



The Living Reef

March 2007

Wednesday 28th 7:30pm

Hi everyone,

Its been a really busy month for the committee, Shona our Web Editor and Chris our Secretary have been in the backrooms at working hard to polish the MASWA web pages. Please take the time to have a look at the resources available. Remember it is a work in progress, and will continue to grow and improve over time.

We also need hosts for meetings. All you need to do is give your tank a quick clean (or not!) and open your door. It's a really good chance to have many minds troubleshoot problems, and to show off your aquarium to a crowd that really *understands!*

On another note, I am desperate for some member contributions to our little newsletter. As it stands at the moment, I am randomly picking topics to put into it, and would really like to see some submissions as to what our member base would like to see.

Submissions can be as little as a link to an interesting article online, photo's from a recent dive expedition, or your child's drawing of Nemo...As with most hobbies, the more you put in, the more you receive.

See you at the meeting!
Warren

RTAW Reefpedia

This [wiki](#) has been established as an encyclopaedia of reef keeping by the [Marine Aquarium Societies of Australia \(MASA\)](#).

Inside this Issue....

[MASWA Meeting Calendar....](#)
[MASWA Contact Information....](#)
[MASWA Message Board](#)
[Social Pages](#)
[Last Months Meeting Rundown](#)

[This Months Meeting Information](#)
[Fishy Links and News](#)
[Feature Article](#)
[For Sale, Swap or Wanted](#)
[Commercial Sponsors](#)

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MASWA Meeting Calendar....

March 28th - Charlie Martin
14 Newick St, Balga 6061
Special Raffle

April 25th ????
Guess Speaker

June 27th ????

May 30th ????

July 27th ????

MASWA Contact Information....

COMMITTEE – 2007

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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....

Final Notice For 2007 Membership Dues

The last reminders have been sent out via email to those members who haven't renewed their memberships to MASWA. If membership subscriptions are not received by the end of the March meeting you will not be sent any more correspondence and will not be entitled to attend any future MASWA meetings.

Chris Sutton
MASWA Secretary

MASWA Test Kits (Free Testing)

MASWA's members are able to bring along water samples to any meeting and test their water. This is handy to verify your own test kits, or to try a kit you don't have at home. The kits are mainly Salifert Tests and include PH, Calcium, Carbonate Hardness/ Alkalinity, Nitrate and Silicate. Chris will also be bringing along his Phosphate Light Meter and MASWA now has a Refractometer to test the salinity of your water. This is a great free resource so make sure to take advantage of it. If you are unsure of how to test your water, bring along about 100ml and ask for help, its free!

Membership Cards



MASWA will be introducing a Membership Card this month. The cards has been introduced so members can increase their social prestige, showing them off to your mates at the Sunday BBQ's and also to show your partners and families there's a reason why you keep disappearing the last Wednesday of each month. But more importantly, the card has been introduced to help raise awareness that MASWA is a society of Marine Aquarist's in WA and it will help members to be easily identified to our

Sponsors and other marine stores that you may shop at.

So don't be afraid to flash them around and who knows you may even get a discount from you local fish shop.

Cards will be available for pickup at this months meeting and posted out after the meeting if not picked up.

The new MASWA web pages are now up and running!

To view them, go to www.masa.asn.au and click on "Western Australia" from the menu on the left.

Visitors can find out more about MASWA, our meetings & other events, membership benefits, join up using our online membership form and more.

Our web site will continue to grow over time, so if you have something you would like to see on the site just let me know.

Shona Whaite
MASWA Web Editor

New Members

Please make welcome our new members!

Michael Davidson
Karl Fehlaur
Russel Kardos
Chris Cooper
Jacqueline Dent
David Sarre
Christopher Lawlor
Ryan Visser
Samuel Goon
Leah Boucher

Penguin Island Day Trip

Thanks everyone who could make it to the Penguin Island day trip.

For a rundown on the days events

(ahem...catastrophies? ha ha) Have a look [here](#) and scroll to the bottom to see it through the eyes of secretary Chris!

