river just past the Fremantle Maritime Centre. Parking may be an issue as the council are installing ticket parking along the mole so have some change just in case. The meeting starts at **7.30 sharp**. This is a very important meeting as we will be nominating and voting in our committee for 2002. More on this crucial event can be found later in the newsletter. Attendance is vital and any members who do not attend without a good excuse will be subjected to a 10 hour drive to Carnarvan with Tony!

#### **LAST MONTH'S MEETING**

Last month we held our end of year Christmas meeting/BBQ for 2001. It was at E'l presidente Copes place in South Perth. Those attending were greeted by the lovely ex queen of Persia, Nilufar (I hope I spelt it right Nathan!) and their handsome son, Cameron atop a flying Persian rug (What a lovely family Ed.) The night was well attended and it was great to see some faces that we haven't seen for some time.

Nathan's tank was looking spectacular (it made me a bit nervous – its almost as good as mine now! Ed.) with the addition of some new corals from the aquarium of our ex editor, Andy Dolphin. It was disappointing however to find out that Nathan's tank was not in fact 3 metres long and didn't hold a tiger shark nor did Nathan use SCUBA gear to clean it! That's the last time I listen to Tony to get some information for the newsletter!

#### **Reefy Trivia**

*"1 cubic millimeter of copper metal (9 mg of copper) is enough to raise 35,000 litres of RO/DI water to NSW concentrations (0.00025 ppm)" According to Dr Ron Shimek, a level of copper that can be considered lethal is not a lot higher than the normal NSW levels!*

*Reefkeepers might want to keep that in mind before ever using copper or brass fittings on their aquarium systems!*

*By: Randy Holmes-Farley, president bio-chemist of Reef Central's "The Reef Chemistry Forum" (<http://www.reefcentral.com/vbulletin/index.php>).*

## **MASWA COMMITTEE ELECTIONS FOR 2002**

Elections for this years MASWA committee will be held at the January 2002 meeting. The elections will be different this time because we now know a bit about what we are doing and more people have had a say in it this time. This time you will be able to nominate yourself for one (or all, if you wish) of the positions. If you are the only one who has been nominated for a position, then you are automatically given that position. If more than one person has nominated themselves for a position, then all nominees for that position will be announced to the MASWA members in order for them to vote on who they want to fill the position. At the announcement of who has been nominated (and prior to the general vote), a nominee may withdraw him/herself if he/she feels the other nominees are better suited or the job. If one person ends up being placed in two or more positions, the person will be asked which position they prefer and the outgoing committee will attempt to persuade others to fill the non-preferred positions. In the event that nobody nominates for a position, the outgoing committee will be putting the hard word on some people to fill the position(s).

The positions are:

**President** - The president is also the chairman, so presides at committee meetings and prepares the agenda prior to each meeting. The president is also the spokesperson for the society, both internally and externally.

**Vice-President** - Presides at committee meetings in the absence of the president and does all other duties of the president in his absence.

**Secretary** - Prepares and coordinates all correspondence to and from the society. The secretary also records and writes up the minutes from the committee meetings.

**Treasurer** - Keeps accurate account of money coming into and going out from the society.

**Social Coordinator** - Greets new members/visitors, introduces them to current members and generally makes them feel at home and part of the society. Organises the location of the monthly meetings and any guest speakers and provides written information for the monthly MASWA newsletters that summarises the previous meeting and details the location and expectations of the next meeting. Buys raffle prizes in accordance with amounts allocated by the treasurer and seeks donations to the society when necessary. Sells raffle tickets at monthly meetings. Organises outings outside of monthly meetings (eg, dive/snorkel trips).

**Newsletter Editor** - Prepares and mails monthly newsletters. Seeks articles from members to be presented in the newsletter.

**Web Page Editor** - Keeps MASWA web page up to date, including creating electronic copies of previous newsletters for the MASWA web site.

**Science Officer** - Conducts research of current scientific literature to support the society in technical decisions and in correspondence with scientific bodies and government departments.

You can let me know right away if there are any positions you would like to nominate yourself for (or you can just tell me at the January meeting when we will call for late nominations).

Also required are two internet accessible members to be our representatives for the **Marine Aquarium Society of Australia**. Nathan will be telling us more about this at the meeting so if you are interested you will have to wait until then!

