



The Living Reef

April 2005 - General Meeting

Note:

Meeting and Venue change

From last Newsletter

From The ED!

Hi everyone.

Welcome once again to The Living Reef. Unfortunately Brandon was unable to have the [April meeting](#), hopefully we will catch up with him later in the year. Thankyou to Jan who has kindly put his hand up to be our gracious host for this month.

I'm getting some feedback on what you think but would like to see some more because remember this newsletter is for you, A MASWA Member, so if you like to see something or ask something or put forward a article to share with your fellow aquarist then please don't be shy. Remember there's [\\$100](#) up for grabs.

I have notice, from amateurs to novice all alike, always searching for knowledge and like I said before, a great place for research is [RTAW](#) and the MASA [search pages](#). Don't forget to register with [MASWA](#) as I have noticed a few members who use RTAW but haven't registered with MASWA Online. I'm also in the process of putting all the previous newsletters on our [MASWA](#) site.

This will allow you to search the newsletters for info and previous articles!

I would like to welcome to MASWA a few new members., Joshua Beeson, Gary Workman and partner Kristy Sutton and yes Kristy is my niece(at this rate I think I can get my whole family involved). So when you are at the next meeting say hello and make them feel welcome.

Last month we had a Picnic/Snorkel day at [Penguin Island](#). I must say I really enjoyed myself and would recommend a day out there to anyone. Even if you aren't aqua-man like some!!! There is some great snorkelling there as well as other interesting things to do.

I will certainly be going back.

Enjoy!

Ed

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MASWA Meeting Calendar....

Wednesday 26th 2005 – Jan Anderson
50 La Fayette Blvd
Bibra Lake
General Meeting
Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm!

Sunday May 29th 2005 – Matt Weis
9 L'Estere Way
Port Kennedy
FRAGFEST VII

June 29th 2005 - ?????
Special Raffle

July 27th 2005 -????
MASWA Quiz Night

August 31st - ?????
FRAGFEST VIII

September 28th - ?????
Special Raffle

As you can see we are looking for Meeting Venues so please don't be shy!!!

MASWA Contact Information....

COMMITTEE – 2005

President – General Enquiries
Tony Fiorentino - 0413 153 518
fioren@iinet.net.au

Vice President – General Enquiries
Stuart Hoskin - 0413 315 059
stuartnruth@optusnet.com.au

Treasurer – Treasury/Payment Enquiries
Paul Tayler - 0419 908 264
paul@pmtco.com.au

Secretary
Mark Shewell – 9479 7224
markus@iinet.net.au

Newsletter Editor – Newsletter Submissions and
Membership Enquiries
Chris Sutton – 0419 858 108
csut2134@bigpond.net.au

Web Editor – Web Page Enquiries
Position Available

Social Coordinator – Meeting Venues
Advertising Enquiries,
Even "just to be sociable"
Maria White – 0416 206 647
n1venus@bigpond.com.au

Frag Fest Co-ordinator –
Matt Weis-
asha01@iinet.net.au

WEB ADDRESS
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

MASWA Message Board...

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

If you would like to make a contribution to the newsletter please don't hesitate to contact the new Newsletter Editor, Chris Sutton 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.

MASWA 2005 ARTICLE PRIZE!



Yes this could be yours.

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 2005 newsletters. The content must be suitable for general.

The winner will be announced at the **December 2005 CHRISTMAS** meeting.

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 Maria White (Social Coordinator) for your free door prize ticket.

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 raffles go back into MASWA, so the better the prizes the better the raffle and the more we can do during the year.

FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Raffle Prize Monies

An allocation formula was passed by the Committee for the allocation of raffle prizes

General Meeting Raffle allocation \$50 - \$100
Quarterly Special Raffle allocation \$ 150 - \$ 200
Christmas Raffle allocation \$ 500

Posted Newsletters

Members who have the Newsletter mailed out to them maybe able to receive it in PDF format now and help us to keep our expenses down

July Meeting Quiz Night

A quiz night will be held on the night of the July Meeting. It will be a free event for the MASWA members and special prizes will be allocated for the event.