Last Months Meeting Rundown...

Last months meeting was at Elmer's in Dianella.



Once again a really good turn out, the house was packed as it was a Frag Fest night as well. Elmer's Aquarium was a joy to watch, with each of the main three sides giving a different environment to explore.



The fish were all very healthy and definitely well fed, and there were some stunning corals that most people would envy... acanthastrea sp.'s, purple fungia and rose bubble tip anemone's to name a few.



The frag fest went well, with a large number of frags available for grabs, and Andrew Pope (Popie) brought along a great device that spins a powerhead through 90 degrees to aid in circulation.

If anyone needs help in fragging a coral, or is too timid to try it for the first time on their prized corals, just ask in the MASWA forum and one of our experienced Frag Masters will undoubtedly give you a hand...

Up & Coming Meet Information....

Special Raffle!

Whoo hoo! The special raffle is a big one, and is being held at Charlie Martins' place. I am really excited about going to Charlie's, as I have never seen his aquarium, and it is always great to see how someone else sets there tank up.

This is another of 'those' big tanks, so should be an eye opener as Charlie has been reefing for years.

See you there!



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Feature Articles

Wild Banggai Cardinalfish Populations in Trouble

by Frank Marini (From www.masna.org)

In the past, catching coral reef fish for the aquarium hobby meant using cyanide or even dynamite, potentially destroying a neighboring reef. Today the trend is to use non-destructive methods such as hand-net fishing. In this regard, fish importers argue that the use of non-destructive methods of harvestings coral reef fish can provide continuous quantity of fish - but new research suggests otherwise and Banggai cardinalfish are at the center of the study.



Popular with the aquarium trade, Banggai cardinalfish have been found only in the reefs of the Banggai archipelago off the east coast of Sulawesi, Indonesia. This fish with its elongated banner fin and striking black and silver markings, was rediscovered in 1995

and quickly introduced to the aquarium hobby.

In the June issue of *Conservation Biology*, Nicolas Kolm and Anders Berglund of Uppsala University in Sweden published the results of their recent Banggai population survey. They studied the effects of a non-destructive fishing method on the Banggai cardinalfish.

Banggai cardinalfish live in groups near long-spined sea urchins and seek shelter in the urchins when threatened. Fishermen take advantage of this behavior by pushing urchins into a cage with a stick, which tricks the fish into swimming right in after them. The researchers monitored the

Banggai cardinalfish at eight sites in the archipelago and interviewed local fishermen to assess the intensity of fishing at each site.

Kolm and Berglund found that non-destructive fishing cut the size of Banggai cardinalfish groups by half. Specifically, while the average number of fish per group was 11.5 at low-intensity fishing sites, it was only 5.7 at high-intensity fishing sites. This data is troubling considering at the time of the study, Banggai cardinalfish had only been commercially fished for six years. Their data

suggests that the Banggai cardinalfish populations are in danger by the aquarium industry.

This fishing threatens the Banggai cardinalfish populations in two ways. First, fishermen move to new sites after depleting the old ones and these depleted populations are unlikely to be replenished due to the fact that young Banggai cardinalfish apparently do not disperse very far from their birth sites. Second, pushing the sea urchins with a stick frequently damages them, and the researchers also observed that the size of a given Banggai cardinalfish population was dependant on the size of the associated urchin population.

Coral reefs have the greatest diversity of fish worldwide and many species are unique to particular reefs, such as the Banggai cardinalfish. Unless the aquarium hobby relieves the burden of continued harvesting of wild caught Banggai, this species will not be available for our future. The Kolm and Berglund data suggest the need to increase the captive breeding of these remarkable fish, as well as to do additional population surveys.

\$1 million system to track fish migrations

By Peter Trute

SCIENCE will gain new insights into the size and behaviour of coastal fish populations with a \$1 million undersea tracking system due to start operation next year.

The system, to be located off NSW and Western Australia, will used acoustic "curtains" to track the movement of tagged aquatic life.

