



The Living Reef

June 2003

Editorial....

Owning a large aquarium is a dream many have however the reality is not without its own unique problems. Large aquariums hold large amounts of water as well as large quantities of rock, sand, corals and fish. Last week our MASWA President Nathan learnt first hand how hard it can be. His large tank had one of the angled corner seams spring a leak. He had to drain his tank and remove all the rock, coral and fish and place them in heated tubs while he fixed the leak. If he had had a small tank this would not have been such a chore however his tank was large enough to be a nightmare! So next time you dream of the tank big enough to swim in remember that if it leaked you might be swimming in your lounge room!!

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Upcoming Monthly Meetings....

June 25th – Paul Taylor
333A Railway Road, Shenton Park

July 30th – ?

August 27th – Jan Anderson

September 24th – ?

October 29th – ?

November 30th – Glenn Fletcher

December 17th – Nathan Cope

Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm!

MASWA Contact Information....

Committee

President – General Enquiries

Nathan Cope - 0416 092 000

nathan@ingeniousresources.com.au

Vice President

Currently Vacant

Treasurer – Treasury/Payment Enquiries

Paul Tayler - 0419 908 264

paul@pmtco.com.au

Secretary

Currently Vacant

Newsletter Editor – Newsletter Submissions and Membership Enquiries

David Bloch – 0411 066 095

fishnut@optusnet.com.au

Web Editor – Web Page Enquiries

Jason Booth - 0416 056 380

jason@habber.net

Social Coordinator – Meeting Venue Availability and Enquiries

Tony Fiorentino - 0412 467 519

fioren@iinet.net.au

Science Officer – Literature Research and Scientific Information

Paul Groves – 0421 803 288

paul@nw.com.au

Web Address

www.auscyber.net/maswa/

Membership Payments

Make cheques payable to:

Paul Taylor (MASWA Treasurer)

PO Box 7185

Shenton Park WA 6008

Newsletter Contributions

If you would like to make a contribution to the newsletter please don't hesitate to contact the Newsletter Editor, David Bloch on the phone number or email address listed above. Contributions to the newsletter need to be received no later than 7 days prior to the next meeting date. Don't be shy – I don't care if you can't spell or use a computer. Hand written transcripts are fine!

AQUARIUM ANTICS

Reef aquariums tend to bring out the worst behaviour in certain animals. An example of this is the poor innocent little crab who comes in on a piece of live rock. He is hungry so munches on some algae. Before long there isn't any algae left anymore so to ward off starvation he decides to try some coral. Unfortunately for him he picks your favourite purple staghorn coral. By morning $\frac{1}{2}$ of your staghorn coral has been eaten and sitting on the "fleshless" patch is the poor little crab. As you reach for your crab killing spike the little bugger scurries away to safety! So how do I get him out now I hear you ask? The answer is a cheap and simple crab trap! Obtain a clean glass jar (tall jars are better) and put a piece of food (any seafood) in it. Just after the lights have gone out place the jar in the tank making sure that it is lying at an angle against a rock. Any crabs that are attracted to the food and get into the jar will be unable to escape as the walls are too smooth! Happy hunting!!!

May Meeting Rundown....

From one side of Perth to the other, it was a long but worthwhile drive to see and hear about the Ezy-Reef aquarium system developed by Phil Dor.

Phil did a great job at showing and explaining the methodology of his aquarium keeping system to us. His new take on the old and often neglected undergravel filter was very interesting and breathed a breath of fresh air into this simple and reliable filter.

The jewel of the show was the overflow silencer designed by Phil. Its pure simplicity and

effectiveness was looked upon with astonishment by all who saw it.

Residing in Phil's aquarium were some very beautiful coralimorphs that he intends on breeding. They have a texture different to any I have seen before with a good mix of colours. Some of the other corals in the aquariums were looking a bit under the weather as they had recently arrived from over east and were suffering from a little salinity shock!

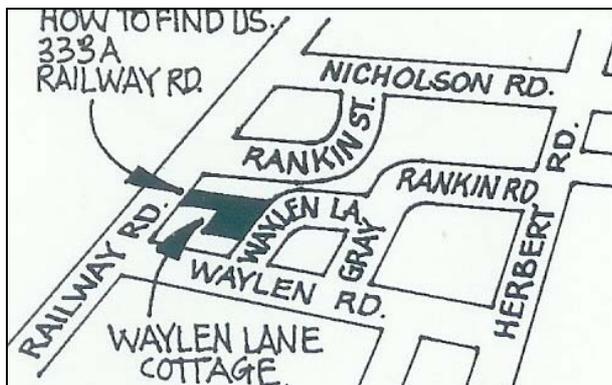
Phil has graciously offered all MASWA members his ezy-clean aquarium bases at wholesale price till the end of the year. The 62cm base can be purchased for \$49 and the 123cm base for \$149. Also from July onwards Phil will be hosting every Saturday afternoon free "classes" for assembling the ezy-reef components like the protein skimmer, jaubert sump, calcium reactor and of course the ezy-reef main tank. Interested parties can contact Phil on:
9399 2407 or email pdor@bigpond.net.au.

June Meeting Information....

After a long absence from hosting a meeting, our MASWA Treasurer Paul Tayler will be showing off his new aquarium. Being a "bean counter" it should be interesting to see how tight a budget Paul was able to maintain on his new setup.

The new tank is 1800mm long, 750mm wide and 700mm tall. It is setup along the lines of a Berlin system with live sand, live rock and protein skimming. An extra addition to this setup is a mangrove tank that is connected to the main display.