Also all names will be drawn from a hat (or Tupperware bowl) with minimum tables of 3-4 persons. This should be a great night and NO!!! Nathan and David can't be on the same team!!!!

A New WEB Editor Needed

A new Web Editor will be sorted, as unfortunately Michael can't continue with the position. The editor should have basic skills with the Internet and also ubbthreads but it isn't essential. So if you are an Internet Guru please approach one of the MASWA committee members

Top Ten Lies You've TOLD to Your Significant Other About Your Tank...

Think you're funny?

[Email](#) or Post an entry on our MASWA Forum for the

Top Ten Lies You've Told to Your Significant Other About Your Tank...

Then before the next newsletter goes to publish we will pick the 10 entries to be published in the Newsletter

The winner of Number 1 position will win **6 FREE Raffle Tickets** for the that Monthly Meeting

You can check progress of the entries on our MASWA own Forum but you have to be a registered [MASWA /RTAW Forum Member](#) to do this.

This is a fun competition that will be ran every month

So come on Email/post your entries and have a go

A Thank You

I like to thank Maria on the effort she put into the snorkelling day at Penguin Island. We are all time poor and find all sorts of reasons not to put ourselves out.

Thank God that we have someone like Maria that finds the time to organise events so that members can socialise and have a great time.
Thanks Maria

Tony Fiorentino

MASWA Social Pages

Hi guys,
All at the Penguin Island picnic and snorkel day had fun. At times I really wasn't sure who was having more fun, the adults or the kids.



In fact I recall the adults cheating off the kids for the answers to our word hunt (**you** know who you are). It was a great day and I would like to thank you all for coming.

We watched the Penguin feeding sessions,



I would have to say after watching Marine life within aquariums over the past year it was cool to watch these penguins fly through the water as if that's where they belong, I think they could teach fish a thing or two.



After the session and of course lunch it was snorkeling time.

Everyone geared up,



And off they went, some complained because the water was cold and others complained because they wish they had lungs like Matt (he should have been a duck they said.),

Everyone had a great day, with smiles all round. The day was a success.



If you didn't venture out to have a look maybe next time you'll come it will be a blast but best of all, the kids had a fantastic day with games and prizes for everyone.

MARIA

REEFING TIP

When buying live rock, select only pieces that are porous and have a good surface area for bacteria to colonize. Inspect it, smell it and weigh it in your hand. If it feels relatively light then it is likely to be good. Some of the rock from the Indio-Pacific is quite dense and unsuitable, since it doesn't produce a good biological reaction in the aquarium. If it feels heavier than it should, don't buy it.

March Meeting Rundown...

What a great meeting!

Elmer's tank was looking magnificent. One of the larger tanks in our society, boasting 3000ltr and 360* viewing and a skylight is always a delight to see.



He had completely striped his tank and re-aqua scaped it the month before. This must have been a mammoth task and was well worth all the effort because the tank just beamed.



It's great to see large quantities of fish schooling and Elmer had some great specimens in his tank, also one of the largest Mandarin's I have ever seen. He was so

fat that he needed a rest from swimming every few minutes!! Elmer also had a few anemones (27 if I recall correctly), which hosted many families of Clown Fishes. And don't forget all those the corals, It was like being at the aquarium shop but you couldn't take anything home. Well done Elmer the tank looked the best I've see it.



With one of the largest turnout I have seen so far with an attendance of 26 members and 7 guess' it was sometime a battle to get a viewing point of the tank.

The meeting also featured our Quarterly Special Raffle and was a success as usual. There were some great prizes up for grabs and all were chasing a win but unfortunately there can only be a so many winners. Congratulations to Glenn, Tony (New Member), Kristy (New Member), Tony, Gary, Nigel, Stuart and someone else. (I can blame that one on Maria as she was suppose to keep track) Well done and hope you all have had some great reading or used your vouchers! There were some corals up for grabs as well.

A great meeting had by all.

April Meeting Information....

