



The Living Reef

March 2008

Next meeting: March 26th @ 7:30pm

Hi guys & girls,

This month's meeting will be back on a Wednesday evening at 7.30pm.

This month's meeting is also a special raffle, so if there's a book that you've always wanted to get or a piece of equipment or livestock that you wanted, you shouldn't miss this one as often the prizes are worth a lot more than the price of the raffle tickets!

We are still short of a couple of volunteer's with our committee, remember that we are a non profit organization and we need volunteers to make it work! Please approach any of the committee members if you are keen on contributing, we promise that we wouldn't bite!

Welcome to all our new members from the last meeting. Hope to see you at this month's meeting, or at one of our other upcoming events this year.

Ronald Tan

Inside this Issue....

[Calendar](#)

[ContactInfo](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[MessageBoard](#)

[LastMeeting](#)

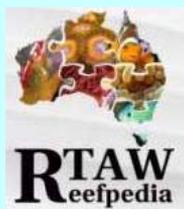
[UpcomingMeeting](#)

[FishyLinks](#)

[FeatureArticle](#)

[Sponsors](#)

[EyeCandy](#)



RTAW Reefpedia

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

MASWA Calendar....

7:30pm, Wednesday 26th March – Special Raffle
Host: Lou Athanasiou –
125 Railway Parade, Mt Lawley

Wednesday 30th April 2008
Frag Fest meeting
Host: Manta Marine?

Wednesday 28th May
Guest Speaker meeting
Host: ???

MASWA Contact Information....

COMMITTEE – 2008

WEB ADDRESS

www.masa.asn.au/masa/maswa

EMAIL

maswa@masa.asn.au

President – General Enquiries

Shona Whaite – 0428 746 620
me@shona.org

Vice President – General Enquiries

Stuart Hoskin - 0413 315 059
stuartnruth@optusnet.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

Ronald Tan – 0414 725 322
hydrocarbon@iprimus.com.au

Web Editor – Web Page Enquiries

Vacant

Social Coordinator – meeting venues, advertising enquiries, raffle donations, even “just to be sociable”

Taff Dalling –
audio_xpress@yahoo.com.au

Frag Fest Co-ordinator

Vacant

General Committee

Lou Athanasiou –
macfixit3@bigpond.com

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS

Cheque/money order: Please make payable to MASWA

EFT: BSB 086-136, A/C 8724 73681
A/C name: MASWA Inc.
(please include your name on all EFT transfers!)

Cash: Make cash payment in person only.

Postal Address:

MASWA
c/o Paul Tayler
PO Box 7185
Shenton Park, WA 6008

Classifieds

Omnipure OMB-934-10M coconut carbon filter cartridge and 1 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 or email hydrocarbon@iprimus.com.au

Sfiligoi Flite Chiller \$500 with brand new controller. Specification says that it is suitable for up to 500 litres with a temperature draw down of 5°C but to be on the safe side, I would recommend it for system up to 300 litres. Contact: Ronald Tan - 9304 7890 or email hydrocarbon@iprimus.com.au



Your stuff for sale here!

Please try to keep it aquarium related (equipment, fish, corals, etc)

Email a committee member to get your ad shown!

MASWA Message Board....

MASWA COMMITTEE 2008

We are still looking out for a Frag. Fest Co-ordinator and a web editor, if you think you would like to contribute, please let any of the other committee member know, we'll be glad to hear from you.

For those who doesn't know what being in the committee involves, they are as follows:

For minimum 4 days a year (every third month) you get to meet at the Treasurer Paul Taylor's place and get to sample the delights of Merilyn's cooking.

The pay is crap - \$0! - however the social interaction and "stories" you hear are very entertaining!

If you have a few hours spare every couple of months, and are keen to help out then please contact our Secretary (Chris Sutton) at maswa@masa.asn.au or 0419 858 108 or approach any of the other committee members at this month's meeting.

Remember without people helping out and volunteering their time, we wouldn't have a society!

MASWA TEST KITS Free water testing

MASWA 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 also brings 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 be sure to take advantage of it.

If you are unsure of how to test your water, bring along about 100ml and ask for help (also free!)

DID YOU KNOW?

The oldest living fish is the Coelacanth and they are virtually unchanged for hundreds of millions of years.

Read more about the Coelacanth at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coelacanth>.

Last Months Meeting Rundown...

February's meeting was at Elmer's in Dianella. Elmer's tank is a 7' x 7' x 3' tank and its always just as inspiring. The turnout as usual was good with 22 people at the meeting. The tank looks amazing under natural sunlight and the tangs have all grown a lot since we last saw them. Unfortunately I have been unable to bring you some pictures of it. It may have something to do with my ISP's email filter. I will remember to bring my own camera to the next meeting.

Our special guest speaker Brett Norris from Western Power gives a short talk on electrical safety which was greatly appreciated by everyone.

