



June 2002

ATTENTION

This month's **MASWA** meeting is on **Wednesday, 26th June 2002**. Check your calendar, because it could be the day you receive this!!!

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

This month the venue for our meeting is the house of Tom Devillee. This will be the second meeting at Tom's house. Tom is one of the most experienced fish breeders in MASWA with a list of breeding achievements that is most impressive. Tom has a main display aquarium and a room full of tanks containing prospective breeders and various stages of larval and or juvenile fish. If we are lucky Tom will have a new batch of clownfish eggs ready to hatch.

If you have any interest in breeding fish this is the meeting not to miss. Tom is only too happy to answer any questions you may have. This meeting will also be the beginning of a series of talks led by members of our society. Our first talk will be led by Tony "old fart" Fiorentino and will be titled why some people have better success than others.

The meeting commences from **7.30pm** and the address is **55 Wanneroo Rd, Greenwood**. Parking will be a problem so carpool if u can and if not be prepared to park and walk!



LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Last month's meeting was held at Paul Groves house. Before I describe Paul's tank, I must apologise to any new members who may have found the May meeting a bit boring (no, it had nothing to do with being at Paul's place ☺). We were unable to hold a committee meeting in April, so it was important that the May committee meeting go ahead. Consequently, we had to fit two month's worth of issues in the one meeting and that meant that quite a few MASWA members weren't available early on in the night to chat with the newer people.

Anyway, on to Paul's aquarium... it has only been set up for a relatively short amount of time, but it looked fantastic. The tank is 3 X 3 X 2 ½ and is currently lit by one 250W metal halide. The tank had a very interesting and natural looking overhang/cave aquascaping. It was great to see something different... I certainly haven't seen anything like it in any other MASWA member's tank. Apart from the unique look of the tank, the rest of the system is one of the very reliable Berlin filtration schemes (live rock, live sand and a protein skimmer) that most of us use these days and as expected, everything looked quite healthy. There was even a bubbletip anemone looking very much at home.



MASWA NEWS

- **Escape from the cold with Tony and head north!!**

It's starting to get cold, wet and miserable outside. What better a time than it is to head up north for a bit of a reefy exploration. Our social coordinator, Tony Fiorentino is interested in heading north to the shores of Carnarvan sometime soon. If you are interested in joining the trip then please email Tony on fioren@inet.net.au or call him on 0412467519.

- **List of SCUBA Divers**

A request from science officer Paul (Pedo) Groves has been made to make a list of MASWA SCUBA divers. The purpose of this list is so that anyone interested in doing a dive can call a few other divers if they wanna organise a dive or just to find a dive buddy. If you are interested please call Paul on 0421803288 or email him on paul@nw.com.au.



REEFING THE AUSTRALIAN WAY (RTAW) PART II

Nathan Cope

Last month, I explained to everybody the benefits of RTAW and how to join up. Hopefully you've all had a chance to join now, so this month I'm going to tell you what all the different forums within RTAW are for and how to go about performing searches within RTAW.

The RTAW Forums

RTAW is all about sharing information and creating a national sense of community for Australian marine hobbyists. To facilitate this, RTAW is split up in to several different forums. This helps make it easier to search for information that has already been posted on any particular topic as well saving you time by allowing you to read new posts all grouped around a common theme rather than having to wade through randomly grouped topics.

The General Forums

- **General Discussion**

This is the forum most commonly used for questions and answers about the hobby. If you have a question or are just interested in finding out what people are thinking about in regards to the latest developments in the hobby, this is the place to go. People answering questions on RTAW are usually very generous with their time but they often see the same question asked over and over again. So if you are thinking about asking a question it's always useful to check **The Archives** forums and/or do an RTAW search (see below for how to do one) beforehand to see if something similar has come up before.

- **Livestock Information**

This forum is an active archive of information on animals that RTAW members have kept. Each topic is about a specific animal (for example, Mandarin Fish) or group of animals (eg, Surgeon Fish) and each post in the topic is information from RTAW members who have kept that particular animal or a specimen within the group of animals. It is a great way to find out how each of these animals fares in a tank, the best conditions for them and things to watch out for. To view all the entries in this forum, you will have to click on the "Show topics from..." box up in the top right corner of the screen, select "Show all topics" and then click on "Go".

