



The Living Reef

August 2007

Wednesday 29th 7:30pm

Hi everyone,

The refugium concept has been around for some time now, and is gaining popularity rapidly. I find mine a fantastic addition to the reef tank, completely different as it is full of alga, but just as fascinating as the reef itself. It is amazing to discover new growths of micro and macro alga and wonder how they got there, as they seem to grow from nowhere, not being introduced to the aquarium on purpose. The refugium also serves as a great nutrient export mechanism. I regularly remove 4 odd litres of algal growth about every 3 weeks, and this goes straight onto the garden where it quickly degrades

into a potent fertiliser. Copepods and amphipods also abound in the refugium, a fresh and free food source for corals and fish. They also serve to break down detritus and other rotting organic materials. This has been my first tank with a refugium, and the differences compared to my previous tanks are astounding. I would highly recommend everyone to have a go at one and enjoy the advantages of added water volume too!

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 \(MASA\)](#).

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MASWA Meeting Calendar....

August 29th – Allan Whitehead
12 Kapok Court, Parkwood
Fragfest!

September 26th
Chris Sutton – Special Raffle

October 31st
??? – Guest Speaker

November 28st
??? – Frag Fest

December 12st ?
??? – Christmas meeting

MASWA Contact Information....

COMMITTEE – 2007

President – General Enquiries
Stuart Hoskin - 0413 315 059
stuartnruth@optusnet.com.au

Vice President – General Enquiries
Heath Boucher - 0416 240 115
boucherh@dodo.com.au

Treasurer – Treasury/Payment Enquiries
Paul Tayler - 0419 908 264
paul@pmtco.com.au

Secretary – Membership Enquiries
Chris Sutton – 0419 858 108
chris@aussiereef.com.au

Newsletter Editor – Newsletter Submissions
Warren Taylor – 0414 486 999
warrenroytaylor@iinet.net.au

Web Editor – Web Page Enquiries
Shona Whaite - 0428 746 620
me@shona.org

Social Coordinator – Meeting Venues
Advertising Enquiries, raffle donations,
Even "just to be sociable"
Maria White – 0416 206 647
n1venus@bigpond.com.au

Frag Fest Coordinator –
Ronald Tan - 9304 7890
cyberon@westnet.com.au

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

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS

Cheque: Make all cheques payable to Paul M. Tayler.
EFT: MASWA Inc BSB 086-136 A/c 872473681 (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....

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 your local fish shop.

Yearly Photo Competition!

We will be running a yearly photo competition. Photo's can be submitted at the meeting or via email. The topic is obviously your aquarium, but it can be a single fish, a prized coral, or a full tank shot.

Prizes will be as follows:

1st place: A reefing book.

2nd place: LFS voucher

3rd place: One years MASWA Membership

Photos have to be submitted by the November meeting, and the judge's decision will be announced at the Christmas Meeting.

Email your entries to a committee member!

New Members.

Jack Tickenhoff

Shane Ryan

Mark Phenna

Nicole Miles

MASWA now has its own bank account.

Please update your banking details for when you are making your membership payments.

The new account details are listed on the second page of the newsletter, but just in case here they are again:

MASWA Inc
BSB 086-136
A/c 872473681

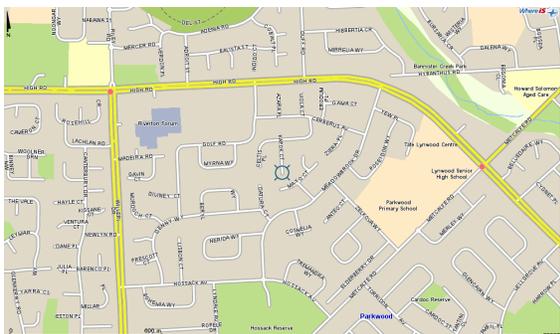
Last Months Meeting Rundown...

Last months meeting was at Lee McIntyre's in Huntingdale. Lee has one of the best tanks in the club, and a huge propagation/frag setup. It was another good turnout of members, with 5 new members this month and one guest



Raffle winners:
Door Prize: Chris Sutton
Raffle Winners:
Lee McIntyre
Mark Kumar
Joe Franis
Alex Tayler
Neil McKenzie
Alan Whitehead

Up & Coming Meet Information.....



This months meeting is at Allan Whiteheads (12 Kapok Court, Parkwood). This meeting will be a Frag Fest! What is a Frag Fest? 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 Selleys Aquakneadit or Superglue gel to mount it to a small piece of rock. 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!

The Marine Aquarists Society of WA Inc 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.

Feature Articles

This months Feature Article is from Shona Whaite - our very own web editor – on the benefits of joining your local society.

Benefits of MASWA membership

It was late last year when I first eyed up the space on top of the wooden cabinet in the kitchen and considered whether or not it would fit a second aquarium. We already had a 110L all-in-one tank in the lounge room with 2 goldfish, and the plan was to move them to a new larger 4' tank so we could add 3 or 4 more goldfish to the family.

Then the question would be what to do with the soon-to-be empty 110 litre? My partner Chris and I went to a few aquarium shops to check out what sort of fish we liked so we could decide what to do with the tank. Freshwater cold again, freshwater tropical, or saltwater? Every fish we liked was marine (not surprising to any of you!) but a marine tank looked too complicated.

I started doing some research to see what keeping a marine tank would involve - weeks and weeks of reading and I felt completely overwhelmed, but fairly confident I could do it - or at least figure it out as I went.

