



## The Living Reef

*August 2004 - FRAGFEST IV !*

### *Editorial....*

Filling in for David Bloch as he and his lovely wife, Bree, sunbaked in Bali, I began thinking how lucky we all are that we have a group of people who are willing to put so much of their time into making MASWA the success that it has always been.

Our Science Officer, Paul Groves, originally founded MASWA in 1993. Although the society was quite small then, by the end of '94, there were already 18 members but Paul did everything for the society, including writing the newsletters - one of them was 11 pages long!

At the start of '96, there were well over 20 members but Paul's new job at Underwater World was so demanding, that a member by the unlikely name of Andy Dolphin decided to relieve Paul by taking over the duties of writing the newsletter.

Over the next few years, our society had increased to roughly 40 members, so it was decided to form a committee to help share the workload, try to organise more events and produce more items of interest for the group.

The 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2001, saw the formation of MASWA's first official committee. Ever since, David has been our newsletter editor (and in my opinion, does the most work out of all of us), Paul Tayler has managed our finances and, until this year, Tony Fiorentino organised our monthly meetings and raffles. This year, Nigel Clark has taken over from Tony (who is now our VP), Bill Blakers is our Web Editor and thanks to Mark Shewell, we finally have someone to write our committee meeting minutes.

Unfortunately, I think a lot of us are guilty of taking these people for granted because they're such nice guys, they would never ask for (nor expect) any recognition. Well, I always say give credit where credit's due, so, next time you see one of these guys, maybe you can give them a pat on the back and perhaps a word or two of encouragement for all they do for our society.

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### *MASWA Meeting Calendar....*

**1st Sept 2004**

**Nigel Clark**

**61 Outlook Drive, Edgewater  
(FragFest IV)**

*29<sup>th</sup> September 2004 – **Marine West** (Special Raffle)*

*27<sup>th</sup> October 2004 – **Glenn Fletcher** (Guest Speaker)*

*24<sup>th</sup> November 2004 – **Bryan Kendal** (FragFest V)*

*15<sup>th</sup> December 2004 – **Nathan Cope** (X-Mas Meeting)*

**Meetings start @ 7:30pm,  
Formalities begin @ 8:00pm!**

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## MASWA Contact Information....

### **COMMITTEE - 2004**

**President** – General Enquiries

Nathan Cope – 0416 092 000

[maswa@ingeniousresources.com.au](mailto:maswa@ingeniousresources.com.au)

**Vice President** – General Enquiries

Tony Fiorentino - 0412 467 519

[fioren@iinet.net.au](mailto:fioren@iinet.net.au)

**Treasurer** – Treasury/Payment Enquiries

Paul Tayler – 0419 908 264

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**Secretary** - Correspondence

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Bill Blakers – 9247 3204.

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**Social Coordinator** – Meeting Venues/Advertising Enquiries

Nigel Clark – 0412 412 681

[dovetails@iprimus.com.au](mailto:dovetails@iprimus.com.au)

**Science Officer** – Research and Scientific Information

Paul Groves – 0421 803 288

[paul@nw.com.au](mailto:paul@nw.com.au)

### **WEB ADDRESS**

[www.masa.asn.au/maswa/](http://www.masa.asn.au/maswa/)

### **MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS**

**Cheque:** Make all cheques payable to Paul M. Tayler.

**EFT:** Make all EFT transfers to: **BSB 086 217 A/C # 69355**

**1664** (please include your name on all EFT transfers!).

**Cash:** Make payment in person only.

### **Postal Address:**

Paul Tayler (MASWA Treasurer)

PO Box 7185

Shenton Park WA 6008

### **NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS**

If you would like to make a contribution to the newsletter please don't hesitate to contact the Newsletter Editor, David Bloch on the phone number or email address listed above.

Contributions to the newsletter need to be received no later than 7 days prior to the next meeting date.

## July Meeting Rundown....

On a cold wintery night we assembled at the workplace of Terry and Valerie Peake. For once I was early and was very surprised to find at least half a dozen other members there too! As usual Paul Taylers wife, Merylin, had cooked up a storm of goodies for me to eat – great sausage rolls and doughnuts!

Being the electronics genius that he is, Terry had all sorts of bits and pieces lying around the office. Connected to his aquarium was one of his Octopus controllers that can turn on and off your pumps and lights, log your temperatures and even tells you how many times you have fed the fish! The only thing it can't do is clean the glass for you.....damn!