The April meeting was originally going to be held at Brendan Chua's but unfortunately Brendan was in Sydney until the night before so it would have been to hard to organise so he asked to postpone his meeting. Jan Anderson has kindly stepped up and we will be of to Bibra Lake. We visited Jan's only last October

Jan's tank is a great tank for the reason that it's very deep from front to back. Jan has taken advantage of this and created a canyon that run from the front to the back. The glass at the rear of the canyon is not painted and actually has another aquarium behind it. The idea of this is to give the aquarium even more depth so that it appears to be endless blue water in the background with a nice array of corals including four clams, Sarcophyton Soft's, Lobophyllia, Button Corals and lots of others

He also boasts some great gadgets and is a very interesting set-up. Very pleasing on the eye and well worth the look!

The address of Jan's home is **50 La Fayette Blvd** in **Bibra Lake**.

The meeting starts from 7:30pm with the formalities beginning by 8:00pm.

Formalities to the meeting will be:

- President Address
- Introduce new members
- Door prize Draw
- Host talk on tank
- General Raffle Draw
- General discussion
- Wind-up

See you all there!!

Fishy Links And News

The Struggle to Save Coral Reefs in Australia

http://www.greenmedia.info/eng/more/932_0_5_0_M/

TOWNSVILLE, Australia (9 Mar 2005) -- Leaf through the latest tomes on the status of coral reefs worldwide and a grim picture emerges. Because of overfishing, soil and nutrient runoff from land, and climate change:

Probing reefs' survival instincts

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2002/211455_reefs18.html?syndication=rss

TOWNSVILLE, Australia —

In examining the status of coral reefs worldwide, a grim picture emerges. Because of overfishing, soil and nutrient runoff from land, and climate change:

Rare clams stolen from Waikiki Aquarium

<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Apr/07/In/n29p.html>

The giant clam heist came to light early Saturday morning when a Waikiki Aquarium staffer noticed seven of the rare, magnificently coloured creatures were missing from their special Aquarium Lawn exhibit.



Staff and officials believe, since nothing else was taken, that the giant clams were deliberately targeted to be sold on the black market or added to someone's private fishbowl.

Scientists find Nemo with sound

<http://www.keralanext.com/news/?id=174326>

Science News, SCIENTISTS have found the secret of luring fish back to threatened coral reefs - speaking to them.

Research by marine biologists from Edinburgh University found that noisy reefs attract far more fish than quiet ones.

Bacterial and Biochemical Reactions

There are two main groups of bacteria found in an aquarium: aerobic and heterotrophic/anaerobic. But before we deal with the various aspects of filtration systems, we should first examine the important role that these bacterial forms play in the success of a reef or marine aquarium set-up.

