



September 2002

ATTENTION

This month's **MASWA** meeting is on **Wednesday, 25th**
September 2002

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

Finally for all you southerners you will be having a meeting that's down your neck of the woods, in Bibra Lake! This month our MASWA meeting will be hosted by Jan Anderson. Jan is an experienced marine aquarist who brought his love of marine aquariums with him all the way from Denmark.

Jan's aquarium has a large bay window and from front to back is around a metre in width. He has recently been working on changing the rockwork to create a gully type appearance to his tank. His efforts have been so thorough that he even knocked out a section of wall behind his tank and painted the opposite wall blue so that it gives the appearance of depth and endlessness to the gully when viewed from the front.

Coming from Europe where the marine aquarium hobby is more developed than here in Australia, Jan brought with him an awesome controller that can do almost anything! Unfortunately it doesn't stop fish fighting or jumping out of the aquarium!

This month we will also be having a discussion on the draft of the recreational coral collection discussion paper. You should receive this along with your newsletter so please have a read prior to the meeting.

The meeting commences from **7.30pm**



LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Once again Tony out did himself with the outstanding quality of his aquarium and most importantly the fantastic quality and level of deliciousness of his coffee! As usual the aquarium was almost spotless and all the corals and fish were extremely healthy. The corals in fact were some of the healthiest captive specimens I have ever seen. The level of polyp expansion was absolutely enormous in some of them!

It wouldn't be a "Tony" meeting if we didn't get the usual theory of why his aquarium is successful. Tony did not disappoint us and tried his hardest to get through to us the importance of not fiddling too much and just leaving the tank alone! Interestingly though after listening to Tony I was amazed to hear that he has been purchasing new test kits and testing his water! I guess it's never too late to change and go back to doing things you haven't done for ages (did I mention how old Tony was? Senility perhaps?!)

On the meeting side of things we had a large turnout and it was great to see the guys from Bunbury drive up especially for the meeting.



MASWA Message Board

- **Draft Coral Collection Discussion Paper**

This month along with the newsletter we will all be receiving a copy of the draft coral collection discussion paper. Eve Bunbury from Fisheries WA has been working on this for some time and she has made this paper available to our members so that we can look over it and make some constructive criticism. Please be sure to read this draft discussion paper prior to the meeting as we will be having a discussion about it.

- **Save the planet and all that good stuff – Car Pooling for U?**

Trying to do the right thing by our lovely planet, Earth, I am going to be attempting to put together a car-pooling initiative for upcoming meetings. If anyone is interested please email me and I will put you in contact with people in your area aquatech@iinet.net.au.

- **List of SCUBA Divers, please?**

It's starting to warm up so all you lazy divers out there have no excuse anymore! Contact Science Officer Paul Groves and add yourself to the MASWA divers list. The purpose of this list is so that anyone interested in doing a dive can call a few other divers if they want to 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.

- **Corals, rock, and goodies for sale**

David Bloch will be selling some excess bits and pieces from his old aquarium over the next few weeks. There will be 2X 400W MH and 1X 150W MH units, 4ft X 2 ½ft X 2ft aquarium, pine cabinet, light hood and sump to suit, a few aquaclear 402 and 802 powerheads and live rock and a few bits of coral. If you are interested please grab him at the upcoming meeting.

- **Soft Coral Propagation Next Month!**

Coming up next month our own *Coralimorph* farmer, Grant, will be showing us the nuts and bolts of propagating our soft corals. If you have any softies sitting around in your tank or sump and would like to donate them to the cause please bring them along to the next few meetings for Grant.

- **Live Sand please?**

Live sand = good raffle prize! The concept of swapping and adding different sources of live sand is a very good one and MASWA would encourage this sort of exchange to take place. If you have a few spare minutes, a fish bag and a handful of sand why not bring it along for the raffle!

- **Comet's for Sale**

Nathan received a call from a lady named Jessica who has 3 x Comets for sale @ \$100 each. These particular specimens are quite bold and don't hide very much. If you are interested please give her a call on 9354 7169.



