



The Living Reef

April 2006 – Guest Speaker
Wednesday 26th 7.30pm

Hi all

With the weather getting colder and the feeling of looming storms, it's time to start thinking about heaters and back ups in case of power failures. There are some great ideas about to help out from using battery operated air pumps to petrol driven generators. Just get on the forums and do some quick searches and you will come up with an array of helpful hints and ideas.

I also would like to mention that we are in need of some new members to put there hands up for hosting meetings. Thanks to those that have had meetings and are willing to host another but I think those MASWA members who haven't put there hands up for what ever reason need a little poke in the ribs. It is a great

opportunity for you to get some help or hints and also show off your tank. And size doesn't matter; we had a 30cm cube last year!!! Yes it can be daunting to have 20 or so people traps through your house and hang out in front of your tank, but we do try to be kind and clean up after ourselves. So come on, it would also be great to see different tanks rather than the same ones each year. Variety is the spice of life isn't it.

While we are on the subject of new members, welcome to MASWA Shaun Muhammad, Michael Tan and Graham Spalding. Make them feel welcome and say hello to them at the next meeting.

Well enough from me so,
Enjoy
Chris

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MASWA Meeting Calendar....

April 26th – Lee McIntyre
4 Florey Place
Huntingdale
Guest Speaker- Glen Cowans

May 31st – Grant Roncevich
Spearwood
Frag Fest X

July 26th - ???????
Guest Speaker

June 28th – Quiz Nite

August 30th - ???????
Frag Fest XI

We need a venue for July so please don't be shy

MASWA Contact Information....

COMMITTEE – 2006

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Even "just to be sociable"
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Treasurer – Treasury/Payment Enquiries
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Brendan Chua
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Newsletter Editor – Newsletter Submissions and
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Chris Sutton – 0419 858 108
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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



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.

Quiz Night

Yes Maria is organising another quiz night. It will be held on Wednesday 28th June, the venue is **yet to be decided**. This year there will be a ticket cost of \$10.00 per head which will include entry and supper. The prizes, still to be purchased will value approximately \$300.00 and it will be BYO Alcohol. So keep that date free and we will see you there.

MASWA Social Pages

Hi ,
I don't know about you guys, but I feel so bloated from all the chocolate I've eaten over the Easter break (and I feel sick from watching Chris eat sooooo much chocolate.) I hope you all had a safe and happy few days off. I hope you didn't kill too many brain cells over the break cause we've got the Social quiz night coming up!

\$10 guarantee's you a seat and supper.

There are great prizes to be won. **Don't forget the Quiz night is the June Meeting!**

You can buy your quiz night ticket at Lee's meeting this month or at Grants in May. I'm still to confirm the venue. Don't miss out the last one was a great night, all who attended enjoyed the night.
Look for Me at the Meeting for the tickets.

Speaking of Lee's meet, I wanted to say thanks Lee for volunteering this month's venue. You got us out of a pickle.
Cheers Lee.

We have a guest speaker this month **Glen Cowans**, he specializes in contemporary underwater photo-art, and I've seen his work, gorgeous. Any way he has agreed to come along and tell us about it, I think he's got a movie or slide show; anyway I'm sure it will be interesting. He will also be bringing a small amount of his work should anyone want to purchase anything on the night.

Glen has a website so if you want a sneak preview check out <http://glencowans.com/uvview.htm>
Awesome stuff

See ya all next week,
Maria

FACT:

Butterfly fish are brilliantly coloured tropical reef fish with very pointed snouts and brush-like, recurving (backwards bending) teeth. Some of this group feed on coral polyps. The long-nose Butterfly fish has a particularly elongated, forceps-like snout, which is useful for probing crevices in coral and retrieving tiny creatures to eat.

Last Months Meeting Rundown...

Last month we dropped into Chris Kolzan's house to check out his 6x2x2 (yes not a 6x6x2 as stated in the newsletter last month). With close to 30 people turning up to see Chris' tank and also crossing their fingers in the hope of picking up a prize from the special raffle, it was a hub of busy aquarists', jostling to get a glimpse of some of the great specimens of corals Chris had on show.



It was also fun to hear Chris' talk on his tank with a few voices in the background giving the real facts and keeping in line. There was some interesting DIY's that Chris had done with his lights that created a lot of interest and also a little envy with the Fluidised Filter that Chris had lost in his shed for years and not realising what it was



There were some great raffle prizes up for grabs also and thanks to Pete from Oceanarium for donating some nice size corals. Congratulations goes to Bill, Heath, Paul, Stuart, Graham, Elroy, Linh, Grant, Greg, Warren, Ron and Charlie. Also congratulations to Warren for picking the "What The" competition which in turn won him a prize in the raffle.

