



The Living Reef

May 2005 - FRAGFEST VII

From The ED!

Hi everyone.

Winter has come upon us and I hope everyone was safe and well after the storms that WA has had over the past few weeks. This has prompted me into thinking about the investment I have put into my tank and how best I can protect it. I don't know if anyone was affected by the power outages but this would be devastating for most if any longer than a few hours.

An aquarium can survive for a little while without filtration, but not for very long without oxygen, water circulation, and particularly under cold conditions, heat. Things can quickly get out of hand if these essential life-giving factors are not taken care of right away.

The good news is there are some measures you can take to be prepared ahead of time and handle either short or long term power outages.

- ❖ You can consider buying an emergency power generator ahead of time to be prepared to run some of the basic life support equipment needed to keep your aquarium going.
- ❖ By hooking up a portable 12volt submersible bilge pump you can get water movement and circulation going through your system, and even pump the water from the tank into or through a filter to keep it going as well.

- ❖ The easiest and most reliable way to supply a continuous source of oxygen to an aquarium in an emergency situation is to use a portable 12 volt battery operated aeration pump
- ❖ If your system ends up being shut off for a period of time, test the aquarium water periodically to be sure ammonia is not starting to accumulate. If you start seeing a rise in ammonia due to the lack of filtration, you'll be ready to control this problem until the power comes back on again.
- ❖ 12-volt impressible beverage heaters or baby bottle type warmers that plug into a car cigarette lighter can be used as a water-heating source. You can find these types of items at most automotive and baby supply stores.
- ❖ Containers like an ice-cream tub can be used to move and aerate the water in the tank.

Something to think about

Ed

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MASWA Meeting Calendar....

Sunday May 29th 2005 – Matt Weis

9 L'Esterel Way
Port Kennedy
FRAGFEST VII

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

August 31st - ?????
FRAGFEST VIII

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

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

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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.

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

MASWA has a new Web Editor - Ronald Tan - welcome to the Committee Ron and if anyone has any questions regarding our web site please contact Ron. Info is the in [MASWA Contact Information....](#)Section

Top Ten Competition

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

The winner of last Months Competition is

1. **"I don't know how many times we have to discuss this.... I do not love my fish tank more than you"**
By Matt Weis
2. **"Someone dumped this tank during bulk refuse week!"**
By Ronald Tan
3. **"I'll never get a bigger tank"**
By Denis Robinson
4. **"It doesn't cost much to run"**
By Denis Robinson
5. **"Oh that, I won that at the meeting!"**
By Heath Boucher
6. **"Honey, the more corals I have in there the easier it is to look after because it is more like a natural reef"**
By Matt Weis
7. **"The kids are stressed out and need something to relax to"**
By Ronald Tan
8. **"Honey, just going to the pub for a pint" (hehe off to the LFS)**
By Taff Daling

9. **"I was just cleaning it babe.....honest"**

By Taff Daling

10. **"That's not new, It must have been hiding"**

By Taff Daling

Well done Matt and don't forget to grab your **6 free raffle tickets** at the next meeting

Think you're funny?

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

MASWA's next month's competition is

Top Ten Reasons Why You Need More Corals In 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**

MASWA Social Pages

Hi guys,

Firstly I'd like to say that due to family commitments I will be unable to attend this month's meeting but don't worry your prizes will be in attendance, all you need now is someone to sell the raffle tickets!

On another note it is becoming very difficult to canvas a meeting place when members don't come forward and offer, we are desperate and as yet have no meet place for next month, so let's see that show of hands for support. If you can help great let a committee member know please.

Not a lot has been happening in the social side of things, Getting organized for the quiz night (July meeting), it should be a lot of fun, with a game or two thrown in, with prizes as well as a few surprises but best of all it's **FREE**, all you have to do is show up. It'll be great.

MARIA

April Meeting Rundown...

Although the April meeting wasn't as large as we have seen in recent months, it was probably one of the most informative meetings I have attended.



Jan took the floor when it was his turn to talk about his tank and he had ideas and opinions that were different to the majority. This sparked discussions and debates that when was all over, we all seemed a little bit more the wiser.



It just shows that in our hobby there are many ways to be successful and "you can only do it this way" isn't always right.