Paul's home is very difficult to find as it can only be accessed from Waylen Lane, not the actual street address. Please look at the map below and if you get lost just call Paul on 0419 908 264.



The address of the meeting is **333A Railway Road, Shenton Park**. The meeting starts at 7.30pm sharp.

MASWA Message Board....

Meeting Venues WANTED!

If you would like to host a meeting, whether it is to show off your setup, or get a bunch of heads together to solve your problems, WE WANT YOU! Don't worry if your tank is only just beginning or you have an algae bloom, we have seen it all before and can help you if you need it. Please speak to any of the committee members if you would like to volunteer your home to us!!!! There are currently vacancies for meetings from June to November. Don't be scared, we don't bite (except maybe Tony!).

Live Sand Again, Please....

We would like to request that anyone who has a healthy established live sand bed to bring along a small cup full of sand to either donate to the raffle or give to the meeting holder for their tank. You cannot ever get enough life in your sand! The greater the diversity of micro-organisms in your sand bed the more successful your aquarium will be – it's that simple.

Raffle Prizes Please....

If you have any spare aquarium products, coral fragments, live rock or sand or anything worthy for donation to the raffle please bring them along to the next meeting.

Fishy Links and News....

HUGE NEW CORAL REEF DISCOVERED

Scientists in Australia have stumbled on an uncharted coral reef the size of Jersey in Queensland's Gulf of Carpentaria. At 120 sq km, it covers a larger area than all the reefs of Barbados put together.

"We were absolutely stunned when we lowered a video camera down there and saw living hard corals," said Peter Harris, who led the Geoscience Australia expedition. "We had thought it was just a relic from lower sea levels."

The reef has probably escaped notice until now because most of it is more than 20m below the surface and because of its remoteness. The nearest big settlement is the town of Karumba 250km to the south-east.

The reef is likely to have formed 40,000-80,000 years ago, when sea levels were 30m lower than at present. The fresh coral spotted by the expedition may be much more recent, growing up within the past 1,000 years.

The discovery of hard coral in the area comes as a complete surprise. Conventional scientific wisdom says that no reefs can exist in Australia's warm, muddy coastal waters west of the Great Barrier Reef's northern limits in the Torres Strait.

It has always been thought that the gulf was too clogged with sediment for reefs to grow, and the Geoscience Australia expedition had originally set out to investigate the movements of sediment in its waters.

"I'm very curious to see if this sort of thing is not more widespread in the area," Mr Harris said.

The Guardian: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>

SAVE NINGALOO REEF, BY TIM WINTON

I'm writing to ask you to take immediate action to protect Ningaloo Reef. The government's decision on the proposal to build a massive marina resort is now only weeks away and we urgently need your help. The campaign has reached its most critical phase.

As you know we are fighting to save a fragile wilderness, a magnificent coral reef on the west coast of Australia. The marina resort will tear the guts out of this special place and send hundreds of speeding boats into the path of dugongs, whale sharks, endangered turtles, manta rays and humpback whales.

We've come so far in this struggle. 15,000 people marched last summer. More than 100,000 people have voiced their concern with bumper stickers and letters to the Premier. There's no doubt what the mood of the people is. But the developer is tenacious and well-resourced. With relentless PR and spin they're working hard to undermine this community campaign.

The only thing keeping this disaster at bay is people power. No amount of money can buy that kind of passion. But together we must keep the pressure up for this final phase.

Please revisit the Save Ningaloo website and remind the Premier of your feelings by sending him the new automated letter. Please use your local media to plead for the reef's very life. Please give what you can by way of a donation.

Together we are making a difference. Together we can finish this thing and save one of world's natural wonders.

Remember, we only have a few weeks.

Before the bulldozers arrive, write a letter. Before the dredges turn the sea into mud, make a donation. Before all those boats are unleashed on the turtle haven, ask the Premier to say no to the resort and save Ningaloo Reef.

Your children and their children will thank you. You will be part of a great legacy. You will have done something wonderful.

http://www.wilderness.org.au/HTML_bulletins/n_inaloo_alert_2003_06.html

Buy, Sell and Swap....

REEF AQUARIUM AND CABINET

122cm X 75cm X 61cm black silicon aquarium with 2X overflow and 2X inlet holes on pine cabinet. Includes all plumbing, powerheads, 50cm cube glass sump, downdraft protein skimmer (no pump), gravity feed water top up valve and hanging light hood (not including lights!). **\$800 ONO.**

Contact David on:

email: fishnut@optusnet.com.au

mobile: 0411 066 095

METAL HALIDE CONTROL GEAR

Metal halide control gear for 150 watt light. Control gear only - does not include lighting plug and cord or bulb holder and bulb. The asking price **\$75 ONO.**

Contact David on:

email: fishnut@optusnet.com.au

mobile: 0411 066 095

AQUARIUMS AND MISC. GEAR

Various aquariums ranging from 2ft to 5ft of. The 5ft aquarium is drilled. There are also powerheads, fluorescent lights and heaters. Make an offer for the lot or purchase separately.

Contact Andy on:

Email: conquest@inet.net.au

Phone: 9377 7362 (after hours or weekends).

XENIA SP. CORAL

Want to swap fragments of *Xenia sp.* for other coral/fish/hermit crabs etc. Grows like a weed!

Contact David on:

Email: fishnut@optusnet.com.au

mobile: 0411 066 095