

MASWA Newsletter

(June 2001)

ATTENTION: This months MASWA meeting is on Wednesday, 27th June. Check your calendar, because it could be the day you receive this!!!

By David "Speckles" Bloch

This Month's Meeting

This months meeting is to be held at David Bloch's house (my place!). David has had quite a few meetings at his house and it should be interesting to see how his tank has progressed since we last saw it. The last time we had a meeting at David's place his tank had a mixture of different species of both hard and soft corals. The tank is now almost entirely populated by SPS (small polyped sclentarians) eg Acropora sp. and Pocilopora sp. corals so anyone who is interested in trying to keep these types of corals is urged to come along. The address for the meeting is **15 Ramsay Close Noranda** and will begin at **7.30pm**.

Last Month's Meeting

Last month's meeting was at the residence of Frank and Ben Krause in Padbury. Both Frank's and Ben's tanks were looking great as usual. To our total surprise we were able to find a few small patches of algae in Frank's tank. This is very unusual as at previous meetings his tank has been so clean that we were almost sure he had taken everything out and scrubbed and chlorinated it all before putting it back in again before the meeting!

Frank's tank is a 4ft X 2 ½ft X 2ft and is setup as a Berlin/live sand system. He has a DIY downdraft type skimmer on it that is situated in the sump. The tank has two water returns and a couple of powerheads for water circulation. The lighting used over this tank is two Actinic and two 150W 10000K Metal Halide lamps. Living in this tank are a few corals and the healthiest looking bubble-tipped anemones I have ever seen. They are rapidly taking over his tank and as a result many of the corals have been stung by them. Frank's plan is to move all the anemones and clownfish to Ben's tank and move all of Ben's corals to his tank.

Ben's tank is a 3ft X 2ft X 2ft and like Frank's tank is setup as a Berlin/live sand system. Ben has an air operated protein skimmer situated in the sump. The lighting used over this tank is a 150W 5200K Metal halide lamp and Actinic lighting. The Metal halide lighting over this tank has a lower colour temperature than the lighting over his Frank's tank. This results in Ben's tank having a much more yellow appearance than his fathers tank. Ben has quite a few species of corals in his tank and all look like they are doing quite well. He also has the biggest Coral Beauty Angelfish I have ever seen!

Formation of a MASWA Committee – IMPORTANT! Please Read.

MASWA has come along way since its inception. We now have a good group of knowledgeable and respected members. The time has now come for our society to formalise its structure and vote in a proper committee so that we can better serve you, our members, and be seen as a professional association by our peers. This is also a very important step to secure the future running of our society. Currently Nathan and myself do all the organisation and running of the club and desperately need help to keep it going as we both have other things that also take up our time and feel that we are not doing the best job that we can because of this. With more human resources we will be able to do a lot more for the society and the marine hobby in general.

Another important reason for us making this decision is the recent worrying news of the potential closure of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park to aquarium collecting and also the article that was published in the West Australian on collection of coral at the Blow Holes (Quobba Lagoon). In order for us as a Marine Aquarium Society to comment and make recommendations to the appropriate government departments we need to be better organised and to be seen as a professional body. I will be talking about these two news items later in the newsletter.

We have proposed the following committee comprising of a President (runs the meetings and makes all the final decisions – the executive), Vice President (takes over if president is unable to attend or resigns), Treasurer (handles all the money matters), Secretary (handles all correspondence and records minutes from meetings), Editor (writes our newsletter), Social Coordinator (meets and greets members and guests and organises food and drinks) and General Committee Members (assist with various tasks). As to the role of each committee position – they do have formal roles (as you can see) but its really up to us as to what each members wants to take on. In the event that all the positions are not filled we will amalgamate some positions if required. This formalisation of our structure will be an ongoing process and eventually culminate in MASWA being recognised as an official marine aquarium society.

The nominations and voting in of the committee positions will occur at our next upcoming meeting. Please don't be scared off by this process. Being on the committee is not a death sentence ☺. There is not a huge workload to do – we just need a few people so that what we do now can be spread out which will enable us to do more and be better organised.

NEWSFLASH – Potential Threat to our Hobby

A few weeks ago the federal minister for the environment made a statement regarding the closure of aquarium collection in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. This is not good news as it would cripple the whole aquarium collecting industry and all its associated industries in Queensland. It will also mean that all fish and corals that are currently sourced from the GBR will have to come from elsewhere. So where is elsewhere you may ask? Elsewhere for fish may be overseas (Philippines and Indonesia) and possibly NT and WA and for live rock and live sand NT and WA. Currently the majority of all the marine life that we see in the aquarium shops is from the GBR. So if this proposal to close the fishery goes ahead we may well see prices rise and variety and quality fall!

In the paper last week there was an article on the small coral lagoon at the Blowholes or Quobba as most of us know it. The article took a very one sided view on the goings on of the last year or so with regard to certain well organised individuals collecting large amounts of coral and destroying the reef. The article stated that large amounts of coral were being collected and broken off with bars and hammers and small fish were being collected! This whole argument was brought to attention by the locals who have shacks up there and proclaim ownership over the area and are very passionate about anything that happens to their patch of reef. This situation was made worse by the total ignorance and lack of understanding of the current legislation by both the Quobba locals and the fisheries officers up there.

MASWA as a group will be writing a formal submission to the newspaper and the minister in regard to this article and the statement regarding the closure of aquarium collection in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. We will be discussing this issue at the next meeting.

<p>Upcoming Meetings</p> <p>June 27th: David Bloch 15 Ramsay Close, Noranda</p> <p>July 25th: Wayne Mothershaw</p> <p>August 29th: Darren Collins</p> <p>September 26th : ?</p> <p>October 31st : ?</p> <p>November 28th : AQWA??????????</p> <p>December 19th : Nathan Cope</p> <p>MASWA's World Wide Web address The website is temporarily offline.</p> <p>Newsletter and General Inquiries to Nathan Cope E-mail address: copen@one.net.au or phone on (08) 9367 9251 a/h or 0416 09 2000 b/h</p> <p>Membership and Treasury Inquiries to David Bloch E-mail address: aquatech@opera.iinet.net.au or phone on (08) 9375 2438 a/h</p> <p>MASWA Membership Currently MASWA requests an annual \$22 donation from adult members, \$11 from Junior members. This covers the cost of newsletters, drinks, nibbles and other costs associated with the society. Members will receive information sheets and discounts on some products.</p>	<p>Friends in Common Jan Anderson, Lissa Beaufond, David Bloch, Darren & Raquel Collins, Nathan Cope, Andy Dolphin, Tony Fiorentino, Paul Groves, Sid Harrison, Robert Harwood, Simon Hawke, Frank & Ben Krause, David Lee, Grant Magill, Phil & Caron Melvin, Wayne Mothershaw, John Ryan, Phil Searle, Ronald Tan, Paul Tayler, Greg Weryk.</p> <p>If you've paid your money and your name is not on this list, tell David! Members on the web should check they are on the web site members list.</p> <p><i>If there is anything you would like to know more about or anything you would like to add to the newsletter, call or send comments to the current editor, Nathan Cope. Remember, this is your newsletter.</i></p> <p>DISCLAIMER 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.</p>
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