If the controller was not impressive enough (it certainly was to me), most of us were hypnotized by the rippling blue beams of light shining on the corallimorphs in Terry's tank. The light was emanating from two LED spotlights shining into the water. They may be simple and not do much but you know that old saying.....small things amuse small minds! In fact the visual effect that these small blue LED's have on an aquarium is out of this world. It makes nighttime viewing a newfound pleasure.

Terry gave us an informative rundown on the workings of his controller and a special offer for MASWA members who are interested in purchasing it. The LED spotlights can also be purchased. If you are interested, you can contact Terry at

At last I get to the important part, Terry's tank! This tank is an experimental one meaning that it gets all sorts of things tested on it. Looking at it however you would never guess that the animals are routinely put through their paces and stressed in the name of science. The aquarium is predominately colonised by coralimorphs of all size and shape. Some of them are quite rare are in fact yet to be identified! Residing in the tank as well are two blennies and two tangs, a red sea sailfin tang and a purple tang.

The tanks is lit by two 10000K 150 watt metal halides and is setup very simply and without clutter. Underneath the aquarium sits a sump that holds the protein skimmer and return pump.

Thankyou to everyone who attended the meeting and ofcourse thankyou to Terry and Val for hosting the meeting.

### **REEFY HINTS & TIPS**

***For quick and easy water changes in small tanks, make sure your return pump has a long enough hose so that it can be removed from your sump and placed in the bucket of new seawater. The new water can then be easily pumped back in to refill your aquarium.***

## August (September!) Meeting Information....

It is so typical for Nigel to cause problems. Honestly the man is a menace! He not only gets to the aquarium shops first thing in the morning before anyone else but also always buys the corals that you wanted! Seriously though, Nigel needs to get to the aquarium shop before anyone else cause his tank is so freakin' big that he needs all the coral he can get! **To top it all off, he has to be different and host the August meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> September!** Oh well, if that's the way he wants it, we'll all have to boycott his meeting ☺

Now that the unpleasantaries are out of the way.....come one, come all to the largest and one of the most beautiful tanks in all of MASWA. Nigel has a big one – compensating for something perhaps? We will have to ask Hazel ☺

OK Nigel has a big tank. It's so big that he built it from fibreglass and plywood with a glass front viewing window. It's so big that it would require so many lights to keep the corals alive that he installed a glass skylight above it!

Now that we have established the size of Nigel's tank.....lets talk about the animals. Having so many litres of water (avoided the words big and large!) Nigel has the space to have a school of yellow tangs (nine I think?), three purple tangs and a host of other fishies including a royal grammer (the real one, not the dottyback). Coral wise the question is what does Nigel not have! From large sized *Sarcophyton*'s to *Acroporas*, *Seriatorporas*, a few different species of *Xenia*, numerous types of corallimorphs all just to name a few.

Nigel is the type of person who always wants to try something new. His newest addition has been a refugeum that just so happens to be bigger than most of our aquariums! It is teaming with critters including mysids, amphipods and copepods.

**This meeting is also our 4<sup>th</sup> and second last Fragfest for the year.** The last one was a great hit with over 22 corals from 7 species brought. This time we are out to beat the record.

Looking forward to seeing you all there.

### REEFY HINTS & TIPS

*Trying to get your coralline algae to spread faster? If you have any broken or loose bits of coralline algae in you tank grind them up and spread them around or alternatively add an urchin. Contrary to popular belief, urchins mow the coralline much like a lawnmower and increase its growth!*

## MASWA Message Board....

### THIS MONTH'S RAFFLE PRIZES

Just one \$2 ticket (or 6 for \$10) puts you in the draw to win one of the following prizes this month:

**"The Coral Reef Aquarium"** by Dr Ron Shimek (\$40 value)  
**"Sand Bed Secrets"** by Dr Ron Shimek (\$25 value)

**Please note**, regardless of how many raffle tickets you buy, you can only win one raffle prize per meeting. Purchasing more tickets does give you a greater chance of winning, though.

### RAFFLE PRIZE DONATIONS

If anyone has any books, hardware, livestock or any bits and pieces they wish to get rid of how about donating them to the raffle table? All the monies raised in the raffle go back into MASWA so the better the raffle the better the prizes and the more we can do during the year.

### MASWA DOOR PRIZE!

From now on, we will be having door prizes at every meeting. In order to be in the draw to win the prize, all you have to do is make sure you **write down your name** (and the name of any partner/guest you have brought with you) **on the meeting registration sheet** and then **put on your name badge** (ensure that partners/guests have one too). Once you've done that, see Nigel Clark (Social Coordinator) for your free door prize ticket.

