



The Living Reef

January 2006 – Guest Speaker
Wednesday 25th 7.30pm

Hi all
Hope everyone had a great Xmas and a safe New-year. Father Christmas brought all those new gadgets you were all wishing for. I had a great time at the Xmas meet and I hope everyone else did to. Special thanks to Santa for taking time out and visiting too.

January marks an another new year for MASWA and I look forward to catching up with you all at the next meeting and also seeing this year some new tanks from the new and older members, so if you would like to book a meeting contact me and I'll book you in. This year we welcome Brendan to the MASWA Committee as the new Frag Feast Co-ordinator and say thanks to Matt for duties served in 2005. I also want to welcome Rowan Mildred, Glenis and Brian Cuzner and Joe Francis as new members and please make them feel welcome.

I look forward to doing the News Letter again this year and if any of the members come across anything that may interest others and you would like to share please

let me know. You will also notice a section called [REEFING THE AUSTRALIAN WAY FORUM](#) These will be snippets to interesting and informative posts and will provide a link to it on RTAW. The link to this thread is on the [MASA Forums](#). To view this post and any others you will have to be logged on to RTAW so it may ask you to register. This is free and only a safe guard for MASA and MASWA. If you register please join [MASWA online](#). so you can access the MASWA forms as well. Hopefully some of the information contained in these snippets can help members with Q & A's Also a reminder to those who haven't yet paid their memberships to MASWA they are due now, so please catch up with Paul soon and help us give you what you want out off MASWA

Well enough of me rambling on.

Enjoy
Ed

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MASWA Meeting Calendar....

January 25th – Elmer Ellison
15 Balwarra Ave
Dianella
Guest Speaker

February 22nd – Nick Horlock
Mandurah
Frag Fest IX

April 26th - ??????
Guess Speaker

March 29th – Chris Kolzan
Ballajura
Special Raffle

May 31st – ??????
Frag Fest X

MASWA Contact Information....

COMMITTEE – 2006

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Social Coordinator – Meeting Venues

Advertising Enquiries, raffle donations,

Even "just to be sociable"

Maria White – 0416 206 647

n1venus@bigpond.com.au

Frag Fest Co-ordinator –

Brendan Chua

nani87@gmail.com

WEB ADDRESS

<http://www.masa.asn.au/maswa.php>

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



Join us online

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 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!

2005 is now over and it's time to pay your membership subscription for 2006. We will not be carrying unfinancial members for months at a time like in previous years. If your membership dues are not paid by the March 2006 meeting you will be taken off the membership register and receive no more newsletters and unable to attend any monthly meetings!

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

Last Months Meeting Rundown...

What a great meeting, so much was packed into an afternoon,. Well done to all those who got certificates You were all good ports



It was nice to see some new faces , Glenis and her husband Brian and also Rowan hope to see you at future meetings. A sad goodbye to Tom he has been in the hobby for the past 61 years and has decided he has had enough, so good luck on your next venture Tom and thanks for the support along the way. We also had the AGM, not a lot changed but welcome to the Committee Brendan our new Frag Fest Coordinator, another huge thanks to Matt who held this position last year, you did a great job! Now we can't go forgetting our Guest of honour who put a smile on everyone's face you guest it Santa!



Thanks for dropping by Santa, the raffles were successful with great prizes as always, and what a huge surprise to find a \$100.00 voucher from Marine West. Thanks heap Paul and Danuta. At the meeting Chris showed us his DIY Skimmer, his DIY Calcium Reactor which has since been modified not to mention leaking but now has been refilled with some great results. I'm sure you all caught a glimpse of his new tank just waiting to be installed fun fun fun! Thanks guys for the help to shift it



I think everyone had a great time, the sausage sizzle went down great. The kids made the special day even better.



Maria

Up & Coming Meet Information....

This is our first meeting for 2006, hard to believe. It going to be a great meeting as it always is when we venture out to Elmer's. Elmer's tank, one of the biggest in our society, boasting 3000ltr and 360* viewing and with a skylight, is always a delight to see. Being a reef tank with hard and soft corals and a large array of assorted fish it is always amazing to see. Since our last visit to Elmer's he has discovered a Octopus that he hand feeds, when you see his tank hopefully his Octopus will display and come out for a feed. Fingers crossed.
Elmer's address is **15 Balwarra Ave Dianella** and the **meeting starts at 7.30pm sharp**

Formalities to the meeting will be:

President address
Introduce new members
Door prize
Guest Speaker
Host talk on tank
Raffle drawn
General discussion
Wind-up

Hope to see you all there
Chris

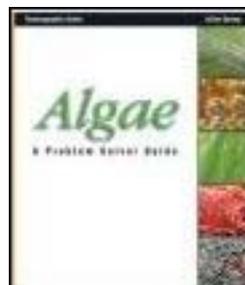
MASWA Social Pages

Hi Guys,
It's 2006 what a blast, welcome back to last years member and welcome to our newbies.