A summary of the speech is provided here by Shona:

- * ideally turn off all power to appliances when you will be putting your hands in the tank water
- * if you don't do this, standing on a rubber mat while you have your hands in the water may be a good idea.
- * An RCD (residual current device) should be considered mandatory on aquariums. They may save your life one day!
- * RCDs work by monitoring how much current is entering a circuit and how much is leaving that same circuit. If there is an imbalance (such as when current is flowing through a person or to ground) of 30mA or over - the minimum current required to kill a human - the RCD will switch the power off.
- * Most newer houses have an RCD in the meter box so all powerpoints in the house are protected. Check your meter box (or get an electrician to) if you're not sure if your house is RCD protected.
- * If it's not, portable RCDs can be purchased for the powerpoints you use for the tank (around \$20). Otherwise getting an electrician to install an RCD in the meter box for a couple of hundred dollars will protect all powerpoints.
- * each circuit in a house has 10 amps x 240 volts = a maximum of 2400 watts.
- * to work out if you are going to overload a circuit, add up the power (wattage) each appliance uses and it should not be over 2400 watts at any one time. For example if you have two 250W metal halide lights, this adds 500W to the circuit (during the hours the lights are on). A fridge might use about 250W, a computer uses about 200W, some heaters can use over 2000W, and so on.
- * The collective wattage of all appliances needed to run an aquarium can add up to quite a lot, and unlike many other household appliances they are also usually running for a lot of the day (or even 24/7).
- * If you think you will overload the circuit, consider getting an additional circuit installed in your house which will run the aquarium powerpoints or other high power use appliances.

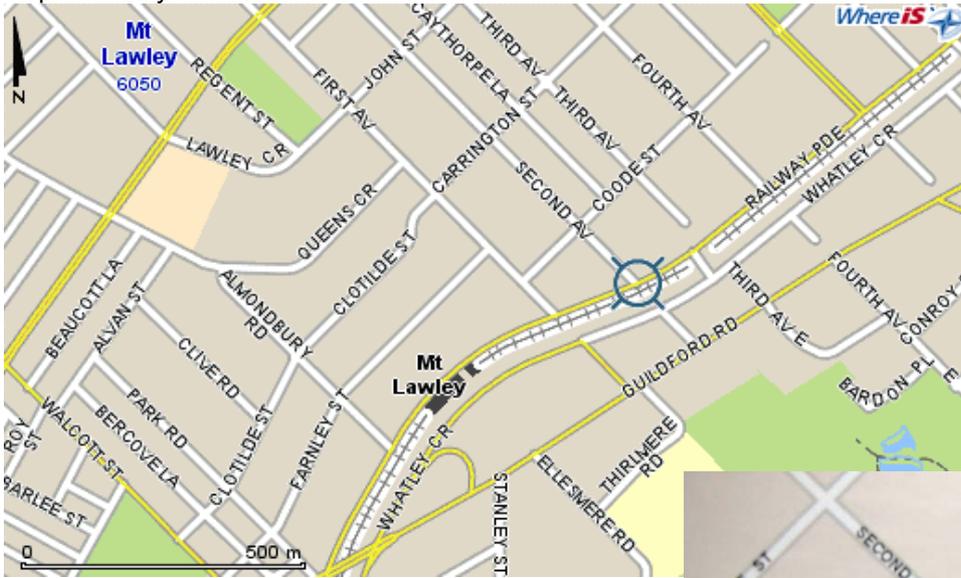
Congratulations to prize winners Alex Taylor, Elma, Liam, Lou Athanasiou, Lee McIntyre, Beth Hebble, Paul Taylor, Shona Whaite, Todd, Jasmie and Chris Kolzan. Also to Todd and Amanda who won the door prize of a pH pen.

Upcoming Meeting Information.....

This month's meeting is on a Wednesday at 7.30pm and it is at Lou's. Lou has given us a mud map of his place in case you have problem locating it. Also note from Lou regarding parking : "I have tried to mark out parking spots where people can park near to the house as there is no parking on second avenue except on my three (3) parking bays, also to point out that the entry to my part of the house (second floor) is from the rear of the house and the entry is from the side gate on second avenue and not by the front door located on Railway Parade". You can also call him at 0418358092 if you get lost.

It is also a Special Raffle meeting with lots of great prizes.

Hope to see you all there!



Formalities to the meeting will be:

- President address
- Introduce new members
- Host's Talk on His Tank
- Door Prize
- General Discussion
- Raffle Drawn
- Wind-up



Fishy Links And News

From 'Reefing the Australian Way' Forum ...

[How big of a water change can I do when things go wrong?](#)

How much water change can one make?

[Beach Sand](#)

Collecting Beach Sand. Is it legal?

[Fake Hydor Copies Rusting Shafts](#)

For those who are thinking of buying copies of the original just to save a few dollars... This makes an interesting read.

[Naturaliste Marine Discovery Centre](#)

The NMDC is proud to be a part of the 2008 FotoFreo Fringe exhibitions by hosting an underwater photography exhibition from Tuesday 4 March to Friday 2 May.

FotoFreo Fringe exhibitions are part of the *City of Fremantle Festival of Photography*. This is a biennial international festival showcasing photography from around the world.

Click on the link for more information



Feature Articles

Top Ten Obvious Things Pointed Out by a Non-Reefkeeper That Should Have Been Obvious...

