



## The Living Reef

October 2005 – Guest Speaker

Hi all

With the end of the year getting closer this signifies some important business for MASWA members. Nominations and elections for the MASWA Committee will be held this year at the December Xmas Meeting. This, we hope, will bring some more nominations for positions within the committee so if you are interested please indicate your intentions to one of the current committee members.

Also the end of the year brings the renewal of annual memberships. As MASWA is a non-profit organization, we rely heavily on your annual fee to

run MASWA and to supply those great books and prizes that you can win throughout the year.

As an added incentive anyone who has paid his or her membership subscription for the 2006 year before the end of the year Xmas meeting will receive an 1 extra raffle ticket for the door prize. One you would like to win!

I would also like to welcome last months new members Charlie Martin, Nick Horlock, Jennifer Nash and Toby Kibblewhite. Welcome to MASWA and please members make them welcome at the meetings and say hello.

Enjoy  
Ed

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## MASWA Meeting Calendar....

October 26<sup>th</sup> – **Heath Boucher**  
284a Marmion St  
Melville  
6156  
Guest Speaker

November 30<sup>th</sup> - **Charlie Martin**  
Balga  
FRAG FEST IIX

December  
Christmas Meeting  
Special Raffle

## MASWA Contact Information....

### COMMITTEE – 2005

**President** – General Enquiries  
Tony Fiorentino - 0413 153 518  
[fioren@iinet.net.au](mailto:fioren@iinet.net.au)

**Vice President** – General Enquiries  
Stuart Hoskin - 0413 315 059  
[stuartnruth@optusnet.com.au](mailto:stuartnruth@optusnet.com.au)

**Treasurer** – Treasury/Payment Enquiries  
Paul Tayler - 0419 908 264  
[paul@pmtco.com.au](mailto:paul@pmtco.com.au)

**Secretary**  
Mark Shewell – 9479 7224  
[markus@iinet.net.au](mailto:markus@iinet.net.au)

**Newsletter Editor** – Newsletter Submissions and  
Membership Enquiries  
Chris Sutton – 0419 858 108  
[csut2134@bigpond.net.au](mailto:csut2134@bigpond.net.au)

**Web Editor** – Web Page Enquiries  
Ronald Tan - 9304 7890  
[cyberon@westnet.com.au](mailto:cyberon@westnet.com.au)

**Social Coordinator** – Meeting Venues  
Advertising Enquiries, raffle donations,  
Even "just to be sociable"  
Maria White – 0416 206 647  
[n1venus@bigpond.com.au](mailto:n1venus@bigpond.com.au)

**Frag Fest Co-ordinator** –  
Matt Weis-  
[asha01@iinet.net.au](mailto:asha01@iinet.net.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

## FACT:

The Mariana Trench, in the Pacific Ocean is 11,038mtrs deep were as Mt Everest is 8,882mtrs high.

## 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 Committee Nominations

Nominations can now be taken for next year Committee. We ran the committee with all positions filled last year and would love to do the same this year too. This year MASWA Committee have decided to vote for position at the December Meeting. The Positions in the MASWA committee are:

**President**

**Vice President**

**Secretary**

**Treasurer**

**Newsletter Editor**

**Webmaster**

**Social Coordinator**

**Fragfest Coordinator**

What does it mean to be a MASWA committee member? For six days a year (every second month) you get to take an active role in the running of MASWA. You also get to sample the delights of Marilyn's cooking (Paul Taylor's wife). The pay is crap - \$0.0 however the social interaction and "stories" you hear are very entertaining!

To be in the committee you need to be nominated either by yourself or someone else, and if no one else is nominated for that position you are elected to that position. If there are other nominees then a vote is taken by the members for the successful candidate for the position.

If you think you have what it takes and are keen to help out then please talk to a committee member at the upcoming meeting and make your intentions known

### 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.

### MASWA MEMBERSHIP FOR 2006 DUE SOON!

2005 is drawing to an end and this is your chance to pay your membership subscription for 2006 and be a winner. As an added incentive anyone who has paid his or her membership subscription for the 2006-year before the end of the year Xmas meeting will receive an 1 extra raffle ticket for the door prize. You know the one you would like to win!