I'm very excited for what this year is going to bring. Again, **huge** thanks to all our Sponsors and we hope to continue with your support for this year.

I am trying to organize a Guest Speaker as I speak, But don't worry if it doesn't work out I've got a back-up plan. Should be good.

The door prize this month is a great book.



Algae A Problem Solver Guide
By Julian Sprung

Maria

FACT:

A study made at Heron Island, at the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef, showed that 1400 worms belonged to 103 species lived in a single small coral head

REEFING THE ASTRALIAN WAY FORUM

Topic: [Cyano hope this is a good topic for advanced...](#) Posted: Fri Oct 07, 2005 8:45 am **26 replies**

Hi.

I have had a fairly bad case of what I think is cyano for the last three months. It appeared in small patches along the front to the tank. I have (using salfert test kits) no detectable phosphate or nitrates. The red bubble attached bacteria seemed to appear during the day but be gone by morning (only to reappear during the day).

I decided two weeks ago to leave my main lights of for two days, to see if I could break the cycle and for the last week have not seen any cyano.

Your comments and opinion would be appreciated.

It may just be a coincidence.

Thanks

Anthony

The link to this thread is on the [MASA Forums](#). To view this post and any others you will have to be logged on to RTAW so it may ask you to register. This is free and only a safe guard for MASA and MASWA. If you register please join [MASWA online](#) and so you can access the MASWA forms as well.

Article

A Load of Learnin' About Mantis Shrimps

by James Fatherree

I read a little about mantis shrimps while taking invertebrate zoology and had even seen a couple of T.V. shows that featured them years ago. I thought they were neat little beasties to say the least, but admittedly I never paid too much attention to them in the subsequent years. When perusing general literature on the subject, what I invariably picked out was that they hide a lot, they can be very aggressive, they cannot be trusted with other "meaty" invertebrates or small fishes, and they can even be dangerous. In addition, I very rarely saw them in stores, and never knew anyone personally that had one (that they wanted), either. So, as much as I like cool critters, I never felt the need to buy one and bring home yet another pet that might need it's own tank.

But, as I was shopping in Tampa one day, looking for something interesting to put in a 20 gallon tank that I'd recently set up, I happened to come across a tiny, bright green mantis called *Neogonodactylus wenerae*. The aquarium didn't have too much in it really, so with a rather spontaneous change of heart, I figured I'd go ahead and give one a try. It was only a few dollars and

a small local species, so I figured if I didn't like it I'd just let it go.

The story of how things went after that will come in a minute. But first, some information about mantis shrimps in general. Some information on how to care for them - or how to get rid of them follows, as well.

General Biology Stuff:

There are somewhere in the neighborhood of 450 species of mantis shrimps, being a diverse bunch that range in adult size from less than an inch up to almost 16 inches, with the majority being between 1.5 to 4 inches. They are found worldwide in temperate and tropical seas, and all are placed in the Order Stomatopoda, which is part of the Phylum Arthropoda. While they're called mantis shrimps, the odd thing is that they aren't really shrimps by definition, or mantises either for that matter, and they are properly called stomatopods. But, they certainly look enough like a cross between the two for the common name to stick whether it's "correct" or not.



They aren't "true" shrimps for a number of reasons, with the most obvious being their possession of specialized prey-capturing/killing limbs known as raptorial appendages. These raptorial appendages are found where we would normally expect to see some sort of pincers on a true shrimp or crab, and are quite multi-purpose, being used for predation and self-defense, and often for modifying their environment when necessary, as well. There are also two discrete and different forms for these appendages, leading to a division of all mantises into two large groups. Depending on which form they brandish, mantises will use them primarily to break things, or to stab things. Thus, they are called either "smashers" or "spearers," respectively.

There are some general behavioral differences between the two groups, too. Smashers tend to live in holes/tubes in rocks, or rock rubble, but spend time roaming about stalking prey. They tend to feed on crabs, snails, and other shelled victims, and will use their "weapons" to pound open their victims' shells, eating the contents afterwards. Conversely, spearers tend to build and wait in burrows on soft sediment

bottoms, and feed on fishes and other soft-bodied prey using an ambush technique. They stay in place and wait for a victim to inadvertently come into their range, quickly reaching out to nail them. One type of mantis may eat the other's preferred food, though, if the need and opportunity arise.

Other than the fancy weaponry, they also consistently have a shortened body and an elongated, very flexible tail, which allows them to turn around quickly and easily in tight spaces and in burrows. The tail and the specialized oar-like swimming appendages on its underside also allow the shrimps to scoot/swim surprisingly fast when on the hunt, or when they get spooked. They also have some serious vision equipment, having extraordinarily advanced eyes on short, but highly mobile stalks. This allows them see extremely well and look in different directions simultaneously, too. And, they provide exceptionally accurate depth perception (target acquisition), making their lightning-quick weapons that much more effective and deadly.