Thanks Chris for a great meeting
Chris

Up & Coming Meet Information.....

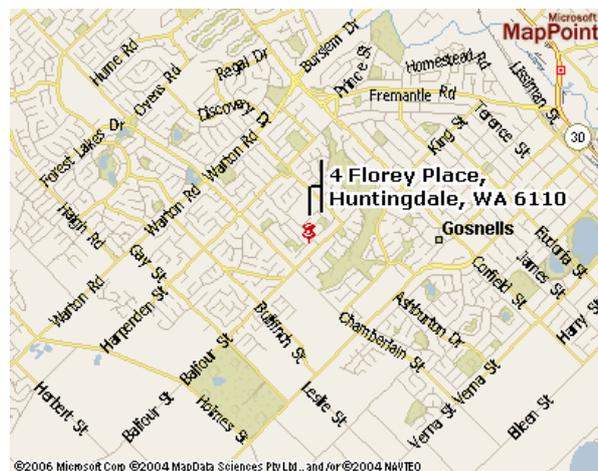
This month we are off to see Lee's piece of Ocean. After convincing Lee that the other MASWA members aren't that bad, Lee finally agreed to host the April meet. Thanks Lee for putting up your hand

Lee's tank is a 6x2x2 and after a recent upgrade, the tank will be 3 months old at the meeting. His lighting is 3 x 150 watt metal halides, supplemented with 2 x white and 2 x actinic fluoro's. It has two sumps, one for rock and DSB, the other for caulerpa. On the tank he has a UV filter, Tunze Pumps, skimmer and wave box.

Fish consist of just tangs, clowns, Banggai's and a Goby with a mixture of soft, LPS and a couple of SPS.

Lee's address is 4 Florey Place Huntingdale. The meeting starts 7.30 sharp

We also have a Guest Speaker **Glen Cowans** so check out the [Social Pages](#) for info on that



Hope to see you all there
Chris

REEFING THE AUSTRALIAN WAY FORUM

Topic: [Nitrate reduction](http://www.masa.asn.au/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?p=243923#243923) <http://www.masa.asn.au/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?p=243923#243923>

Posted: Mon Apr 03, 2006 by [anthonyd](#) in the [Advanced Discussion](#) Forum

Ok decided to post this in the advanced forums because I have tried all the simple solutions and nothing seems to help me.

My tank is going on 2 years now and I still cannot get the nitrates under 10ppm. With a large water change they will drop to 5 but they increase quickly from there.

I don't know if it is related, but I also can't keep Acropora at all. So far I have had about 8 attempts at keeping Acropora. The first one actually lasted a month or so - the rest suffer from RTN within three or four days.

Other than the Acropora, all other corals are doing well with the exception of a gorgonian which is in a slow demise. Water parameters seem ok however I battle to keep my alkalinity up without dosing baking soda. Topups are done with a saturated solution of builders lime and calcium is typically around 400ppm, but for some reason alkalinity just drops. Then there's the nitrate that just seems to not get to zero! Testing with Salfert test kit as well as Aquarium Pharam kit, the AP kit gives readings of 20ppm but claims to read the same NO3 as the Salfert one - Salfert gives around 10ppm.

Now onto what I have tried - removed the trickle filter about a year and a half ago and designed a new sump. Main tank is a 5x1.5x2 with around 60kg of live rock in it. Circulation is by 2 Tunze 6000s and a 7095 controller. Sump is approx 100l and is a simple flow through type starts at skimmer which is a Tunze skimmer then flows into a refuge which has macro on top of an approx 10cm deep sand bed. Then flows to return pump. Sand bed in main tank is under an inch deep. Most rock has been built onto a PVC lattice that holds it up just above the sand and one part of the return pump pushes water under the rocks to keep good circulation there.

I don't normally run carbon, but for the last three months there has been a bag of carbon in the tank. I do approx 20% water change monthly.

Livestock consists of 8 fish all pretty small - the largest being a small to medium blue tang. About 10-12 corals 3 of which are soft corals, 2 sps type corals and the rest LPS. A cleaner shrimp and a clam and that's it.

Oh also about 5 small hermits and a whole wack of snails.

Feeding - up until recently was feeding a block of mysis shrimp and a half block of either blood worm or brine daily. This month started a home brew consisting of a selection of seafood, fish roe, mysis, blood worm, brine, nori. Feed approx the equivalent of a block and a half of this every day. Twice a week I feed a tubastrea a block of mysis and a block of hykari "ocean plankton". Every other day I put a 3cmx3cm piece of nori on a clip for the tangs. No other food gets put into the tank.