For payment options please see the "[MASWA Contact Info](#)" on page 2.

## Top Ten Competition

### Top Ten "Tank Inhabitant You Would Like To Be and Why?"

The winner of last Month's Competition is

1. **"Corallimorphs - Because they are laid back and colourful characters"**  
By Bill Blakers
2. **"Cleaner Wrasse - The most social of them all."**  
By Maria
3. **"Octopus - Because I could always do with a spare hand"**  
By Dennis
4. **"Blue Tang - Because I am accustomed to dealing with parasites"**  
By Jen
5. **"Anemone - Restaurant and home in one, looked after by live in carers"**  
By Trevor Abernethy
6. **"Mantis Shrimp - if the reef keeper is going to kill you, try and take as many expensive fish as you can"**  
By Grant Roncevich
7. **"My Pet Crayfish - as I would be fed Mussels, Squid and King Prawns"**  
By Lee McIntyre
8. **"Anemone - Because it is the predator of the tank and every creature fears it"**  
By Alex Tayler

9. **"A Piece of Live Rock - Everybody likes you, everybody needs you and because your so expensive no one will throw you out"**

By Grant Roncevich

10. **"Blenny - Because there is always plenty of algae to eat"**

By Nick Horlock

Well-done Bill 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

### The Top Ten "Excuses you gave your significant other about the salt water lake in the lounge room"

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. It's free and easy to do

This is a fun competition that will be ran every month  
**So come on Email/post your entries and have a go**

## Last Months Meeting Rundown...

September meeting was a very interesting meeting with lots that happened.

It was special raffle night, with some great books up for grabs and thanks to Brian Mathews for donating some fish as well. Congratulations to Paul for winning the door prize, Bill, Grant, Paul (again), Alex (3 month in a row for Rocky Reef. Martin will start to wonder if this is set up!), Taff, Brendan (Birthday Prezzie), Jan, Murray and myself!!! Phew sound like most of the members there.



Ross and Sonya have had their tank for about a year now and have been battling a few problems. One thing you notice is there wasn't any [coralline algae](#) present in their tank. Stuart did some testing and came up with some interesting results and thus sparked the discussion on how Ross and Sonya may fix their problems. There was a lot of advice on how to reduce their [PO4\(phosphate\)](#) as the testing shows a high reading of 2.68ppm WOW.



Sources of PO4 are:

### Some Internal Reasons

- High fish and/or coral population in the aquarium,

- Plant material that dies off and mineralization,
- Breakdown of undigested food in faeces,
- Bacterial die-off and its decomposition and mineralization,
- Algal die-off and its decomposition and mineralization,
- Any other living material that dies, decomposes,
- Fish slime (and coral slime in reef tanks) that decomposes
- **Some External Reasons**
  - Overfeeding and the decay of the food that is not consumed,
  - Food containing high PO4
  - Phosphate in the water you are using,
  - Phosphate present in the salt you use to make up water,
  - Additives that contain it,
  - Carbon that leaches phosphate into the water,
  - Calcium hydroxide of low quality used to make limewater,
  - Phosphate based chelators in additives
  - Phosphates in buffering compounds,
  - Using frozen foods and adding the liquid after it thaws, to the tank,
  - Using low grade calcium carbonate in calcium reactors
  - And many other

Being aware of the possible causes is half the battle won! Basically slow down the intake of PO4 into the tank, then you can start to keep a lid on it with other methods of removal from your system.

### Some methods are:

- The use of limewater, and possibly other high pH alkalinity supplements
- Simply keeping the pH high in a reef tank (8.4) may help keep phosphate that binds to rock and sand from re-entering the water column.
- Uptake of Phosphate by Organisms and Algae then harvesting them
- Commercial PO4 Removal Products

There are some great resources on the Net and also you can get help from others, like Ross has done by joining us at the RTAW.