### MASWA SPONSOR

It's official, MASWA finally has a commercial sponsor! **Reef Online** has offered to sponsor us for the next 12 months and over that period, you will see an advert for them in each issue of The Living Reef. Naturally the advert will tell you who Reef Online is and what they are all about, but will also inform you of new product launches and special offers exclusive to MASWA members. Reef Online has also generously donated several prizes for MASWA to use as we wish throughout the year PLUS an extra 5% MASWA discount on top of the existing 5% MASA discount (ie, MASWA members now get a 10% discount from Reef Online

### MASWA 2004 ARTICLE PRIZE!

To try and encourage members to get actively involved we have decided to offer a \$100 prize to the person who has contributed the most hobby related articles, cartoons or jokes etc to the MASWA 2004 newsletters. The content must be suitable for general audiences (no rude jokes Nigel and Tony! Ed.). The winner will be announced at the **December 2004 CHRISTMAS** meeting. So far this year we have received 16 articles submissions from 6 different members. The race to win the \$100 is not out of reach yet so submit your articles to be in it to win it! There are still 5 more newsletters left this year!

### CALCIUM HYDROXIDE – "KALKWASSER"

For those members that were asking about Calcium Hydroxide we should have some packaged up soon. Pricing is yet to be worked out however it will be a bargain! Stay tuned for more information soon.

### GENERAL MEETING AGENDA (Wednesdays)

For those new members who have not been with us long or perspective visitors/members reading this for the first time below is a rough agenda of what happens at a MASWA meeting:

**7:30pm:** socialise and catch up with friends, introductions of visitors and new members to everyone by social coordinator and other committee members.

**8:00pm:** opening of meeting, formal introduction by president, welcome visitors and new members.

**8:30pm:** introduce host, host presentation of aquarium.

**9:00pm:** draw raffle and if appropriate start "fragfest" or guest speaker talk/presentation.

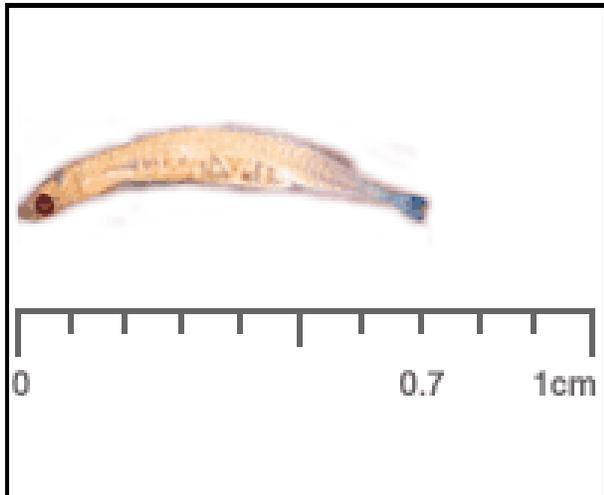
**9:30pm:** draw meeting to a close.

## Fishy Links and News....

### WORLD'S TINIEST FISH IDENTIFIED

The smallest, lightest animal with a backbone has been described for the first time, by scientists in the US.

The minuscule fish, called a stout infantfish, is only about 7mm (just under a quarter of an inch) long.



It lives around Australia's Great Barrier Reef and has snatched the "world's smallest vertebrate" title from the 1cm-long dwarf goby fish.

The infantfish, which is no longer than the width of a pencil, is described in the Records of the Australian Museum. Big females

The first specimen of the tiny creature *Schindleria brevipinguis* was collected way back in 1979, by the Australian Museum's Jeff Leis, during fieldwork in the Lizard Island region of the Great Barrier Reef.

"Anytime a scientist identifies an 'extreme' in the World it is important" Philip Hastings, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

But the creature was not properly studied for years, until HJ Walker of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography,

California, US, and William Watson of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, La Jolla, US, picked up the case.

"It was a really good day when I first looked under the microscope and recognised something that I knew was a new species," said Dr Walker. "But at the time I didn't realise that I was looking at the world's smallest vertebrate."

Only six specimens of the stout infantfish have ever been found.

The females - at around 8.4mm - seem to be bigger than males, who usually measure in at a diminutive 7mm. They are what scientist term "paedomorphic", which means they retain many infantile characteristics, even when adult.

Baby features

The stout infantfish gets its name from its babyish features, and the fact that it is unusually stout compared to other species of infantfish.

Its tiny frame is matched by its short lifespan, which is thought to be a mere two months. This quick turnover might actually work in the fish's favour, allowing it to keep up with a world that is changing fast.