Nathan Cope  
President - Marine Aquarists' Society of WA

## **MASWA NEWS**

- **ATTENTION MEMBERS** – *if you have not rejoined MASWA for this year you are screwed! The only way to get back into the good books with the treasurer and president will be to shower them with numerous large and expensive gifts and or large wads of cash! Our membership donation remains unchanged from last year at \$22.00 adults, \$11.00 children, and \$12 half-year membership. Please rejoin MASWA at r before the January meeting as we cannot carry any unfinancial members past the January 2002 meeting.*

- Have you tried our web address would and found that it did not work? That's because we had the wrong address printed in the newsletter – woops! The correct internet address for MASWA is <http://www.ifocas.fsworld.co.uk/MASWA/index.html>. Nathan has recently uploaded all the pages from our old address so if you haven't seen the web page before and are looking for something to do give it a look! The information is a little outdated so if anyone is so motivated to update it please contact one of the committee members so we can give you the job as web editor!
- As most of you would be aware the MASWA committee submitted a letter regarding the temporary ban of amateur collection to the minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Kim Chance. We were pleasantly surprised to get a reply to our letter. The reply was very positive in terms of the perception of MASWA by the minister. A quote from the letter by the minister follows: "I regard the Marine Aquarists' Society of Western Australia (MASWA) as a well recognised and respected body, with a keen interest in the marine environment. The decision to temporarily ban the recreational take of coral was certainly not a reflection on the good work of the MASWA, in promoting environmentally sustainable collection practices."
- For all you internet reefers out there a new online magazine with authors such as Charles Delbeek, Julian Sprung, Rob Toonen and Craig Bingman has hit the web. It is called Advanced Aquarists' Online Magazine and can be found at: <http://www.advancedaquarist.com>. Here is some excerpts of information from the media reviews section of Advanced Aquarists' Online Magazine:

"Coral crabs influence the feeding patterns of crown-of-thorns starfish" by M. Pratchett, E. Vytopil and P. Parks. This study, published in Coral Reefs, March 2000, Vol 19, #1, pg. 36., shows the effectiveness of two genera of crabs that live in association with some small polyped stony corals in protecting those corals from crown-of-thorns starfish. The crab genus Trapezia lives amongst the branches of Pocillopora corals and the genus Tetralia only lives amongst the branches of Acropora corals. In the above experiment, the crabs were removed from a group of Acropora and Pocillopora corals and the crown-of-thorns subsequently ate all these corals.

In the second phase of the experiment, corals that were allowed to keep their crab residents were observed. The Trapezia crabs in the Pocillopora corals broke off the thorns of the starfish right at the pedicle (base of the thorn) and effectively stopped any of the Pocillopora corals from being eaten. Converseley, the Tetralia crabs that lived in the Acropora only pinched the tube feet of the starfish which was apparently not an effective deterrent because all the Acropora corals were eaten.

<p><b>Upcoming Meetings</b>  January 2002.....Fremantle Ocean farm  February 2002 ?  March 2002.....?  April 2002 ?</p> <p><b>MASWA's World Wide Web address</b>  The web address:  <a href="http://www.ifocas.fsworld.co.uk/MASWA/index.html">http://www.ifocas.fsworld.co.uk/MASWA/index.html</a></p> <p><b>General Inquiries</b>  To Nathan Cope  E-mail address: <a href="mailto:nathan@ingeniousresources.com.au">nathan@ingeniousresources.com.au</a>  Phone: (08) 9367 9251 a/h or 0416 09 2000 b/h</p> <p><b>Membership and Newsletter Inquiries</b>  To David Bloch  E-mail address: <a href="mailto:aquatech@inet.net.au">aquatech@inet.net.au</a>  Phone: (08) 9375 2438 a/h or 0412 07 9886 b/h</p> <p><b>Treasury Inquiries</b>  To Paul Tayler  E-mail address: <a href="mailto:pmtayler@p085.aone.net.au">pmtayler@p085.aone.net.au</a>  Phone on (08) 9381 7827 a/h or 0419 90 8264 b/h</p>	<p><b>MASWA Membership</b>  Currently MASWA requests an annual \$22 donation from adult members, \$11 from 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.</p> <p><b>Friends in Common</b>  Warren and Valaria Schmitt, Terry and Valerie Peake, Tom Devilee, Jan Anderson, Lissa Beaufond, David Bloch, Darren &amp; Raquel Collins, Nathan Cope, Andy Dolphin, Tony Fiorentino, Paul Groves, Sid Harrison, Robert Harwood, Simon Hawke, Frank &amp; Ben Krause, David Lee, Grant Magill, Phil &amp; Caron Melvin, Wayne Mothershaw, John Ryan, Phil Searle, Ronald Tan, Paul Tayler, Greg Weryk.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>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, David Bloch. Remember, this is your newsletter.</i></p>
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