



February 2002

ATTENTION: This months **MASWA** meeting is on **Wednesday, 27th February 2002**. Check your calendar, because it could be the day you receive this!!!

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

This months meeting will be held at the home of Terry and Valerie Peake. This will be the first meeting we have had at the Peake's house and it should be great to see some new aquariums. Terry and Valerie have several tanks and outdoor saltwater ponds with a total volume of 2500L. The address of the meeting is **37 Bridgewater Drive Kallaroo** and will start at **7.30pm sharp**.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Well what can I say.....once again Dennis did a fantastic job at informing and entertaining us at Fremantle Ocean Farm. A lot had changed since our last visit to the south mole fish farm. The farm is now buzzing with all manner of marine life with every small space taken up with some piece of equipment or tub.

The seahorse side of the farm has had its fair share of ups and downs but is progressing nicely with a new bank of rearing and holding tanks being setup as we speak.

Most importantly, as happened last time we visited, the beers came out at our tea break – Well done guys!

Flame Angelfish Breeding Success!

This is the press release that was sent to the Aquatic Info mailing list last month:

Waimanalo, Hawai'i, January 17, 2002: The Oceanic Institute has succeeded in raising flame angelfish, *Centropyge loriculus*, entirely in captivity, a notable breakthrough in the aquaculture of marine ornamental fish. This high-value aquarium species has been sought for aquaculture for numerous years.

Research teams led by Dr. Charles Laidley and Dr. Robin Shields succeeded in obtaining natural spawns of flame angelfish and in nurturing the larvae through the hatchery.

“Researchers at the Oceanic Institute are applying their expertise in food fish aquaculture technology to the culture of ornamental fish,” said Dr. Anthony Ostrowski, Finfish Program Manager for the Oceanic Institute.

“The key to this recent success was in culturing suitable microscopic organism (zooplankton) as prey for the angelfish larvae,” explained Ostrowski. “Conventional diets are too large for such tiny larvae, therefore our researchers isolated plankton directly from the local reef environment.”

“Our ongoing zooplankton research will benefit the culture of other difficult marine ornamental and food fish species, such as deep water snappers,” continued Ostrowski. “The importance of this topic is illustrated by current State-wide research activities in the private and public sectors, including a collaborative project between the Oceanic Institute and the Waikiki Aquarium.”

The pioneering group of juvenile flame angelfish is almost three months of age and will be joined by additional batches in 2002, as research work continues at the Oceanic Institute’s research facility on O’ahu.

The Oceanic Institute’s successes in larval rearing and captive reproduction have broken down long-standing barriers to the captive culture of angelfish and other difficult-to-rear ornamental fish.

Recently, researchers at the facility also obtained the first recorded fertilized natural spawns of yellow tang, *Zebrasoma flavescens*, under aquaculture conditions and documented the early developmental stages of the larvae.

“The challenge now for our researchers is to convert these early achievements into reliable technology that will allow commercial cultivation of high-value species such as the flame angelfish and yellow tang,” said Ostrowski. “Such advances will bring new employment opportunities and lessen the impact the aquarium trade has on Hawaii’s fragile coral reef ecosystem.”

“We are thankful for seed monies from the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture, which allowed the Oceanic Institute to make such a rapid advance in the field of marine ornamental fish culture,” said Ostrowski. “We are now ready to go forward to the next stage of research and development of this important technology.”

The Oceanic Institute, located at Makapu’u Point on O’ahu, was founded in 1960. The Institute is a private, not-for-profit, full-spectrum applied research organization dedicated to the development and transfer of technology and applications in aquaculture, environmental science, and marine biotechnology. The Institute has a dedicated research program in marine ornamental fish culture.

Reefy Hints and Tips

Pile up small pieces of rubble and shells in a corner of your aquarium and it will become an in-tank refugium. Tiny animals such as copepods, amphipods and polychaete worms will multiply in the safe haven that the debris provides, but as they leave the "refugium" to search for "greener pastures", they will become food for the bigger animals in your tank. You may have to tidy up your refugium every now and then because hermit crabs will pull it apart, but it is a great way to add a bit of diversity to the food web in your tank and mandarins are sure to love it.

Presidents Report 2002

Last month we had our inaugural Annual General Meeting at which both the 2002 MASWA Committee members and the WA representatives to the 2002 committee of the Marine Aquarium Society of Australia (MASA) were chosen.