Macquarie University Associate Professor Rob Harcourt, chief scientist on the project, said the system will also allow researchers to gather vital information about climate change-related effects such as rising ocean temperatures.

"Because much of our marine life - including protected and endangered species like the southern right whale and the great white shark - travel vast distances each year, it is very difficult to collect data on fundamental aspects of their lives," he said.

[**MORE**](#)

Fishy Links And News

[The Goniopora thread!](#)

I think most people fall for the lure of *Goniopora* at least once when they start keeping corals. Partly, this is due to the fact that they are often promoted as a "beginners coral", and there is no arguing that they are beautiful.

Unfortunately, I would definitely not categorise this coral as suitable for "beginners" or newly established tanks. Their survival rate in the aquarium is absolutely dismal...

[Adding LR Slowly or Quickly ???](#)

Is it best when setting up a new tank to add LR slowly, for example 10KG each week or Get as much as possible in the tank in one hit.

Last week end I added 10kg the weekend before I added 13Kg what should I do as I still have heaps to add. I dont want to keep going through mini cycles...

[Black Tang \(Zebrasoma Rostratum\)](#)

Does anyone know anyone that has one of these or know anything about them...

[The best way to kill...](#)

Just wondering what poeple think is the most humane method of killing sick fish is? I personally use the old freezer method, just wondering if there are other methods are out there that poeple use...

[Photo Comp March 2007](#)

After a brief absence the RTAW Forums photo competition is is **back!**

There were some great photographs taken last time the competition was run, hopefully that will continue each month this year as well. So, dust off your cameras and get clicking!

Theme: **Eyes**

This month's topic is **EYES**. As always the subject matter needs to be marine related. No doubt with a topic like this we'll see some interesting photos!

Classifieds

Banggai cardinalfish (*Pterapogon kauderni*)

6 Months old.

\$15- each.

Contact Lee on 9398 9142.

Your stuff for sale here! Please try to keep it aquarium related. It can be equipment, fish, corals etc!

Email a committee member to get your ad shown!

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.



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



<http://www.aquaticrocks.com.au> has kindly donated a door prize for the MASWA Meetings

Available from:

Midland Pet Aquarium Center
205 Great Eastern Highway Midland
Aquadria Australia Warehouse
www.aquadria.com.au

Perth Aquarium & Display Centre
1234 Albany Hwy, Cannington
<http://www.perthaquarium.com.au/>
Pisces
Unit 3/11 Augusta st., Willetton

OCEANARIUM Marine aquarium supplies.

P.O. Box 283, Quinn's Rocks, Western Australia, 6030.

Phone 0427 941 126 Fax (08) 9305 9891

<http://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



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

info@rockyreefmarine.com.au

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



Cnr Carrington & Forsyth St O'Connor WA 6163

ph: (08) 9314 7630

web: <http://www.vebas.com.au/>

email: vebas@vebas.com.au

Open 7 Days 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM (Thursdays 8:00 AM - 8:30 PM)

Veba's generously donates prizes for the MASWA raffles



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

Perth Aquarium and Display Centre has generously donated gift vouchers for the MASWA raffles

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Membership Due reminder

A Final Reminder for the Unfinancial MASWA Members,

Your annual membership subscription to MASWA is now overdue.

If membership subscriptions are not received by the end of the March meeting it will be deemed that you will not be renewing your subscription and will not be sent any more correspondence and will not be entitled to attend any future MASWA meetings.

Please be aware that the annual subscription to MASWA has been due since December 2006!

Membership subscriptions to MASWA are:

- * Standard - \$24 (includes a child, sibling or partner etc)
- * Country - \$12 (for members outside the metro area)

In all newsletters and meetings since Last November, members have been reminded that memberships are due in December.

Accordingly, we cannot continue to carry unfinancial members after March!

Payments can be made as follows:

- * Cheque: Make all cheques payable to Paul M. Tayler.

Postal Address:

Paul Tayler (MASWA Treasurer)

PO Box 7185

Shenton Park WA 6008

- * 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.

Chris Sutton
MASWA Secretary