FISHY LINKS & NEWS

- **ADVANCED AQUARIST - ONLINE MAGAZINE**

If you are looking for a **FREE** source of interesting and up to date marine aquarium information written by acclaimed authors then look no further than the Advanced Aquarist. The address for this online magazine is: <http://www.advancedaquarist.com/>

- **THE ULTIMATE 3D AQUARIUM SCREENSAVER!**

Are you so obsessed with aquariums that you want your computer to resemble one as well? If so you are in luck because there is a realistic reef aquarium screensaver complete with fish available for your computer: <http://www.fish-byte.com/>

- **GREAT BARRIER REEF IN JEOPARDY FROM WARMING SEA**

When sea temperatures around the famed Australian landmark hit record highs early this year, 60 percent of the coral on the reef suffered from heat-related bleaching, according to marine scientists. Warm water temperatures caused the algae that live on the reef to leave, disrupting the symbiotic relationship between coral and algae and sometimes resulting in the death of the coral. Janice Lough of the Australian Institute of Marine Science pointed to global warming as a possible cause of the bleaching. Meanwhile, the reef is facing another threat: shipping accidents. In November 2000, a 21,000-ton freighter loaded with fuel and other hazardous cargo ran aground on part of the reef; three coral areas had to be destroyed to free it. Now the Australian government is planning to implement 41 measures to protect the reef from shipping disasters, including using local pilots in the more difficult passages. Such measures could go a long way toward protecting the reef, but, as Lough said, "Reef managers can do all they can to reduce all the other threats to coral reefs, but they can't solve individually the global problem [of climate change]." For the full story, see:

http://www.gristmagazine.com/forward.pl?forward_id=300

- **PHYTOPLANKTON POPULATIONS ON THE DECLINE**

Since the early 1980s, ocean phytoplankton concentrations that drive the marine food chain have declined in many areas of open water in northern oceans, a new study shows. For the full story, see:

<http://ens-news.com/ens/aug2002/2002-08-09-09.asp#anchor5>



Reefy Hints and Tips

Does the overflow in your aquarium make those annoying slurping sucking noises? If you answered no to this question then you are lucky! If you answered yes then don't worry, you are not alone! There are a few tricks you can use to reduce or even stop this noise. To understand how to fix the problem we need to know what causes it. The cause of the noise is air being drawn down with the water down through the overflow hole and into the pipe. If you can stop the air, you fix the problem. So how do you fix the problem you ask? Two ways that can work are: 1) observe the water level in the overflow hole and block it partially from the top down to just below the water level with a piece of plastic or rubber. This will stop the air being sucked in at the surface; 2) where your overflow pipe enters the sump put a valve and close it off a small amount to increase the back pressure to point where air is no longer drawn down with the water. It's as simple as that!



Upcoming Meetings

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|------------------|-------------------------|
| September | Jan Anderson |
| October | <i>Grant Magill</i> |
| November | <i>Wayne Mothershaw</i> |
| December | <i>Nathan Cope</i> |
| Jan 2003 | ? |
| Feb 2003 | ? |

MASWA's World Wide Web address

The web address:
<http://www.auscyaer.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 Devilee, *Jan Anderson, Craig and Lissa Beaufond, David Bloch, Royce Bond, Jason Booth and Jane Thom*, Darren & Raqual Collins, *Nathan Cope, Andy Dolphin, Tony Fiorentino, Drew Gately, Paul Groves, Sid Harrison, Robert Harwood*, Simon Hawke and Rose, Frank & Ben Krause, Grant Magill, *Wayne Mothershaw, Victor O'Driscoll*, Phil Searle, *Mark Shewell, Paul Tayler, Steve Tofts, Ronald Tan, Greg Weryk*, David Lee, Glenn Fletcher, *Keith Walters, Mal and Steve Hearne*, Ross Hernandez, *Trish & Izzy, Ray Davis, Chris Kolzan*

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.