Good luck Ross and Sonya with getting on top of your problems and remember patience is important in this hobby so don't go changing too much too soon. Thankyou for hosting a very informative meeting

Chris

### Report on Members Tank – Ross' Results as follows:-

PH	8
Alk	8.6
Ca	415
PO4	2.65
N03	2

The only things I would say about these results is pH is within the range but could be higher like 8.2 - 8.3.

Alkalinity could be a bit higher approx 9 or 10. P04 and N03 could be causing the algae problems in the tank.

The results obtained from the tank are hard to distinguish what is actually happening in the tank as a large water change was down before the testing.

Regards Stuart

## Up & Coming Meet Information.....

This month we are off to see a new MASWA tank, as Heath will kindly let us all traipse through his house to check out his 4 foot x 18 x 36 high tank. The tank has been in this current configuration and position for about 18 months, which was an evolution of previous tanks owned for the past 5 years.

Running a Berlin system, it mainly houses soft corals but he is looking to upgrade to some LPS and SPS, hence why he is hosting a meeting, to get some good advice and tips.

He boasts some great DIY projects like a Halide lighting system, wave maker, calcium reactor and modified downdraft skimmer. Maybe some good DIY tip for the members.

Heath lives at **284A Marmion St(Rear House) Park on vacant block next door** The meeting starts at **7.30 sharp**

**Formalities to the meeting will be:**

- President address
- Introduce new members
- Door prize
- Guest Speaker Address
- Raffle Drawn
- Host's Talk on His Tank

Water Results  
General Discussion  
Wind-up



Hope to see you all there  
Chris

### Fact:

The saying “eat or be eaten” can well be applied to fishes. Many fish have expandable jaws and elastic stomachs, which allow them to eat prey only marginally smaller they are themselves

## MASWA Social Pages

Hi Guys,

What a month, I've been very busy getting organized for the few coming months ahead.

Well done to the winners of last months raffles, there were a few.

We have a new sponsor Manta Marines who will be providing us with five a \$10 vouchers each month. Thank you Stuart and welcome.

All of our sponsors have an advertisement in our newsletter, so look them up, and hey if you need a service, odds are, they can help.

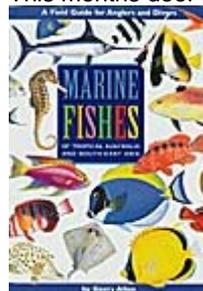
For something different I've organized a guest speaker for this months meeting.

I've asked Pete Fullaton, from Oceanarium who happens to be a collector, to be our speaker.

Pete has agreed to come along and tell us all about his part in our hobby, considering the feedback I've already had from some of the committee members it should make for a really interesting evening.

So if you've always wandered or had any questions regarding where your stock comes from you don't want to miss this one!

This months door prize is a great book!



Join us online

## Fishy Links And News

### Cry for help: Vanishing acres worry researchers WASHINGTON (Reuters) -

LOS ANGELES — Not many farmers wear a wetsuit to work. But Tom Ford isn't running your average ranch. Instead of a tractor, he drives a motorboat. And rather than chase away insects and rodents, he fights off prickly sea urchins.



Ford's 1 acre lies below 32 feet of murky water off Malibu — one of several patches off the Southern California coast where biologists from Santa Barbara to San Diego are determined to re-carpet the ocean floor with giant kelp, a leafy, golden-brown seaweed that has largely disappeared from the region.

More>[http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/nationworld/2002560023\\_kelp14.html](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/nationworld/2002560023_kelp14.html)

### Deal Protects Part of World's Oldest Reef Vermont Deal Protects 71-Acre Section of What's Believed to Be World's Oldest Coral Reef

**MONTPELIER, Vt. Oct 11, 2005** — A 71-acre section of 450 million-year-old rock that is believed to be part of the world's oldest coral reef will be preserved and opened to the public, officials announced Tuesday. Two local preservation groups bought the parcel in the middle of the Isle La Motte at the northern end of Lake Champlain. The purchase price was not disclosed. The Chazy Reef formed a half-billion years ago in the warm shallow sea south of the equator. Over the eons, it drifted north to its present location.