MORE><http://www.reefkeeping.com/issues/2004-03/jf/feature/index.php>

Fishy Links And News

Study: Marine reserves improve health of coral reefs

Devon, UK (January 5, 2006) --It may be no surprise that marine reserves protect the fish that live in them, but now scientists from the University of Exeter have shown for the first time that they could also help improve the health of coral reefs.

In a paper in the prestigious journal Science, Dr Peter Mumby and colleagues looked at how a marine park in the Bahamas was affected by the return of the reef's top predator, the Nassau Grouper. Researchers were concerned that an increase in groupers could have an adverse effect, because they feed on parrotfish which play a vital role in maintaining the reef ecosystem. Dr Peter Mumby, from the School of Biosciences at the University of Exeter, said: "While an increasing number of larger predators is essentially good news we had concerns that this might result in a decrease in the numbers of parrotfish, which could ultimately damage the health of the reef. More than 20 years ago sea urchins in the Caribbean were wiped out by disease, leaving parrotfish as the main grazer of reef surfaces. The fish use their teeth to remove seaweed from the reef which allows new corals to settle and grow. This grazing process is essential to the health of the system."

More>http://www.underwatertimes.com/news.php?article_id=98521013604

Mystery sea nets kill fish, animals

THOUSANDS of fishing nets have washed ashore or are floating in Gulf of Carpentaria waters, killing marine and animal life and endangering boats and crews.

One of the so-called "ghost nets" found at sea in September was estimated to be 12km long and weighed about five tonne.

It had trapped and killed thousands of fish and animals and was so large indigenous rangers trying to clean up the mess had no boat large enough to bring it ashore. Carpentaria Ghost Nets Program co-ordinator Riki Gunn said the environmental devastation caused was so great it was difficult to estimate the extent.

The nets caught and drowned virtually anything that swam into them, including fish, dolphins and turtles. They were often found washed up on beaches with a cargo of bones, turtle carapaces and carcasses of wildlife.

More>http://www.thecouriermail.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5936,17715808%255E3102,00.html

Reef closures helping fish stocks, says scientist

The scientist at the head of an 11-year study into the effects of line fishing on the Great Barrier Reef says the policy of area closures to allow spawning has been very successful.

Professor Bruce Mapstone from the Cooperative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (CRC) says they undertook one of the world's biggest fishing experiments to get a better idea

of the effects of both commercial and recreational line fishing.

He says the data is still being analysed but it is already clear that the policy of fishing bans in certain areas of the reef has worked.



"Some of things that we've learned along the way include the area closures that the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has put in place have really been very effective in protecting significant portions of the stock that has been fished elsewhere from fishing so that they can spawn and rekindle the populations of the fish for future generations to harvest," he said.

More><http://www.abc.net.au/news/items/200512/1528718.htm?tropic>

Maine Ocean Floor Has Mud-Trapped Gas

(AP) The Maine coast has dozens of methane gas fields on the ocean bottom where mud-trapped gas occasionally bubbles to the surface, according to a team of University of Maine scientists.

There are 70 known gas fields between Portland and Eastport, and the rising bubbles create craters or pits, according to the scientists, who are publishing their findings in Marine Geology magazine. The largest crater is the size of a football stadium.

The gas fields have no commercial value, the scientists say, but they could pose a hazard for man-made objects on the ocean floor such as utility lines that connect the mainland to Maine's islands.

The scientific team is led by geologists Joe Kelley and Daniel Belknap, who say fishermen over the years have reported seeing bubbles and plumes of mud, and divers have told stories of craters that produced bubbles like carbonated soda.

The ocean floor off the Maine coast, Belknap said, is surprisingly active.

"I visualize a pot of tomato soup bubbling constantly," he said.

Most of the craters are between 32 feet and 260 feet in diameter. The largest, in Belfast Bay, is more than 650 feet wide and 100 feet deep.

In their paper, Kelley and Belknap argue that the craters are evidence of gas eruptions, with gas seeping out of the soupy mud through sandy veins and burping through the ocean floor with enough violence to create bowl-shaped pockmarks.

More><http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2005/12/28/ap/tech/mainD8EOTJQO0.shtml>

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.



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

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



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

Phone 0427 941 126 Fax (08) 9305 9891

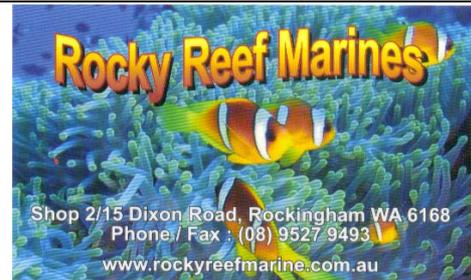
www.oceanarium.com.au

Fish@oceanarium.com.au

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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.

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



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