"It's interesting that these animals experience several generations a year," said Dr Watson. "This suggests they could evolve quickly as well.

"They live in a specialised habitat that could be threatened by global warming or human development, but they may have the ability to evolve as fast as their environment changes."

Philip Hastings, the curator of the Scripps Marine Vertebrates Collection, says the identification of the stout infantfish is another demonstration that scientists do not yet have a complete picture of marine animals.

"Anytime a scientist identifies an 'extreme' in the world it is important," said Dr Hastings. "Think about the whole envelope of life. Most of us systematists describe things that fill in the dots in the middle of the envelope.

"This new discovery is pushing the edge, increasing the size of the envelope.

"It's important because it demonstrates that we're still expanding our knowledge of the limits of the diversity that's present on this planet and there are still significant discoveries to me made."

Story from BBC NEWS: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/science/nature/3920183.stm>

### ITALIAN REGION BANS FISH FANS FROM KEEPING GOLDFISH IN BOWLS

ROME (AFP) - Monza, a Northern Italian region best known for its Formula 1 Grand Prix, has become the first place in Italy to ban pet owners from keeping their goldfish in bowls, the council said.

The town council passed a ruling "on the treatment of domestic animals, which will go into effect in a fortnight", council official Giampietro Mosca told AFP.

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The text, acknowledged as "avant-garde" by its backer, bans the sale of coloured chicks at fairs, the use of small animals as competition prizes as well as outlawing goldfish bowls.

"A fish kept in a bowl has a distorted view of reality...and suffers because of this. Also, this type of receptacle generally doesn't have a filter and doesn't allow for good oxygenation of the water, unlike in rectangular aquariums" Mosca explained.

"This story about the goldfish, which has gone around Italy, seems a little irrelevant and people have mocked it a bit, but it has a very specific educational sense, especially for the little ones", he added.

"The ruling is intended to transmit a message about the correct treatment of domestic animals", Mosca said.

"In Monza, where we have no less than 15,000 dogs for 120,000 inhabitants, you have no idea of the hygiene problems caused by animals and people living together and we don't want to see animals treated like objects any longer", he concluded.

Other regions, such as Reggio Emilia, have rules on the treatment of animals derived from a 1991 national law, but the goldfish clause is a "singularity of Monza", according to Mosca.

#### **LED INFORMATION AND SUPPLY WEBSITES**

Australian site where you can buy all sorts of LED's and other interesting lighting bits and pieces at cheap prices: <http://www.ledsales.com.au/>

The LED Museum brings together a myriad of interesting information and reviews on LED's and LED related products: <http://ledmuseum.home.att.net/>

#### **ELECTRONIC 150 WATT METAL HALIDE BALLAST IN AUSTRALIA!**

A quality German made Electronic Ballast for 150W lamps - increases energy efficiency in lighting (use 10% - 30% less power) -slightly higher lamp output -longer lamp life (upto 30%) -better lumen maintenance -lighter weight and compact size (cheaper to ship, easier to mount). Available at Corallights: [www.corallights.com.au](http://www.corallights.com.au)

#### **REEFY HINTS & TIPS**

*Going away on holiday? Who's going to feed your fish? If a friend or neighbour will be feeding your fishy friends while you are away purchase a flat multi compartment plastic container (tackle box etc.) and use it to put the daily amount of food for your aquarium in each compartment. Label the compartments and even vary the food the fish are fed each day. Problem of overfeeding while you are away, solved!*

### **For Sale, Swap and Wanted to Buy....**

#### **FOR SALE:**

10 foot tank, skimmer, calc reactor, lights, rock, fish for \$2000  
Contact **Terry Peake** at [terry@auscyber.net](mailto:terry@auscyber.net) if you are interested.

#### **FOR SALE:**

2ft cube tank on pine cabinet with hood & 32mm overflow in tank - **\$250 ono**  
Tank 120cmW x 100cmL x 70cmH with tapered front on sandstone look cabinet with hood. Tank has 2X 40mm holes for external sump **\$450 ono**.  
Contact **Paul Groves** on **0421 803 288** if you are interested.

#### **FOR SALE:**

Acrylic tanks – suitable for algal and rotifer culture.  
Wavemaker  
Tall Aquarium – good for seahorses.  
Contact **Nigel Clark** on **0412 412 681** if you are interested.