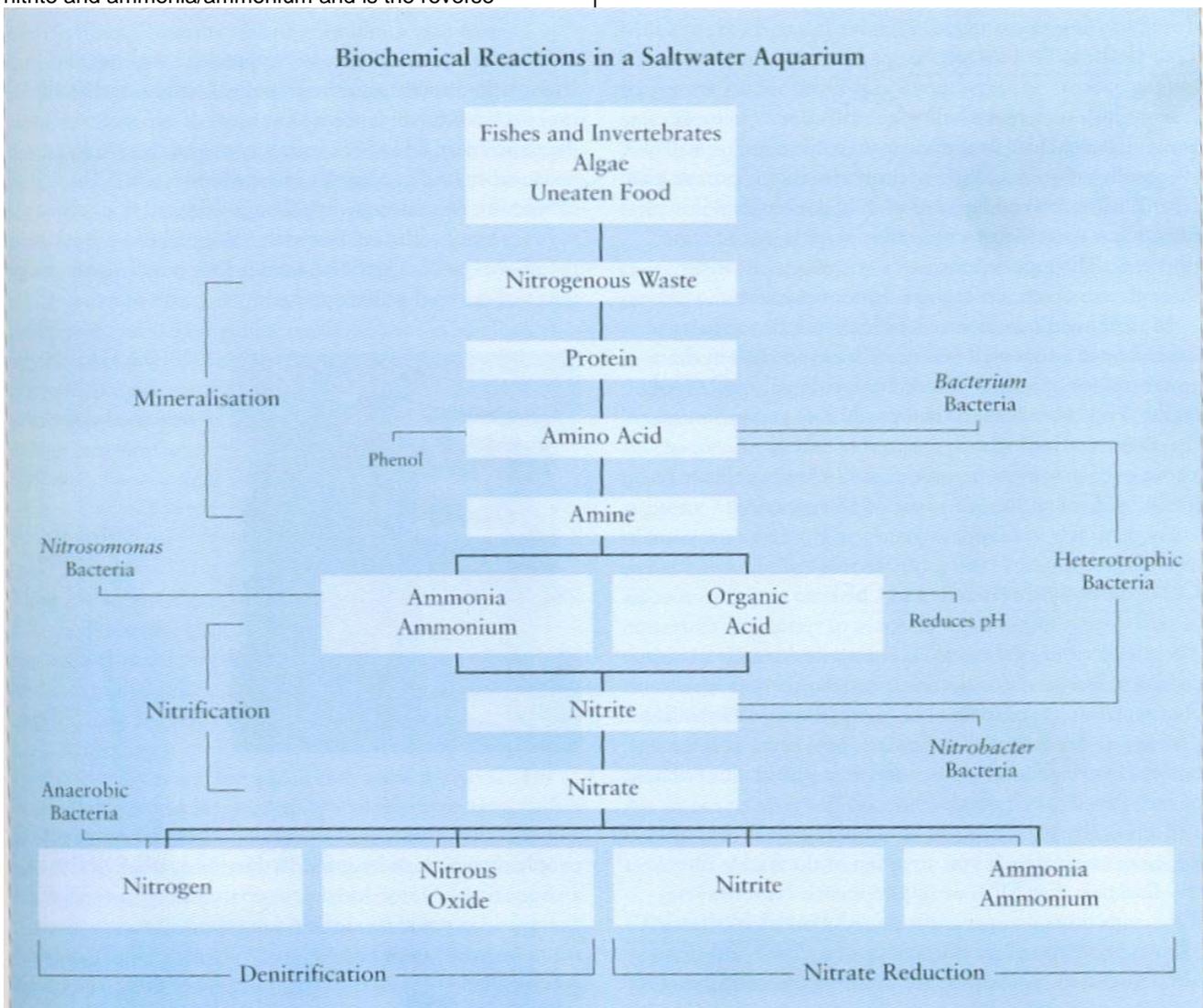
Aerobic bacteria live in an oxygen-rich atmosphere and are responsible for the mineralization and nitrification processes that happen naturally when organic, or, more accurately nitrogenous, waste is present in a reef or marine aquarium. This waste is always present because you are dealing with living animals and, whether fishes or invertebrates, they all produce their daily quota of organic waste. Most filter systems are based on the biochemical and biological conversion of organic (nitrogenous) products into relatively harmless inert solids, the basis of which is the bacterial culture within the filter. The easy part is the conversion of these waste products through mineralization into amino acid and then, through the process of nitrification to nitrate. The second part of this biochemical process is much more complicated and, in some systems, almost impossible to achieve – this is the process of “dissimilation” and occurs through the second group of heterotrophic/anaerobic bacteria. The prerequisites for a reef or marine aquarium differ greatly. A reef aquarium cannot tolerate a level of more than 10 to 20mg/litre of nitrate and this should be considered as the absolute limit. A nitrate level higher than this can prove damaging, if not deadly to the delicate forms of invertebrate life. At a level of 20mg/litre most stony corals will not grow. In the chart shown here (see below) this biochemical process is seen in detail.