- **Equipment and Livestock Trading**

The heading pretty much says it all. People trade and sell all sorts of things from livestock to dry goods right around the country. The only restriction is that businesses are not allowed to make posts here about items they are selling.

- **Questions, Comments and Suggestions**

This forum is just so that you can ask questions about how to use RTAW, and make relevant comments or suggestions about RTAW.

- **Low Tide**

This forum is for anything NOT related to the hobby. Here, people post jokes, announce the birth of their children, talk about their favourite car, what's going on in the world of sports, etc, etc.

The Australian Marine Aquarium Society Forums

There is a separate forum for each state. To enter a state forum, you must be a member of that state's marine aquarium society. These forums have been set up to allow members of the various Australian hobby societies to be able to chat easily as a group between formal meetings.

There is also a **MASA Webteam Forum** which everyone has access to. It's purpose is to group all discussions about the ongoing development of the MASA web site.

The Archives

Old posts within the RTAW General Forums that covered a topic in detail or provided very good information are moved to the archive forums usually 90 days after they were posted. So if you want to do a bit of reading on some good topics, drop in here. This is also a good place to check for an answer before posting a question. There are several categories:

- **General Reef Keeping**

Things that are generally to do with the reef keeping hobby or don't fit into the other categories.

- **Fish Information**

What are suitable fish, how to care for them, disease treatment etc.

- **Coral Information**

Identification, care and propagation of corals.

- **Invertebrate Information**

Suitable, care for and general information on invertebrates. This includes shrimps, urchins, cucumbers, crabs and so on.

- **Equipment**

Probably the most discussed topics are the various equipment used to operate a reef tank. Includes the big one - lighting.

- **Do-It-Yourself**

If you are looking to build some things yourself, then you may find details and hints here.

- **Water Chemistry**

Don't understand water chemistry in a reef tank? You will find threads here that will help explain it.

- **Beginners Information**

For those just starting out. Covers all the basic topics in details, and provides the important information that a beginner needs to know.

RTAW Searches

Searches are one of the most powerful features of RTAW. You can easily find information anywhere in RTAW very quickly by just entering a couple of key words.

To perform a search, just click on "search" up at the top right-hand corner of the screen (under the title, "Reefing the Australian Way"). You will be taken to a screen that has 5 fields that can be filled. First, enter the words you are looking for in the top field (eg, "best protein skimmer"). Below this field, two "radio buttons" give you the option of looking for posts where **at least one** of the words were used or only finding posts where **all** those words were used.

Next, you choose which forum you would like to search in. You can search in all the forums by selecting "Search All Open Forums", but it does take a long time to do it this way. In just about every situation, you probably know which forum you want to search in, so just pick the appropriate one.

The three remaining fields are used less often and can be just left set at their defaults:

"**Search In**" you may as well leave as is, because it is probably rare that you only want to search just the subject line of a post.

"**Search By Date**" can be useful, but I usually find it too restrictive, so I just leave it set at the default.

"**Search By Registered Member Number**" is very useful for narrowing down the number of posts returned by your search, but you have to know the member number of the person you are looking for. The member number is displayed under the name of every person who has made a post, but you have to find a post by the person you are searching for first, in order to get their number so you can search for them – a bit of a Catch 22, but it is useful for cross-referencing.

Well, that's it for this month. Next month, I will be showing you how to go about making a post, inserting graphics in your posts, adding "smilies" and special ways to format your text (that we take for granted with word processors).



Reefy Hints and Tips

Have you ever wondered how to make an awesome looking live rock reef in your aquarium? Overhangs, caves and reef pinnacles that seem to defy gravity are in the reach of anyone who has the time and patients and a few little secrets! Ways to keep you rocks in place where you want them include using two-pack epoxy putties, PVC pipe and cable ties and insertion of stainless rods. A few holes drilled in the rocks with a masonry bit and you are halfway there. Good luck.