More><http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory?id=1203752>

### Link Between Tropical Warming and Greenhouse Gases Stronger Than Ever, Say Scientists

(Santa Barbara, Calif.) — New evidence from climate records of the past provides some of the strongest

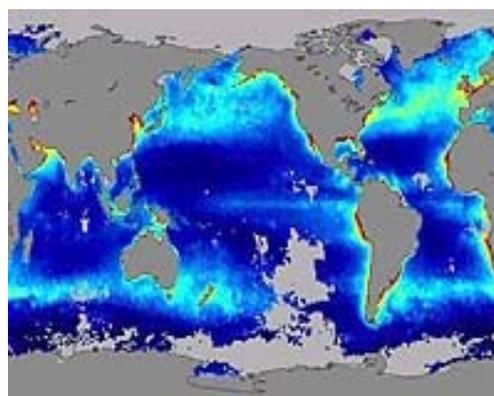
indications yet of a direct link between tropical warmth and higher greenhouse gas levels, say scientists at the University of California, Santa Barbara. The present steady rise in tropical temperatures due to global warming will have a major impact on global climate and could intensify destructive hurricanes like Katrina and Rita.

The new evidence linking past tropical ocean temperatures to levels of atmospheric greenhouse gases is published in this week's Science Express, the on-line publication of the journal Science.

More><http://www.ia.ucsb.edu/pa/display.aspx?pkey=1352>

### Scientists Investigate Ocean's Role In Carbon Cycle, Global Warming

With concerns about global warming on the rise, a team of scientists from the University of Rhode Island and the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research in Greece are trying to improve the current understanding of the ocean's role in transferring carbon dioxide from the surface to the deep sea.



Ocean carbon uptake distribution map. "How much is sinking? What are the controlling mechanisms? Those are our most basic questions, and there's an ongoing debate in the scientific community about it," said the Kingston resident

Led by URI Professor of Oceanography S. Bradley Moran, the scientists have just completed their second research cruise of 2005 to study the carbon cycle - the movement of carbon atoms from land to air to sea.

More><http://www.spacedaily.com/news/oceans-05r.html>

# The Tao of Marine Aquaria

## Tips for Our Hobby and Life Lessons One to Seven

1997 Adam H. Whitlock

Edited By Elizabeth M. Lukan 11/25/00

### Lesson Five: Life is Tough, But it's Tougher if You're Stupid --John Wayne

John Wayne spoke volumes with his simple observation, "Life is tough, but it's tougher if you're stupid." We are fortunate to be hobbyists at a time when the mysteries of how to keep marine animals alive in captivity have been largely revealed and the remaining ones are under close scrutiny by hundreds of professional and amateur researchers. Imagine if you had tried to set up a tank without knowledge of the nitrogen cycle? How many animals would have died of ammonia poisoning before you gave up in frustration? How much money would you have wasted trying snake oils and newfangled gizmos that promised to prolong the life of your fishes? Clearly, knowledge is power and we have all benefited from the lessons learned by those who have gone before us. But there is still much to learn, and none of us should be on the sidelines. What kind of protein skimmer do you have? Why? Do you understand the principles that make your particular model work? Do you know enough to be able to tell whether your skimmer is really skimming? Do you know what to do if one of your fishes develops lateral line disease? Do you know how to treat your fish for parasitic infestations? If you have a reef tank, do you know how large your corals are apt to grow, what kind of lighting and water motion they require, and what species of fishes to avoid in your system? Would a live-sand substrate work in your aquarium and improve your water quality? Do you know the correct Latin names of every species in your tank so that you can discuss problems without the confusion that common names often cause? If not, what are you waiting for? The lives of your pets depend on your knowledge, and so does your level of enjoyment of the hobby. The fact that you are reading this article is a good sign. It means that you have gone out into the world to learn more about your hobby rather than leaving your success up to chance or, worse still, trial and error. Have you subscribed to a respectable magazine such as "FAMA?" Have you looked for a saltwater aquarium club in your area? Are you building a library of books on the hobby written by the foremost practitioners of our art? Have you surfed the World Wide Web (WWW) for online resources? Have you joined any Internet aquaria newsgroups? Do you ask questions of every hobbyist and retailer you meet? All of these are potential sources

