



July 2002

ATTENTION

This month's **MASWA** meeting is on **Wednesday, 31st July 2002**. Check your calendar, because it could be the day you receive this!!!

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

We are lucky enough this month to be holding our meeting at the home of our newest member, Chris Kolzan. Chris has an amazing aquarium setup where he has been able to get seven, yes **SEVEN** different species of tang to live happily together. If you think that's no mean feat then how about this – he has four specimens of the soft coral *Dendronephthia sp.* not just surviving but thriving in his aquarium! The success he has had with this particular variety of extremely hard to keep coral will hopefully be something others can learn and replicate in their home aquariums.

Last month you would have heard the first of many talks/discussions that are going to be made by MASWA members. This month Sid is going to start his series of discussions on the perfect aquarium. The topic for this month is the physical placement, support, orientation and dimensions of the glass box known to us all as the aquarium. This is going to be an open discussion so your input will be needed. All information gathered from this and the other planned talks will be compiled and hopefully eventually will yield a simple and practical "how to guide" for the beginning and experienced aquarist alike.

If you would like details of when and where the next meeting is please contact:
Nathan Cope nathan@ingeniousresources.com.au, (08) 9367 9251 a/h, 0416 092 000 b/h

or

David Bloch aquatech@iinet.net.au, (08) 93752438 a/h, 0412 079 886 b/h.



LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Last month's meeting was held at Tom Devilee's house. Tom as you all know is a very knowledgeable aquarist and as anyone who has seen his setups before would testify, they are usually immaculate. This meeting did not let us down. Once again Tom's aquariums were cleaner than any other I have ever seen, maybe except for Frank Krause's tank, which always looked like he had removed everything the day before, scrubbed and bleached it and put it all back again!

Last month heralded the first of a series of discussions and talks by our MASWA members. Tony started off the series with a talk on why some aquariums look good and others don't! It was a most interesting combination of stories and anecdotes in a style only Tony could create! Good work mate!

Tom's display aquarium measures 6ft X 20inch X 20inch. The tank is filtered by a submerged bioball/coral rubble filter and a gravity sand filter located beneath his aquarium. The lighting on the tank is on the low end

of the intensity scale and is accomplished by fluorescent lamps comprising of blue and daylight tubes. This however is not a major problem for this tank as primarily setup for fish and not coral. Inside the aquarium is a healthy and very clean layer of fine live sand and a good amount of coral rock (both dead and live).

The fish life in this aquarium is truly amazing! Tom has some great specimens swimming in his piece of living room nature. In fact he has around 28 fish in his tank comprising of two blue tangs, a *Curribilus* sp. wrasse, a disappearing wrasse, a banana wrasse, a keyhole angel, two bicour anglers, four tomato clowns, four *ocerlaris/percula* clowns, a pyjama cardinal fish, a banggai cardinal fish, two black banded blennies, a flame hawk, a fire tail goby and four red cardinal fish. Tom's fish are all in great condition and look very healthy. There are also a few corals in the aquarium including bubble coral and some coralimorphs.

A visit to Tom's place would not be complete without a look into his breeding setup. Tom's list of breeding pairs of fish include orchid dottybacks, *ocerlaris* and *percula* clowns maroon clowns and longnose hawkfish. Not all these fish have bred yet however I am sure it won't be too long before Tom has success with most of them.



MASWA Message Board

- **Last Chance to Escape from the Cold with Tony and Head North!!**

It's starting to get cold, wet and miserable outside. What better a time then it is to head up north for a bit of a reefy exploration. Our social coordinator, Tony Fiorentino is interested in heading our northern shores sometime soon. If you are interested in joining the trip then please attend the coming meeting and email Tony on fioren@iinet.net.au or call him on 0412467519. Tony is eager to make plans and get a trip organised ASAP.

- **List of SCUBA Divers**

A request from science officer Paul (Pedo) Groves has been made to make a list of MASWA SCUBA divers. The purpose of this list is so that anyone interested in doing a dive can call a few other divers if they wanna organise a dive or just to find a dive buddy. If you are interested please call Paul on 0421803288 or email him on paul@nw.com.au.

- **Sid's Perfect Aquarium**

As you would be aware Sid will be leading a discussion at this month's meeting on the first part of his perfect aquarium guide loosely titled "the physical placement, support, orientation and dimensions of the glass box known to us all as the aquarium". If you have any experiences either positive or negative and feel that others could benefit from this please come along and share your ideas with us. This is a project Sid and MASWA are committed to so that others don't have to make the same mistakes we have all made and more importantly so that others are able to enjoy their hobby, not be frustrated by it.