FISHY LINKS & NEWS

- **Empty Oceans, Empty Nets**

"Our oceans are rapidly being depleted of fish and, in fact, entire populations of fish are becoming commercially extinct," says Steve Cowan, the documentary's executive producer and director. "We travelled from Indonesia to Boston to the coast of Spain, filming fisheries in decline and interviewing fishermen and scientists, who told us that scores of fish populations are on the verge of collapse." The program looks at a variety of contributing factors, including overfishing, bycatch, destructive fishing practices, and a globalised world fish market.

"Destructive fishing practices share the blame for declining fish stocks," Cowan says. "In addition to the 100 million tons of seafood brought to the market each year, fishers also catch and discard about 22 million tons of fish and other sea life."

- **New Atlas Looks at World Ocean**

A new coffee-table publication brings together a half-century of international collaborative research into the mapping of the ocean. Conducted under the aegis of the International Hydrographic Organization in Monaco and the International Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations, and compiled by the Canadian Hydrographic Service, the General Bathymetric Chart of the Ocean documents the depth of the world's ocean basins at all of their levels and gradations. These maps and charts are among the material assembled in the new World Atlas of the Oceans.

In addition to detailed charts of the world's oceans and seas, the Atlas also has essays on ocean formation and exploration, and includes double-page spreads on a wide variety of marine topics, from giant squids and cetaceans to red tides, tidal zones, and "black smokers." It also includes satellite images of the ocean and selected coastlines; previously unpublished charts of several sea regions; and information on currents, trade winds, mineral resources, major shipping routes, shallows, and straits.

Source: World Atlas of the Oceans. Toronto: Key Porter Books, 264pp.

- **Study: Millions of Gallons of Oil Run Off to Seas**

Twenty-nine million gallons of petroleum enters the oceans off North America each year, shows a new study by the National Research Council. The report finds that about 85 percent of that pollution can be blamed not on massive oil spills, but on the lesser amounts released by airplanes, cars, boats, and even personal watercraft vehicles, swept into polluted rivers and from the largest culprits: recreational boats and runoff from the land. New studies show that although less petroleum is released into global waters than previously thought, the environmental effects of a major oil spill are longer lasting than once thought and that even small amounts of petroleum can seriously damage marine life and ecosystems. According to the report, about 210 million gallons of petroleum enter the sea each year from human caused petroleum sources, with an additional 180 million gallons coming from natural seepage worldwide. For the full story, see: <http://ens-news.com/ens/may2002/2002-05-27-02.asp>



Upcoming Meetings

June 2002 Tom Devillee

July 2002 ?

August ?

September ?

October ?

November ?

MASWA's World Wide Web address

The web address:

<http://auscyber.net/maswa/>

General Inquiries

To Nathan Cope

E-mail address: nathan@ingeniousresources.com.au

Phone: (08) 9367 9251 a/h or 0416 092 000 b/h

Membership and Newsletter Inquiries

To David Bloch

E-mail address: aquatech@iinet.net.au

Phone: (08) 9375 2438 a/h or 0412 079 886 b/h

Treasury Inquiries

To Paul Tayler

E-mail address: pmtayler@p085.aone.net.au

Phone on (08) 9381 7827 a/h or 0419 908 264 b/h

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.

Members List

Warren and Valaria Schmitt, *Terry and Valerie Peake*, Tom Devillee, *Jan Anderson, Craig and Lissa Beaufond, David Bloch, Jason Booth and Jane Thom*, Darren & Raqual Collins, *Nathan Cope, Andy Dolphin, Tony Fiorentino, Paul Groves, Sid Harrison, Robert Harwood, Simon Hawke and Rose, Frank & Ben Krause, Grant Magill, Wayne Mothershaw, Phil Searle, Paul Tayler, Steve Tofts, Ronald Tan, Greg Weryk, David Lee, Glenn Fletcher, Keith Walters, Mal and Steve Hearne, Ross Hernander, T & I Royce, R D Davis*

If you are a member and your name is not on the members list please tell the editor David Bloch as soon as possible. Names in italics indicate that the member receives an E-Newsletter (emailed newsletter).

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 editor, David Bloch. Remember, this is your newsletter. Additions to the newsletter need to be received by the editor no later than one week prior to the next meeting.