Chris wasn't so keen about trying a marine tank. I can't blame him really - I'd already roped him into helping me construct the 13,000L pond in the backyard earlier that year (and I may have made out that it was going to be slightly easier than it really was!) so the thought of another potentially complicated and effortful project wasn't exactly thrilling him.

I had found the MASA web site by then and discovered there was a marine aquarium society in Perth. So I went along to a meeting to ask if my plan was possible - to use our soon-to-be-empty 110L all-in-one tank as a marine tank. I was happy to find a bunch of experienced people who were helpful with all my absolute beginner questions, and also gave me an honest answer about the all-in-one - yes it was possible but a huge pain in the A**!

Seeing Warren's amazing reef tank at that meeting, I decided on the spot that it would be a complete waste to give the 'glorified carp' the 4'

when it would be so much better utilised as a reef tank!

I joined MASWA at that meeting, and continued doing research now that I had some definites - a 4' tank (any larger and it would block the doorway), we would have to go sump-less (as the tank would be sitting on an already full wooden cabinet) and I wanted a reef tank.

I posted in the MASWA member forum asking for advice on what equipment to get and got great feedback. Soon I had an exact shopping list for everything I needed - lights, heater, skimmer, powerheads, sand, etc. and knew the best suppliers to get them from.

Luckily Christmas was approaching and I managed to scam a lot of the equipment as presents

Over the next couple of months the equipment accumulated until we had enough to add water and get things going. I'd already won a water change voucher at a past meeting, so the tank was filled for free!

My tank has now been up and running for a couple of months, and I'm still reaping the benefits of being a member - people I have only met a few times have gone out of their way to help me - group buys for gadgets, asking me how the tank is going, cheap corals, offers to look after the tank while I'm away. MASWA membership is one of the best \$24 I've ever spent.

Having a marine tank has turned out to be a lot less expensive and complicated than I first thought, thanks to MASWA (and MASA). I'm glad I didn't opt for the "easy option" and go with another freshwater tank. And I think Chris is too - he spends more time looking at and fiddling with the tank than I do

Now the only problem I have is how to slow down the 'marine obsession' - I'm already planning what I would do bigger and better next time, although I think we'll have to get a bigger house for the next tank!

Shona Whaite

Fishy Links And News

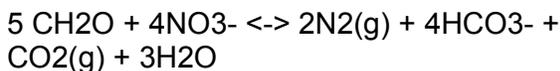
To sump or not to sump?? help please...

I have a 4 x 2 x 2 .

After reading plenty of info im now considering getting a sump. My questions are: 1. Is a sump in your opinion the way to go ?

Nitrate control - carbohydrate as a limiting factor

I had an conversion last night were it was postulated that carbohydrate may be the limiting factor for successful nitrate reduction. The general formula for Denitrification by either facultative aerobic bacteria or obligate anaerobic bacteria is give as;



CH₂O is the general formula for carbohydrate.

Nitrate reactors are fed carbohydrates for efficient use either in the form of

deniballs, alcohol or commercial preparations.

Most fish foods are high in protein and lipids and low in carbohydrates so the marine closed systems may be low in carbohydrates.

If they are low in carbohydrates the natural conversion of nitrate may not proceed.

So I was thinking that small additions of sugar may be an effective form of carbohydrate and encourage greater nitrate conversion?

Aquaculture is it a good future

Considering career moves I was wondering if anyone knew aquaculture amde a good living I was wondering what the more marketable species being bred.

I was thinking acropora farming may be a good idea as I think making it mroe available at lower prices could earn a quid.

Anyway pleas egive me your thoughts on this....

Classifieds

Omnipure OMB-934-10M coconut carbon filter cartridge and 20 micron polyspun cartridge from PSI for sale. \$18 for a set of cartridges (carbon & polyspun) suitable for all PSI RO systems.

Contact: Ronald Tan - 9304 7890

cyberon@westnet.com.au

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 Seven 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



has kindly donated a door prize for the MASWA Meetings

Available from:

Midland Pet Aquarium Center
205 Great Eastern Highway Midland
Aquaria Australia Warehouse
www.aquaria.com.au
Perth Aquarium & Display Centre
1234 Albany Hwy, Cannington
<http://www.perthaquarium.com.au/>
Pisces
Unit 3/11 Augusta st., Willetton

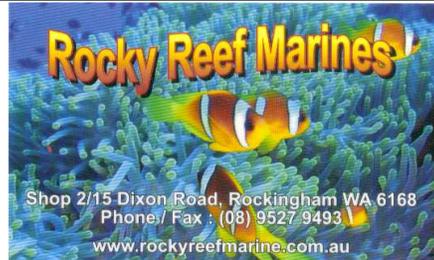


P.O. Box 283, Quinn's Rocks, Western Australia, 6030.
Phone 0427 941 126 Fax (08) 9305 9891
Fish@oceanarium.com.au

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



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.

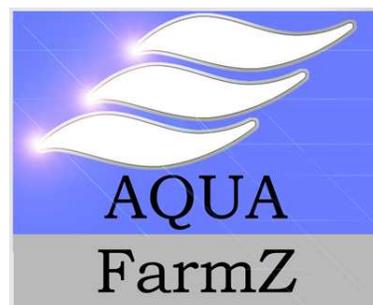
Rocky Reef Marine has generously donated gift vouchers and products for the MASWA raffles



Cnr Carrington & Forsyth St O'Connor WA 6163

ph: (08) 9314 7630 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



Aqua Farmz Supplies High End Quality Equipment such as BubbleKing and ZeoVit. Aqua FarmZ has generously donated raffle prizes

1234 Albany Highway
Cannington WA 6107



Tel +61 8 9351 8362
Fax +61 8 9356 5833

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

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

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