10. When a friend looked at my tank and said "Hey, is that a water pump in your tank? What's it for?"
9. Isn't that rat's nest of electrical cords a fire hazard?
8. Hey, Look!! There's a crab in that shell!
1. Why are your clownfish black and white? Were they cheaper because they're the wrong color?

Read them all here: <http://reefkeeping.com/issues/2008-03/tt/index.php>.

Skimming basics 101 : Understanding your Skimmer

"The majority of unwanted organic wastes found in our aquariums collect at the surface of a gas-liquid interface. These "surface-active" materials, including fish wastes, uneaten food, and decomposing matter are what we attribute to increasing our tanks pollution. We associate this extra waste with increases in nuisance algae, cyanobacterial blooms, and having a generally unhealthy tank appearance. Therefore, when we add new fish, and/or increase the volume of foods in our tank, we hope to remove an equal amount of potential pollution. The good news is we can reduce some of these potential wastes by removing them from the water before they cause problems. One method of removing organic wastes from a fish tank is through foam fractionation (skimming).

The protein skimmer originated in the wastewater treatment industry many years ago. It was used primarily to reduce the organic load before the water reached the activated sludge reactors. This technique exploits the affinity of organic waste to adsorb to air bubbles. In basic terms, organic-waste-laden aquarium water is reacted in a column of air bubbles, the waste sticks in the foam, and the foam collected. Foam is what is produced when one passes a gas through a liquid that contains high levels of surfactants."



The author discusses several different skimmer designs and how skimmer works.

Read the full article at <http://reefkeeping.com/issues/2002-06/fm/feature/index.php>

The Marine Aquarists Society of WA 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.

MASWA Sponsors....

MASWA now has ten commercial sponsors! MASWA sponsors receive an advertisement (for monthly specials, etc) and a banner in the newsletter each month. 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 are interested in becoming a MASWA Sponsor, please contact Taff Dalling (Social Coordinator) or email: maswa@masa.asn.au



Fremantle Ocean Farm generously donate one free water change to all new members who join MASWA, and 2 free water changes vouchers for the raffles



Aquatic Rocks has kindly donated a door prize for the MASWA meetings

Aquatic Rocks products available from:

Midland Pet Aquarium Center - 205 Great Eastern Hwy Midland

Aquaria Australia Warehouse - www.aquaria.com.au

Perth Aquarium & Display Centre - www.perthaquarium.com.au
1234 Albany Hwy, Cannington

Pisces: Unit 3/11 Augusta St, Willetton



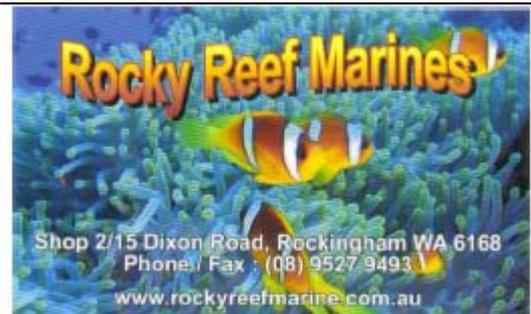
Oceanarium has generously donated corals for Frag Fests, Demonstrations and Raffles

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

W www.oceanarium.com.au **Ph** 0427 941 126

E Fish@oceanarium.com.au **Fax** (08) 9305 9891

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.



E info@rockyreefmarine.com.au

Rocky Reef Marine has generously donated gift vouchers and products for the MASWA raffles. Come and see Martin and Marc and show your MASWA member card for a 10% discount.

Suppliers of quality net caught fish from Vanuatu and the Islands. Also a Large selection of corals and inverts.



Veba's generously donates prizes for the MASWA raffles

A Cnr Carrington & Forsyth St, O'Connor WA 6163

W www.vebas.com.au **Ph** (08) 9314 7630

E vebas@vebas.com.au

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



Aqua FarmZ has generously donated raffle prizes. Aqua FarmZ supplies high end quality equipment such as BubbleKing and ZeoVit.

Sponsors continued below...

1234 Albany Highway
Cannington WA 6107



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

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

W www.perthaquarium.com.au

TUCUNARE AQUATIC SERVICES

"Our only boundaries are your imagination"



Tucunare Aquatic Services generously donate gift vouchers for the MASWA raffles, and give MASWA members a 10% discount on dry goods.

W www.tucunareaquatics.com, E steve@tucunareaquatics.com, Ph / Fax 08 9594 1787, Mob 0402 496 146



Manta Marine generously donate gift vouchers for the MASWA raffles.

A 2 Carson Rd, Malaga WA 6090

E mantamarineaquarium@bigpond.com Ph (08) 9249 4668

Aquarium Artists Australia



Aquarium Artists Australia generously donate gift vouchers for the MASWA raffles.

A 2 / 712 Ranford Rd, Southern River WA 6110

E marinewest@iinet.net.au Ph (08) 9490 9900

Eye Candy....

RTAW Tank of the Month – February 2008, Caevan Sachinwalla aka caevan



Check out <http://www.masa.asn.au/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?t=188654> for the full write up and more pics.

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.