MASA Committee

MASA representatives are required from each state that has a marine aquarium society (currently WA, NSW, Vic and Qld). Representatives must be members of their state's society. The MASA committee will be working towards such things as a more unified hobby in Australia, opposition to national hobby-affecting issues such as Senator Robert Hill's bid to shut down commercial coral and live rock collection from The Great Barrier Reef last year and supporting the marine aquarium societies in each state if and when they are faced with state-based hobby-affecting issues. This year, the Western Australians to whose shoulders these responsibilities have fallen upon are, myself and Wayne Mothershaw.

MASWA Committee

The committee's most obvious functions are the production of newsletters and organisation of meetings but the general purpose of MASWA's committee is to coordinate the society's effort towards its Objects of Association. For this reason, last year, (among other things) it embarked on a campaign to increase the awareness of our society to as many WA hobbyists as possible and also opposed the ban on recreational collection of coral and live rock imposed by WA Fisheries in July.

Last year, a large proportion of the committee's time was devoted to developing a solution to the latter issue. We are happy to announce that this month we were finally able to meet with Colin Chalmers and Eve Bunbury from the Fisheries department to discuss a resolution to this problem. It is still early yet, but the outcome of this first meeting was very positive. I will be able to tell members more about it at this month's meeting.

What I can tell you now, though, is which MASWA members have decided this year to tackle the issues such as those mentioned above by obtaining/retaining an office in the 2002 MASWA committee. Those members are:

Nathan Cope - President
Sid Harrison - Vice President
Paul Tayler - Treasurer
Paul Groves - Science Officer
Tony Fiorentino - Social Coordinator
David Bloch - Newsletter Editor
Terry Peake - Web Editor

As you can see, most members of the 2001 committee have decided to take the challenge again this year and it is very much appreciated. There are some new committee members though, so I would like you all to welcome Terry Peake as our new Web Editor and Paul Groves (after a long hiatus from the society) as our new Science Officer.

Congratulations to each and every member of the 2002 MASWA Committee!

Due to other commitments, Jan Anderson, Darren Collins and Frank Krause were unable to continue on with the 2002 committee, but I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them, on behalf of all MASWA members, for their input to the 2001 committee. Well done guys!

Nathan Cope
President

Reefy Hints and Tips

Buy whole mussels/clams when doing your seafood shopping (whether it is for food for yourself or your fish) and then keep the shells so that you can mount coral fragments on them.

For Sale

- ◆ G'day all,
Just wanted to let you know that I have a number of items I'm selling off from when my business closed down about 14 months ago.

They are all brand new (never been used) and all are at cost price or below. I'll be bringing them along to future MASWA meetings but if anyone is interested in some particular items, just let me know and I'll put them aside for you. I'm also posting this to the Australian bulletin board, Reefing the Australian Way, so keep in mind that once they've gone, there are no more as my business no longer exists, so if you particularly want something, get in quick.

Nathan Cope

Reefy Hints and Tips

If your magnetic glass cleaner is wearing out or you just need a bit more oomph, get one of those nylon scouring pads (make sure it isn't one that is soaked in detergent or soap) and put it between the magnets on the inside of the tank. The scourers seem to even hold a fair bit of the algae, so you can periodically take them out of the tank during your cleaning and rinse them out rather than just letting the algae cloud your aquarium water.

Upcoming Meetings

February 2002 Terry and Valerie Peake

March 2002 ?

April 2002 ?

May 2002 ?

June 2002 ?

July 2002 ?

MASWA's World Wide Web address

The web address:

<http://www.ifocas.fsworld.co.uk/MASWA/index.html>

General Inquiries

To Nathan Cope

E-mail address: nathan@ingeniousresources.com.au

Phone: (08) 9367 9251 a/h or 0416 092 000 b/h

Membership and Newsletter Inquiries

To David Bloch

E-mail address: aquatech@inet.net.au

Phone: (08) 9375 2438 a/h or 0412 079 886 b/h

Treasury Inquiries

To Paul Tayler

E-mail address: pmtayler@p085.aone.net.au

Phone on (08) 9381 7827 a/h or 0419 908 264 b/h

MASWA Membership

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.

Friends in Common

Warren and Valaria Schmitt, Terry and Valerie Peake, Tom Devilee, Jan Anderson, Craig and Lissa Beaufond, David Bloch, Darren & Raqual Collins, Nathan Cope, Andy Dolphin, Tony Fiorentino, Paul Groves, Sid Harrison, Robert Harwood, Simon and Rose Hawke, Frank & Ben Krause, Grant Magill, Wayne Mothershaw, Phil Searle, Paul Tayler, Greg Weryk.

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, David Bloch. Remember, this is your newsletter. Additions to the newsletter need to be received by the editor no later than one week prior to the next meeting.