



The Living Reef

June 2003

Editorial....

When MASWA was in its infancy, the largest aquarium in its membership would have been a 6 X 2 X 2 holding around 650 L. Most of the members did not have much luck with keeping corals but were very good at killing corals and growing algae!

Looking back it's amazing to see how much we have all progressed in the short time since this group started. We now have many large aquariums in the thousands of litres category and keeping and growing corals is something that the majority of members are able to do while killing corals and growing algae is something that few of us are now faced with.

Inside this Issue....

June Meeting Rundown	2
July Meeting Information	3
MASWA Message Board	3
Fishy Links and News	3
Buy, Sell and Swap	4

Upcoming Monthly Meetings....

July 30th – Nigel Clarke
61 Outlook Drive, Edgewater

August 27th – Jan Anderson

September 24th – ?

October 29th – ?

November 26th – 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

Have you ever had a fish that appears to be getting bullied or beaten up in your aquarium? Have you watched and watched and still not seen the culprit?

The reason for this is that when your fish see you, or anyone else for that matter, they associate this with being fed. When they are fed they stop what they are doing and change their behaviour. This link with you and food is an association that they learn. Many other animals, including dogs develop this sort of thing too. It's the same as how fish know that an aquarium net "bad"!

To truly know what is happening in your aquarium you either have to sit as far away from the tank as possible or setup your video camera and either record or connect it to a TV in another room. When you are not around your pets act very differently. You will be very surprised what goes on when you are not watching!

June Meeting Rundown....

Seeing Paul's aquarium setup made it worth the effort in trying to find his house! While normal people have a house address that is actually on the street Paul likes to make things difficult by having a house address that not on the street but in the laneway behind! Being a bean counter (accountant Ed.) this is probably the most exiting thing that ever happens to him – having to explain to people how to find his house!

Seriously though, Paul's new aquarium is well thought out and setup. He has incorporated some unique feature such as a mangrove

sump/refugeum complete with tides and doors to the rear of the aquarium that can be opened to help with ventilation and let some natural sunlight in. The lighting on the tank is achieved with 2X 400W 20000K Radium MH's and 2X 150W 5200K MH's, one over the tank and the other over the mangrove tank. The filtration system consists of live rock and sand and a red sea and turbofloater protein skimmer. The aquarium also has a calcium reactor and a water topup float valve.

Being only in its infancy, this aquarium is not yet stocked up to its full capacity with fish and corals however the animals that are currently residing in it all look very healthy. Some of the corals were exhibiting signs of sever "burning" due to the MH's being too close to the water. This was corrected as soon as the problem was noticed and all the corals that were damaged are now making good recoveries.

The meeting was well attended by members and as usual Paul's wife made sure everyone was kept happy with sandwiches, pies and sausage rolls for the eating.

July Meeting Information....

Continuing on with our trend of large tanks, this month we have a monster! Not only is this tank large but it is very different to what most members would have seen before. Nigel has used the extensive powers of his mind to create a tank will leave you breathless.

This meeting will be the first time that we have seen an aquarium that was built from materials other than all glass. Nigel has built his tank out of ply and fibreglass with a glass front. The tank is very large, measuring 3 metres long, 1.2 metres wide and 0.875 metres tall. The volume of the system (inc. sump) is 4000 litres of water. Illuminating Nigel's tank is a huge skylight as well as 4X 400 watt Radium 20000K metal halide lights and 4X TLD blue fluorescent lamps.

Inside the aquarium is a lovely assortment of corals and a few fish (not enough fish!!!! Ed.) all seamlessly put together to create a very realistic aquatic display.

If you are contemplating setting up a large aquarium of your own I urge you to come see Nigel's tank first. It will make you rethink your "glass box" aquarium ideas!

Nigel's aquarium can be found in his house! (sorry, its been a long day! Ed.) at **61 Outlook Drive** in Edgewater.

The meeting starts at 7.30pm sharp so be there on time or Tony the Social Coordinator will beat you up!

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!).

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....

GIANT SEA SPECIMEN SLICED FOR SCIENCE

Scientists around the globe were waiting to get their hands on samples from a giant sea specimen found on Chiles coast, but already some were discounting the possibility it could be the remains of a giant octopus.

http://www.msnbc.com/modules/exports/ct_email.asp?news/933992.asp

TEMPERATE TASMANIAN FISH

Collectors of temperate fish and invertebrates from the cold southern waters of Tasmania.

<http://www.aquaticbiodiversitygroup.com.au>

AQUATIC ECOSPHERES

Sealed saltwater microcosms harboring shrimp, algae and bacteria in a balanced, symbiotic environment. EcoSpheres require no feeding.

Our ecosystems demonstrate in a most simplistic way the interdependence of animal and plant life with Earth's most precious element - water. Our products have been called science projects, the world's lowest maintenance pets, closed

aquariums. They are in fact developments of space age technology initiated by NASA.

Our primary goal is education. We feel fortunate that we can expose all ages to an ecosystem that is decorative, entertaining, and educational. We are proud that our products are on exhibit world wide. Our customer client base transcends age, race, educational levels and geographic location. <http://www.eco-sphere.com/index.htm>

THE WORLDS FIRST "GLOW IN THE DARK" PET GM FISH

The Taikong Corporation took DNA from a jellyfish and inserted it into a zebra fish to make it shine a yellow-green colour.

GM animals are frequently used in labs and flocks of GM sheep make valuable proteins in their milk, but the "Night Pearl" zebra fish is the first gene-altered pet to go on sale to the public.

For some, the animal will be a fascinating novelty; for others, it will raise fears of a trend for bio-engineered "Frankenstein pets".

The Taikong Corporation reports strong interest in its creation from the UK, where the aquatic industry is worth millions.

"**Safe and sterile**" Taikong insists the GM fish, designated TK-1, is safe, sterile and that its additional fluorescent gene is harmless.

The fish was unveiled in 2001, but it took another year and a half to develop a technique to render the animal sterile. It cannot cross-breed with natural fish.

TK-1 was developed using the work of HJ Tsai of the National Taiwan University.

Initially, Taikong plans to sell 30,000 glowing fish at US \$17 each and then increase production to more than 100,000 in three months. But not everyone is enthusiastic.

Aquatic industry specialists are worried TK-1 may be the first of many GM pet fish destined for Britain. In particular, some tropical fish are being bio-engineered to tolerate cold and could colonise UK waters if they escaped, disturbing the present ecosystem.

According to Derek Lambert, of Today's Fishkeeper magazine, GM piranhas could survive in our waterways and pose a major problem. He is urging traders to boycott the TK-1.

Keith Davenport, of the Aquatic Ornamental Trade Association (AOTA), commented that interfering with the genome was unnecessary and said people did not want animals to become fashion

accessories.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/3026104.stm>

HOTEL IN DUBAI

The only 7 star ***** hotel in the World!



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, 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