Jan also had some great gadgets and DIY projects which interested some of the guys and his tank was looking magnificent as usual

With the absence of Tony we all looked towards our Vic Pres Stuart for our guidance! With a coaxing by Maria and a quick wipe of the brow Stuart took the floor and before long we were into our April meeting.



We also elected a new Web Editor at this meeting and thanks to Ronald Tan for kindly putting up his nomination that was seconded by me.

We also discussed the July Meeting being a quiz night and that we may be needing a host venue and this will probably be discussed further at Matt's meeting and hopefully be resolved.

The newest member to join MASWA (Taff Dalling) again won the door prize, A DVD "Sea World" donated by Rocky Reef Marine. It seems very fruitful for the new members to join MASWA at the moment! Other winners were Jan, Stephen, Heath and Denis so congratulations to all.

I also discussed a new competition that I'm running, [so check it out](#)

Thanks Jan for being a great host and showing us your tank as it's always a pleasure to see your little piece of ocean.

And thanks to those who attended

May Meet Information..... Fragfest VII

Well it has come around to the Fragfest again this month and this time I get the pleasure of saltwater dripped all over my floor!! This month the meeting will be held at
9 L'Esterel Way Port Kennedy on Sunday the 29th May at 1300.

Members that attended my meeting last year may remember that the tank was situated in the middle of the room. It has now been moved to a wall to allow more room for my family. So the tank is completely different and vastly improved from last year

The tank is a 6x2x2 Berlin reef using "starboard" as the base (kitchen cutting board) instead of the standard sand bed. The tank is lit using two double ended 14K 250W metal halide and skimmed via a DIY Beckett skimmer (thanks Chris). I keep up with the calcium demand by using a Korallin C3001 reactor.

Small Polyp coral such as Acropora, Pocillopora and Montipora dominates the tank. The only large polyp corals in the tank have come in as hitchhikers on the rock and I'm doing my best to get rid of them but they sure can be persistent!!

The tank houses a Purple Tang, Flame Hawk, two Ocellaris clowns, a Lawnmower Blenny and a School of eight Chromis. I have had all of these fish since the tank was first set up almost two years ago.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you down in the "far south" and hope you can all make the trek.

Matt Weis

See you all there!!

MASWA FRAGFEST THIS MONTH!

Well, it has come to that time again. Time to take out the wire cutters and chisels and smash up all of our prized corals in the name of the MASWA FRAGFEST. For all the new members or old members that have not participated yet Fragfest is conducted in the interest of captive coral propagation and reducing the impact of our hobby on the reefs. Remember that Fragfest is not limited to cnidarian aquaculture. In the past we have even had young clownfish brought along to meetings!!

The general idea is that the fraggers receive one coral back for each frag donated and any frags left over at the end go to new members. There is usually quite a few left over so for all those newbies this is a great month to get involved. There is an **Award at the end of the year** for the most productive fragger. So get fragging!!

It is a good idea to cut any corals that you intend on bringing about a week or ten days early to allow them to settle down prior to being moved. Fragging a coral is an easy task on most occasions depending of course on the target species. For Acropora or Pocillopora Sp it is as simple as taking a pair of wire cutters and cutting off a branch and then using Selley's Aquakneadit or Superglue gel to mount it to a small piece of rock. Mounting it vertically or horizontally will encourage different growth forms as well.

For Large polyp corals such as Euphyllia or Cataphyllia something more drastic in the way of tools may be required. A hammer and a chisel will do the job on all but the toughest specimens. These families of corals will not require mounting just pop them back in the tank in a favourable spot and your on your way.

For soft corals such as Sinularia, Sarcophyton or even Corallimorphs, use of a surgical blade to cut off a lobe or head is recommended. Although it sounds rough, the use of a needle and thread to attach the frag to a piece of rock is the best way to go. A couple of loops are sufficient. The slime and exudate these corals produce when disturbed make them difficult to glue using superglue or other methods.

Fragfest is a great opportunity to help each other out as well as providing a safety net for your tank in the event of a crash (you can get all your corals back in the form of new frags) but it wont work without participation so find those old cutters and get to work!!