- **Soft Coral Propagation**

Coming up in the next few months our own *Coralimorph* farmer, Grant, will be showing us the nuts and bolts of propagating our soft corals. If you have any softies sitting around in your tank or sump and would like to donate them to the cause please bring them along to the next few meetings for Grant.

- **Live Sand please?**

Darren and Racquel Collins are trying to get their tank running properly again and are looking for small samples of live sand from other aquariums. If anyone can bring a small bag or container of their live sand to the next meeting Darren and Racquel would greatly appreciate it. An addition of live sand from other aquariums is in fact a great way to enhance the biological diversity in your sand bed which can only enhance the health and stability of your system. So please don't be shy, ask your fellow members for a bit of sand!

- **MASWA Fish Trap**

MASWA has a acrylic fish/crab trap that it lends out to its members. The trap operates using a trap drop down door that attaches to fishing line. This trap is highly efficient at removing many of our pests that hang around in the aquarium. If you would like to borrow this trap please speak to any of the committee members and we will let you borrow it. If you are really desperate for it then you will have to wait cause we have forgotten who we last lent it too! If you have the MASWA trap sitting under your aquarium can you please bring it to the next meeting! Thanx.....



FISHY LINKS & NEWS

- **HOW TO CALCULATE GLASS THICKNESS FOR AQUARIUMS!**

Have you ever been unsure of exactly how thick the glass of an aquarium of a particular size should be? If so check this link out for a great wealth of technical information on glass thickness and a link to download the *glass thickness calculator* (in MS Excel format). See: <http://www.fnzas.org.nz/glassthickness.0.html>.

- **GREAT BARRIER REEF BLEACHING WORST ON RECORD**

Coral bleaching in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park may be the worst on record, scientists reported after the most comprehensive aerial survey ever conducted. The survey aimed at helping unravel the implications of global warming for reef management, and covered more than 640 reefs from the northern tip to the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park using light aircraft.

Coral bleaching is a response to stressful environmental conditions in corals and is caused when algae called zooxanthellae leave the corals. Generally, the most severely bleached areas were in the southern part of the park. Climate change effects exposing the reef to higher temperatures on an annual basis will hamper recovery. For the full story, see: <http://ens-news.com/ens/may2002/2002-05-23-01.asp>.

- **NEW REEF CLUSTER FOUND**

Coral researchers recently discovered a reef cluster known collectively as Raja Ampat, located in a remote archipelago off the coast of Indonesia. In the course of a 2.5 week expedition there, a survey team recorded 972 species. The reefs owe their spectacular diversity to their location at the intersection of different waters, bringing in species from the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, and Indonesia. Moreover, the area is flushed with cooler waters that help protect against coral bleaching, an increasing threat to reefs worldwide. Still, scientists warn that even these remote reefs are threatened by illegal fishing and illegal logging, which causes soil erosion and silting that can choke living coral. For the full story, see: http://www.gristmagazine.com/forward.pl?forward_id=107.



Reefy Hints and Tips

Are you worried about having friends or neighbours feed you aquarium while you are on holiday? If so heres a handy tip that will ensure that those not familiar with our aquatic friends will not overfeed them and pollute the water in which they swim. The key to this is to purchase a flat multi compartmental tackle or parts box from a fish store or Bunnings. Each small compartment is treated as one day and labelled accordingly. Into each compartment the frozen food of you choice is placed such that everyday the aquarium can receive a rationed and idiot proof amount of food.



Upcoming Meetings

July 2002 **Chris Kolzan**
August ?
September **Tony Fiorentino**
October **Grant Magil**
November **Wayne Mothersaw**
December **Nathan Cope**

MASWA's World Wide Web address

The web address:
<http://auscyber.net/maswa/>

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: agatech@iinet.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.

Members List

Warren and Valaria Schmitt, *Terry and Valerie Peake*, Tom Devilee, *Jan Anderson, Craig and Lissa Beaufond, David Bloch, Jason Booth and Jane Thom*, Darren & Raqual Collins, *Nathan Cope, Andy Dolphin, Tony Fiorentino, Paul Groves, Sid Harrison, Robert Harwood, Simon Hawke and Rose, Frank & Ben Krause, Grant Magill, Wayne Mothershaw, Phil Searle, Paul Tayler, Steve Tofts, Ronald Tan, Greg Weryk, David Lee, Glenn Fletcher, Keith Walters, Mal and Steve Hearne*, Ross Hernander, *T & I Royce, R D Davis, Chris Kolzan*

If you are a member and your name is not on the members list please tell the editor David Bloch as soon as possible. Names in italics indicate that the member receives an E-Newsletter (emailed newsletter).

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 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.