Don't know what other info to add, that is all I can think of. As I said I have tried everything I have been told and I simply cannot get the nitrates to undetectable like others here seem to have! I know that things in this hobby take time, but this is 2 years down the line and still it is no better than when I first set it up. At this point I am ready to try snake oil fixes as a last attempt.

Any other ideas????

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.

FACT:

There are more than 500 species of cones. Northern Australia has a large number of species, and more than a dozen sorts of cones are found in southern waters. Cones are predators. Most feed on worms and other molluscs, and a few kill and eat fish. A cone has a sac in its snout, or proboscis, which stores venom. Its radula consists of hollow barbed shafts, like tiny harpoons. Around 20 shafts are held in storage; these shafts can be filled with venom when needed. The proboscis can stretch out of the cones shell for a distance equal to the shell's length. It feels around and when it touches the prey fires a barb into it. The paralysed prey is pulled in, the cone's body envelops it, and it is swallowed whole.

Fishy Links And News

Hurricane-wrecked I-10 bridge to become Gulf of Mexico reef

PENSACOLA, Fla. - The damaged Interstate 10 bridge over Escambia Bay is set to become a concrete haven for fish and other marine life. The 2 1/2 mile bridge is in line to be sunk in the Large Area Artificial Reef Site, which encompasses about 125 square miles in the Gulf of Mexico, about 20 miles south of Pensacola, officials said. Hurricane Ivan wrecked the bridge in September 2004, with pieces of the structure ripped away by the bay's roiling waters. A wider, taller, \$243 million bridge is under construction. Workers could begin dismantling the old I-10 bridge in January or February. The contractor has a \$10 million incentive to finish the new eastbound span, which will handle four lanes of traffic, by Dec. 29. "Once there are four lanes across the bay, the contractor will start demolishing the old bridges," said Bryan Estock, project manager for the I-10 bridge replacement project. **More>** <http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/mld/ledgerenquirer/news/local/14297565.htm>

Curse of the daytrippers

The arrival of the big cruise ships has brought prosperity to Belize - but at a price. Marla Dickerson reports. For years the tour organiser Lascelle Tillett has been leading nature lovers to see rare Morelet's crocodiles, stately jabiru storks and other wonders in the tiny Caribbean nation of Belize. So it came as something of a shock when he ferried a small party to a spot near Belize's coral reef two years

ago and encountered a floating mob. "There must have been 600 people in the water, and the boats were lined up like cars," said Tillett. "We didn't see a single ray or



shark."

More> <http://smh.com.au/news/caribbean/curse-of-the-daytrippers/2006/03/30/1143441261270.html>

Reef in 'great shape' despite Larry

CYCLONE Larry was believed to have damaged only about 1 per cent of the Great Barrier Reef, the Federal Government said today. Federal Environment and Heritage Minister Senator Ian Campbell said most of the reef remained in "great shape". "It's important to note that the Great Barrier Reef stretches more than 2300km, but the area severely affected is unlikely to be more than a band of about 20 to 30km wide," he said. "This amounts to only 1 per cent of the entire reef, and history has shown us that the reef will very likely bounce back quickly from any damage." Larry raged across the reef early on March 20 as a category-four cyclone before intensifying to a category five when it reached land in the Innisfail area, just south of Cairns. **More>** http://www.thesundaymail.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5936,18631612%25E1248,00.html

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 647or email: n1venus@bigpond.com.au.



Marine West has generously donated \$30 worth of gift vouchers each month to MASWA.

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Tue-Sun 10:00am- 5:00pm
Tel/Fax: (08) 9493-0966

Email: pjwdrw@bigpond.com
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Fremantle Ocean Farm will generously donated the next water change to all new members who join MASWA
and 2 free water changes vouchers for the raffles

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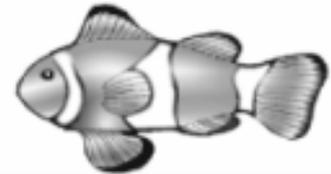
Large selection of corals and Inverts

Come and see Martin and Marc and mention you are a
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Veba's generously donates prizes for the MASWA raffles

**Veba's is offering a special for this month
Resun CL-650 (650W - ~500-1000L) \$690.00
Resun CL-280 (280W - <500L) \$550.00**

**10% disc for MASWA members
Just mention to the sales clerk you are a MASWA member**