In an aquarium the fishes and invertebrates naturally excrete organic waste. Additionally dead algae or scraps of uneaten food will decay to produce waste products. All these organic products have nitrogenous content and are quickly mineralised into protein and amino acid. Once this stage is reached the amino acid serves as a foodstuff for aerobic bacteria (principally the genus *Bacterium*), which break down the amino acid to produce ammonia, ammonium and organic acid. The presence of this organic acid has a tendency to reduce the pH of the aquarium water. A by-product at this stage of the biochemical process is phenol, which gives the water a yellow cast when it is present in large quantities. Next, the ammonia/ammonium is oxidized into nitrate by the aerobic bacteria *Nitrosomonas*. There are indications that apart from *Bacterium* breaking down amino acid into ammonia and ammonium, another heterotroph bacterium skips this stage completely and oxidizes it directly into nitrite. It is *Nitrobacteria*, the second bacteria in the nitrification phase that carries this out. During the mineralization and nitrification processes, various poisonous substances are present in the water. With a newly set-up aquarium this is especially the case and the bacteria must be given time to colonize the filter system in enough numbers to be able to carry out these important processes. Nevertheless the presence of nitrite in a new aquarium can be considered a good indication that the filter system starting to work normally. Nitrate is, however poisonous to fish and invertebrates, is an important source of nitrogen for the growth of algae. The end product of nitrification is nitrate and in small amounts is relatively harmless., It is significant as a fertilizer for the growth of algae and it is also utilized by

corals in minute quantities. Most coral fishes can withstand nitrate levels of up to 200mg/litre for short periods and in fish only aquariums it is not uncommon to see levels of 50 to 80mg/litre. With a reef aquarium it is a different matter as some of the more delicate species of invertebrates begin to show discomfort with a nitrate level of just 10mg/litre.

It follows, therefore that the nitrate content must be kept to a minimum or, where possible eliminated. This brings us to the final stages on the chart – that of nitrate reduction and denitrification. Heterotrophic and anaerobic bacteria are responsible for this process. Unlike the aerobic bacteria, anaerobic and heterotrophic bacteria exist in an oxygen-poor environment, such as live rock and deep sand beds. The process of nitrate reduction is out of the question since it releases poisonous chemicals into the water nitrite and ammonia/ammonium and is the reverse

process of nitrification. Fortunately this seldom occurs in a reef aquarium, though it may happen if large quantities of organic waste, such as quantities of uneaten food or a dead fish, lie hidden in some uncirculated corner of the tank for any length of time. This leaves us then with the final and most important step in the biochemical reaction namely denitrification. By utilizing the heterotrophic and anaerobic bacteria present in every aquarium, it is possible to achieve denitrification, but it is by no means easy. Far simpler is the addition of live rock where, within the rock large tracts remain oxygen-free and afford a good breeding ground for this type of bacteria. There are also special denitrification filters available. In a well-balanced aquarium, with live rock and the correct form of filtration, denitrification will occur quite natural.



Ref: The Complete Book Of The Marine Aquarium by Vincent B. Hargreaves Pages 26-28

MASWA Sponsors....

It's official; MASWA now has three commercial sponsors! MASWA sponsors get an advertisement and a banner in the newsletter each month. The advertisement can be used to advertise monthly specials etc. Depending upon what has been agreed with the sponsor they may offer MASWA such things as member discounts, donations of goods, gift vouchers or special offers.

Advertisements in The Living Reef do not necessarily reflect MASWA endorsement of any product, service or advice offered by the advertised business. If you would like to advertise in The Living Reef, please contact Maria White (Social Coordinator) on 0416 206 647 or email: n1venus@bigpond.com.au.



Marine West has generously donated \$50 worth of gift vouchers each month to MASWA.

Address:

Unit 1, 29 McIntyre Way, Kenwick, WA 6107
Tue-Sun 10:00am- 5:00pm
Tel/Fax: (08) 9493-0966

Email: pjwdrw@bigpond.com

Web: www.marinewest.com.au



Ocean Water Supply has generously donated a water change to the value of **\$50** every month to the MASWA raffle!

Contact Number: 1300 550 171

OCEANARIUM

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P.O. Box 283, Quinns Rocks, Western Australia, 6030.

Phone 0427 941 126 Fax (08) 9305 9891

www.oceanarium.com.au

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Buy, Sell, Swap and Wanted?....

Nothing for sale, swap or wanted?