Matt

Fishy Links And News

Aquariums offer homeowners real-life underwater adventures

[http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/05/11/HOGE1CM3751.DTL)

[bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/05/11/HOGE1CM3751.DTL](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/05/11/HOGE1CM3751.DTL)

Every night, Linda Genovese sits for hours in the big, comfortable leather chair in her family room watching little dramas unfold. Spike gets mad when his territory is invaded. Bruce bosses his counterparts around. Dory just hides a lot. But Genovese isn't watching her nearby giant-screen TV. She's looking at something more interesting -- the fish in her 120-gallon saltwater aquarium.

Little-known coral reef to be explored

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/contentlookup.cfm?CFID=2323524&CFTOKEN=55690374&UCIDParam=20050512110650>



One of the oldest and least explored habitats on Earth is due to be explored by Greenpeace and the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS).

The Mingulay coral reef complex lies off the west of Scotland in about 150 metres of water and, despite the fact that it may have existed for thousands of years, scientists know little about it or the wildlife it supports.

UK clears plan to build world's biggest aquarium

<http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/003200505130309.htm>

London, May 13 (Guardian News Service): A scheme to build the biggest aquarium in the world in a former clay pit in Bedfordshire, 70km north of

London to act as both a tourist attraction and a research centre was given the blessing of the UK government on Wednesday.

The project is expected to cost 250 million pounds, create up to 2,500 jobs, and be completed by 2010.

Indian coral relocation offers hope for reefs

<http://www.cnn.com/2005/TECH/science/04/27/india.coral.reefs.reut/index.html>

Indian marine biologists have successfully relocated more than 300 coral reefs in a creek in the Arabian Sea, raising hopes of more transplants of the threatened species, officials said.

"It is a step ahead for finding a safe and new home for the corals in India," said K. Govindan, the marine biologist leading the relocation effort.

Undersea gardens that act as shelter and nursery to a wide range of marine species, the corals grow slowly, some only a few centimetres a year, so their recovery from damage caused by tsunami or from industrial development could take decades.

Tsunami-damaged coral reefs should be left to recover naturally, say scientists

<http://www.physorg.com/news4096.html>

CORAL reefs damaged in the Asian tsunami tragedy should be allowed to recover naturally before countries launch into expensive restoration plans, according to some of the world's leading scientists.

The scientists, led by a researcher from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, and who set out their views in an advisory brief for the World Bank, point to historical records of major coral reef devastation by cyclones and typhoons, which show that reefs recovered without human intervention.

Reefing Tip

OK heres one for all the users of double ended M/H bulbs.

After 12 months D/E bulbs tend to be very hard to remove and you can some times damage the ceramic fittings, best thing to do is put some Vaseline or Electrical silicone grease on the metal end bits of the bulbs, you will then find them easy to put on and off.

Algae Control in a Marine Aquarium

Algae is a large group of primitive, mostly aquatic, chlorophyll-bearing plants lacking specialized tissues and organs such as roots, stems, leaves, and flowers and including forms ranging from giant seaweeds to single-celled diatoms and pond scums. In the home aquarium we see many types of algae's. Different types of algae grow in different environments and will have different nutritional requirements. Ridding your aquarium of algae can be a very simple process: remove the algae's food source and it will perish. Like all living creatures all algae require a food source to survive.

Primary food sources:

Algae are simple plants. And like plants in the garden, algae consume the same compounds found in common fertilizers. Phosphate and Nitrate are the primary, but not exclusive, nutrients algae feed upon in the home aquarium. Phosphate and Nitrate are both added and produced in your display. Fish waste, uneaten food, and decaying plants and animals are ultimately broken down into these basic fertilizer compounds. For example, all living organisms contain DNA, of which, phosphate is one of the primary compounds found in DNA. Many fish foods are blends of fish parts, shrimp, plants, etc. If uneaten, these foods are broken down into their basic chemical components, Phosphate and Nitrate being among them. Another source of Phosphates and Nitrate can be your local tap water, thus Premier Aquatic Services uses purified R/O water when applicable.

Additionally, high levels of Nitrates are toxic to all fish. So controlling and maintaining the concentrations of both Phosphates and Nitrates will result in less algae growth and water that is more fish friendly.