of valuable information. They are also potential sources of dreadful misinformation. Can you tell the difference? You might be asking yourself what the value is of an article full of nothing but questions. If it convinces you that you don't know all the answers and need to embark upon an ongoing effort of self-education, the answer is the article is priceless. If I had known more about the unsociable character of damsel fish (*Abudefduf* and *Chromis* species) (and the chemical alternative for stimulating the growth of bacteria colonies in a filter), I would never have used them to cycle my tank. If I had known more about lateral line disease when I first brought home a yellow tang (*Zebrasoma flavescens*), I would have purchased a good vitamin C supplement and provided a better rock for the tang to hide behind instead of rushing into a panicked, retailer-recommended purchase of an inadequate protein skimmer and numerous stress-inducing water changes. If I had known more about the mechanism by which the parasites *Cryptocaryon* and *Amyloodinium* spread, I wouldn't have bought a healthy looking fish from a store that had sick fish in other tanks sharing a single filtration system lacking an ultraviolet sterilizer (UVS). I also wouldn't have purchased the incredibly overpriced, retailer-recommended UVS that set me back a pretty penny, didn't cure the problem, and delayed my application of a more sensible treatment. How much time, money, and stress might you have saved yourself if you had known about the simple fixes for these or other problems? How much might you be able to save in the future if you begin reading everything you can get your hands on starting today?

Be inquisitive. Learn as much as you can. Ponder what you encounter until you understand the underlying principles and can apply your knowledge to new problems--and actually employ what you learn. Sometimes we remember having read about the solution to a problem, or even recall the solution itself, but don't take immediate action. If a pet dies as a result, what good was our knowledge?

Finally, since we are in a hobby where a great many people are constantly working on new solutions to both new and old problems, here is a final admonition: Learn from others' mistakes; life is too short to make them all yourself.

## Fact:

Shrimps form partnerships with many other animals. One such association is between a shrimp and a goby. The shrimp, which digs and maintains the burrow housing both animals, is nearly blind. The goby guards the burrow, signalling the shrimp when it is safe to emerge.

## MASWA Sponsors....

It's official; MASWA now has Six 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](mailto:n1venus@bigpond.com.au).



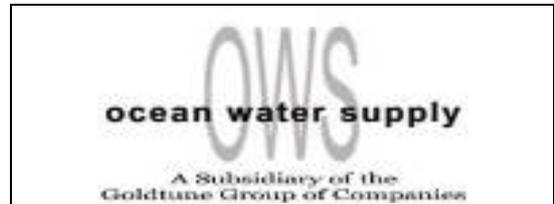
**Marine West** has generously donated \$50 worth of gift vouchers each month to MASWA.

**Address:**

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

**Email:** [piwdrw@bigpond.com](mailto:piwdrw@bigpond.com)

**Web:** [www.marinewest.com.au](http://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



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

Phone 0427 941 126 Fax (08) 9305 9891

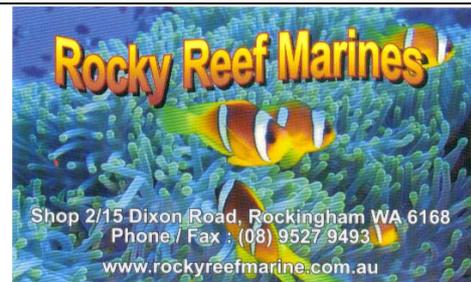
[www.oceanarium.com.au](http://www.oceanarium.com.au)

[Fish@oceanarium.com.au](mailto: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 Marine

Suppliers of quality net caught fish from Vanuatu and the Fiji Islands. Also a

Large selection of corals and Inverts

Come and see Martin and Marc and mention you are a MASWA Member and they will give you 10% discount on your purchase.

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

**Rocky Reef Marine has generously donated gift vouchers and products for the MASWA raffles**



**Manta Marine Aquariums has generously donated gift vouchers for the MASWA raffles**



**Fremantle Ocean Farm will generously donate the next water change to all new members who join MASWA**