#### **FOR SALE:**

Xenia fragments, good size.  
Contact **Carl Evans** on **0409 785 251**

#### **WANTED TO BUY:**

Second hand Chiller to fit 250 Litre tank  
Contact: **Andrew Brandreth** on **0423 801 552** or email [bsa@powerdsl.com.au](mailto:bsa@powerdsl.com.au).



<http://www.reefonline.com.au>

MASWA MEMBERS ONLY SPECIAL FOR THE MONTH OF **AUGUST**



**Please quote the special price in the comments field when you place your order or else you will be charged normal price!** As a special for MASWA members only, for the month of August we are offering the following specials. These will be delivered in time for the MASWA August Meeting! Therefore specials only apply until the 18<sup>th</sup> of August! Delivery will be a bulk MASWA order and goods will be available at the August meeting.

HAGEN Laguna Powerjet Pumps

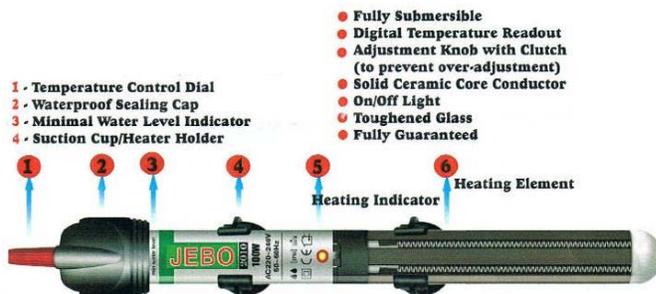
Laguna Powerjets provide powerful, reliable performance with low running costs. For MASWA Members we are offering specials on our most popular models of Powerjet.

Model	Features	MASWA Price
Laguna 3000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4750 lph</li> <li>• Maximum Head: 2.3m</li> <li>• 55 W</li> </ul>	<p><del>Normally \$240.00</del></p> <p><b>Until August 18 \$199.50</b></p>
Laguna 5000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6000 lph</li> <li>• Maximum Head: 4.2m</li> <li>• 85 W</li> </ul>	<p><del>Normally \$400.00</del></p> <p><b>Until August 18 \$329.50</b></p>
Laguna 7000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7800 lph</li> <li>• Maximum Head: 4.1m</li> <li>• 100 W</li> </ul>	<p><del>Normally \$450.00</del></p> <p><b>Until August 18 \$345.00</b></p>

Jebo Digi-Therm Heaters

Suitable for all types of aquarium. These heaters have a recommended retail far in excess of the prices listed here! Precision heating with light up dial and temperature gauge.

**BRAND NEW TO THE MARKET!**



50 Watt	<del>\$24.50</del>	<b>\$17.95</b>
100 Watt	<del>\$27.00</del>	<b>\$18.95</b>
150 Watt	<del>\$28.50</del>	<b>\$19.95</b>
200 Watt	<del>\$30.00</del>	<b>\$20.95</b>
300 Watt	<del>\$31.50</del>	<b>\$21.95</b>

*Advertisements in The Living Reef do not necessarily reflect MASWA's endorsement of any product, service or advice offered by the advertised business. If you would like to advertise in The Living Reef, please contact Nigel Clark (Social Coordinator) on 0412 412 681.*

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## Membership Application / Change of Details

**Office Use Only**

\* Membership No.

\* Application Date:    /    /

\* Annual Membership (pro-rata for remaining months of the calendar year):-

General - \$24 θ

Country/Associate - \$12 θ

Items below marked with a \* are mandatory.

**Name (Family Name must be included)\*:**

**Address\*:**

**Postcode\*:**

**Telephone No. (H)\*:**

**Telephone No. (W):**

**Mobile No.:**

**Email Address (no Hotmail addresses):**

**I wish to receive the MASWA Newsletter via\*:**    Email θ    Post θ

*Answering the following questions is not mandatory, but it does help the society in preparing articles, presentations and tours for future newsletters and meetings.*

Where did you first hear about MASWA? \_\_\_\_\_

How many marine aquariums do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like one of the experienced MASWA members to guide you in setting up/improving your aquarium? **Yes θ No θ**

Is there a particular area of marine aquaria that you feel you need help with/more info. on?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are you hoping to gain by joining MASWA?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date\*:**

**Signature\*:**

Payment can be made by:

**CHEQUE** - make cheques payable to the MASWA treasurer, **Paul Tayler**

**EFT** - BSB 086 217, A/C # 69355 1664 (please include your name on all EFT transfers!).

Send applications to:

**MASWA Membership Applications**  
**C/o Paul Tayler**  
**PO Box 7185**  
**Shenton Park WA 6008**

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