Some of the more common and annoying algae encountered in aquariums:

Diatom Algae typically is brown in appearance and usually is seen within the first 4-16 weeks following the install of an aquarium. Diatom algae have three basic needs to thrive: silicates as a food source, a low pH in a saltwater environment, and light in the yellow, orange, and red spectrum. During the first few weeks after an aquarium is set-up diatom algae growth can be very aggressive. It may cover the glass in as little as 48 hours. Diatom algae growth is normal and the direct result from the tremendous amount of silica found in the synthetic salt used to make saltwater. Most synthetic sea salt manufacturers use silica, a moisture-removing product, in the manufacture of synthetic salts. As the concentration of silica falls, the algae runs out of food, and slowly goes away.

"Typical" Green Algae usually appears as spots on the decorations in the aquarium and on the glass. Its growth can be random and like all algae, its growth is driven by nutrients present in the water.

Cyanobacteria exist in a variety of forms and colors, including red, black, and green. Cyanobacteria are a morph between algae and a bacteria. Treating the aquarium with an antibiotic can temporarily control these problematic bacteria, by killing approximately 99.8% of the cyanobacteria. However, an antibiotic-resistant strain may begin to grow. Anti-biotic treatment of cyanobacteria is a common practice in our industry because it can produce a quick impact on the appearance of the aquarium. But using anti-biotics to control cyanobacteria is nothing more than a "quick-fix" band-aid. While anti-biotics do kill unwanted cyanobacteria, anti-biotics also kill beneficial bacteria instrumental in the nitrogen cycle. Use anti-biotics carefully. When cyanobacteria are present, the underlying problem is an overabundance of organic nutrients.

Rule of Thumb for Controlling Algae:

Increase the export of the nutrients that algae feed on and limit the import of these same nutrients...or stated differently, remove the food source and remove the problem.

Increasing the export of nutrients...

Chemical Filtration Media are specially formulated chemicals, which remove both phosphate and organic waste that algae feed on. While effective, chemical filtration media alone can not remove all dissolved phosphate and organic waste.

Protein Skimmers are very effective in removing undesirable organic compounds that algae feed on. It is amazing how much brown to black liquid can come from a crystal clear aquarium.

Routine water change is one of the most effective ways to remove both phosphate and nitrate from the aquarium. The new water does not contain nitrates or phosphates, thus Premier Aquatic Services performs a 30% water change monthly on all client aquariums.

Limiting the import of nutrients...

Overfeeding your fish is the number one reason for imbalanced water parameters and an overabundance of nutrients that algae feed on. Did you know that a fish's stomach is about the same size as its eye? So, if there is still uneaten food floating or sitting on the bottom of your tank 60 seconds after you feed, your display has been overfed. What happens to the excess food? It is broken down into fertilizer and harmful waste by-products.

Overstocked aquariums occur when there are more fish present than the aquarium's bio-load can handle. A good industry "rule of thumb": 1 inch of fish per gallon of water in a freshwater environment and 1 inch of fish per 5 gallons of water in the saltwater environment.

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

Marine aquarium supplies.

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

Phone 0427 941 126 Fax (08) 9305 9891

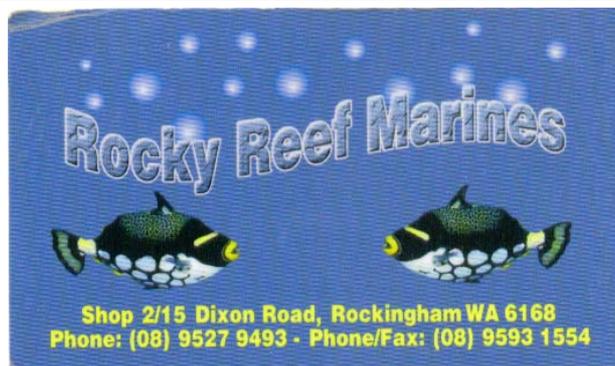
www.oceanarium.com.au

Fish@oceanarium.com.au

Suppliers of marine aquarium specimens and accessories throughout Australia.

Our mission statement is to supply you with quality specimens you can confidently order over the Internet knowing they will arrive in a healthy condition.

Oceanarium has generously donated corals for Frag Feasts, Demonstrations and Raffles



Rocky Reef Marines has kindly donated products for our raffle

The Marine Aquarists Society of WA is a name that we, as a group of friends with like interests have applied to ourselves for the purpose of information exchange. No one person, nor the group as a whole, can be held responsible for liabilities, injuries or other that may result either directly or indirectly as a result of our gatherings or the information exchange therein. The same applies to the information contained in this newsletter.