



August 2002

ATTENTION

This month's **MASWA** meeting is on **Wednesday, 28th August 2002**

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

This month we are honoured to be having our monthly gathering at the home of our very own story teller and MASWA Social Coordinator, Tony Fiorentino. Tony has a long established reef aquarium that has a good mix of both large and small polyped stony corals and soft coral. He is one of the few lucky aquarists who have their tank poking through a hole in the wall with a filtration room behind full of all the aquatic junk! New to his setup since the last meeting is a coral propagation aquarium which will hopefully encourage a few more of us to setup something similar.

The meeting commences from **7.30pm**



LAST MONTH'S MEETING

The meeting last month was held at Chris Kolzan's home in Balajura. Chris's tank had been going well for around two years when suddenly something happened which caused an unexpected crash which reduced his thriving reef community to a sick and dying mess. This unfortunate event, which we believe was caused by a combination of toxins from a very large flatworm and the domino effect of huge numbers of dying micro-organisms in the rock and sand bed, happened a few weeks before the meeting (bad timing ha? Ed.). As with most things though, there is always a light at the end of the tunnel and after many water changes and lots of water testing the aquarium is bouncing back and slowly being restocked with fish and invertebrates.

Chris's aquarium measures 6ft X 2ft X 2ft in size and is filtered by a submerged trickle filter, needle wheel protein skimmer and an algae filter. All the filtration is located in a large sump beneath the aquarium. The water temperature is maintained at around 24 degrees C and the water quality is scrupulously tested by Chris on a regular basis for all manner of things. The aquarium is lit by a 250 watt AB 10 000 kelvin metal halide lamp that is located centrally above the tank and two 3 ft Actinic fluorescent lamps.. There are four powerheads situated in the aquarium to provide strong water current. Water lost through evaporation is replenished with dechlorinated tap water every morning at the rate of about 3 litres per day. Prior to the toxic event Kalkwasser was being used as the source of top up water.

At the time of the meeting Chris did not have any fish in his tank as most had been removed until the water quality was good enough to support them again. There were a few corals in the tank still and they were starting to recover nicely again.

There was a fantastic turnout of members as well as a few new guys joining up last month. Thankyou to everyone who came along and especially to our host Chris.



MASWA Message Board

- **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.

- **Corals, rock, and goodies for sale**

David Bloch will be selling some excess bits and pieces from his old aquarium over the next few weeks. There will be a 400W MH and 2X 150W MH units, 4ft X 2 ½ft X 2ft aquarium and pine cabinet to suit, a few aquaclear 402 and 802 powerheads and live rock and a few bits of coral. If you are interested please grab him at the upcoming meeting.

- **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?**

Last month Darren and Raquel requested some live sand. This concept of swapping and adding different sources of live sand is a very good one and MASWA would encourage this sort of exchange to take place. If you have a few spare minutes, a fish bag and a handful of sand why not bring it along for the raffle!



FISHY LINKS & NEWS

- **OCEAN LITERACY QUIZ**

How well do you know the oceans? Take the "Ocean Literacy Quiz" sponsored by the Pew Oceans Commission and the National Geographic Society.

To test your "Ocean Literacy," visit:

http://www.enn.com/news/enn-stories/2002/04/04182002/pewquiz_46932.asp

- **IMAC – NOT A COMPUTER, A MARINE AQUARIUM CONFERENCE!**

Have you heard about *IMAC*? The *International Marine Aquarium Conference* is the hottest news for hobbyists and manufacturers. It's being held in Chicago May 2, 3 and 4, 2003 in a great hotel. The lineup of speakers is very impressive including Eric Borneman, Dr. Ron Shimek, Julian Sprung, Martin Moe, George Parsons, Mark Schick, Bob Goemans, Michael Janes, Dr. Rob Toonen, Paul Holthus, Randy Reed, Richard Harker, Larry Jackson and more.....

Registration is currently only \$125. Check out the website, www.theimac.org

- **WHALE SONGS BECOMING LOST**

According to new research, whale sounds might be no match for ambient underwater noise from commercial shipping, military sonar, and seismic surveys. That ever-increasing artificial din could reduce the distance over which whale songs can be heard. That's bad news for species like the blue whale and the fin whale. Scientists think that the male members of these species use low-frequency love songs (which can travel thousands of miles underwater) to attract mates---so if the songs go unheard, the survival of the species could be threatened.

For the full story, see: http://www.gristmagazine.com/forward.pl?forward_id=221

- **SCRIPPS AND WWF PARTNER FOR SEA CHANGE**

The Scripps Institution of Oceanography has joined with the World Wildlife Fund to save some of the most threatened marine environments in the world. Called "Partnership for Sea Change," the collaboration combines Scripps' scientific expertise with the conservation group's global efforts to protect against overfishing, pollution and habitat destruction. The partnership will focus first on the world's most threatened tropical marine regions. Those include the Gulf of California; the East African coastline from Somalia to Mozambique; the Sulu and Sulawesi seas near the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia; and the Mesoamerican Caribbean reef system, which extends nearly 450 miles from the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico to the Bay Islands off the coast of Honduras.

For more information see: <http://www.worldwildlife.org/news/headline.cfm?newsid=342>

- **SHRIMP FARMS CAUSING DEGRADATION**

Shrimp, those yummy (so we hear) pink crustaceans, gave us a whole new synonym for small things--- but in much of the world's coastal areas, the little critters are causing big problems. Ever since the World Bank underwrote the first Southeast Asian shrimp farm a generation ago, almost every country with a warm coastline has been hit by the fever for pink gold. But the industry has turned out to be a questionable investment and an almost unrelieved environmental nightmare: Shrimp farms have destroyed millions of acres of coastal cactus and mangrove forests, and they've turned many of the world's pristine estuaries into shrimp toilets. In Mexico, where small communities often welcome shrimp farms into the neighbourhood, the number of shrimp producers nearly doubled between 1993 and 1998. But at what price? Writer Michelle Nijhuis looks for the answers on the Grist Magazine website.

For the full article, see: <http://www.gristmagazine.com/maindish/nijhuis071802.asp?source=daily>



Reefy Hints and Tips

Ever put a new powerhead in a tank and used the suction cup brackets that come as standard with them only to later come home and find the pump on the bottom blowing sand all over the corals (how's that for a long winded sentence! Ed.)? Here is a simple bracket you can make to attach your pumps to the side of your tank. Start out by cutting acrylic strips about 80 to 100mm long and around 15 to 20mm wide. With a lighter or another heat source heat under the centre point until the acrylic is softened. Once flexible bend the acrylic into a "C" shape making sure the distance between the top and bottom is large enough to slide over the side straps of the tank. The next step is to glue this bracket to the top of the powerhead with epoxy glue.



<p>Upcoming Meetings</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>August</td> <td>Tony Fiorentino</td> </tr> <tr> <td>September</td> <td>?</td> </tr> <tr> <td>October</td> <td><i>Grant Magil</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>November</td> <td><i>Wayne Mothersaw</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>December</td> <td><i>Nathan Cope</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>January 2003</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </table> <p>MASWA's World Wide Web address The web address: http://www.auscyber.net/maswa/</p> <p>General Inquiries To Nathan Cope E-mail address: nathan@ingeniousresources.com.au Phone: (08) 9367 9251 a/h or 0416 092 000 b/h</p> <p>Membership and Newsletter Inquiries To David Bloch E-mail address: aguattech@iinet.net.au Phone: (08) 9375 2438 a/h or 0412 079 886 b/h</p> <p>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</p>	August	Tony Fiorentino	September	?	October	<i>Grant Magil</i>	November	<i>Wayne Mothersaw</i>	December	<i>Nathan Cope</i>	January 2003	?	<p>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.</p> <p>Members List Warren and Valaria Schmitt, <i>Terry and Valerie Peake</i>, Tom Devilee, <i>Jan Anderson, Craig and Lissa Beaufond, David Bloch, Royce Bond, Jason Booth and Jane Thom</i>, Darren & Raqual Collins, <i>Nathan Cope, Andy Dolphin, Tony Fiorentino, Drew Gately, Paul Groves, Sid Harrison, Robert Harwood</i>, Simon and Rose, Frank & Ben Krause, <i>Grant Magill, Wayne Mothersaw, Victor O'Driscoll</i>, Phil Searle, <i>Mark Shewell, Paul Tayler</i>, Steve Tofts, <i>Ronald Tan, Greg Weryk</i>, David Lee, Glenn Fletcher, <i>Keith Walters, Mal and Steve Hearne</i>, Ross Hernandez, <i>Trish & Issy, Ray Davis, Chris Kolzan</i></p> <p>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).</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 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.</i></p>
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