



The Living Reef

August 2003

Editorial....

From one year to the next MASWA loses and gains new members. Trying to please everyone is almost impossible however MASWA is committed to its members and we are only here because of you. If you would like to make comments and suggestions about the way in which MASWA is run or anything related to MASWA please don't hesitate to either email, phone or talk to a committee member. If you would like to attend a committee meeting please feel free to do so. They are open to anyone who is interested. As a group we can only do so much. We can initiate and offer the bait but in the end it's up to the individual to accept it. Please don't feel intimidated or scared about asking questions or making comments or suggestions. We are here to help ☺

Inside this Issue....

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

Upcoming Monthly Meetings....

August 27th – Jan Anderson
50 La Fayette Blvd, Bibra Lake

September 24th – Tom Devilee

October 29th – ?

November 26th – Glenn Fletcher

December 17th – Nathan Cope

January 28th 2004 – ?

February 25th 2004 – ?

Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm!

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.

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 – 9304 1274

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 Tayler (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.

AQUARIUM ANTICS

Cleaner wrasse can be a beneficial addition to the aquarium. Not only can they help control and reduce the chances of disease and parasite problems but they are also an interesting conversation point when guests come to visit. Cleaners are not always the easiest fish to keep, especially when it comes to feeding, however if you can obtain a small specimen then your chances of success can be greatly increased. As you would expect, cleaner wrasse clean fish and fish know this and often present themselves to the wrasse for cleaning. Invertebrates however are not normally cleaned by the cleaners and don't make any effort to encourage the wrasses to clean them at all. Somewhere along the line the cleaner wrasse I had must have received a bad education as he decided to clean my clams! Clams at most times are pretty sensitive critters and don't like to have their mantle touched. My clams were no exception and closed up within hours after adding the cleaner wrasse to my aquarium! To cut as long story short I had to remove the offending wrasse, who was banished to the sump. The clams reopened within an hour of the wrasse removal however the poor wrasse had an unfortunate accident with the impeller of my protein skimmer pump! RIP little fella.

July Meeting Rundown....

All I can say is WOW, what an awesome aquarium. Nigel and Hazel did a great job at hosting the July meeting. It was attended by a record number of members and new faces. Drinks and nibbles were a plenty thanks to the Nigel and Hazels, Merilyn Tayler (Treasures wife) and Dion.

Everyone who attended was impressed with the sheer size of the aquarium and numbers and species of coral present. The fish were not to shabby either!

The tank is still young and like all aquariums has had its own fare share of problems such as coral spawns and algae blooms etc. The aquarium has survived through these teething problems and is improving all the time. It will be interesting to see how the aquarium has progressed when we visit it again next year (hopefully – please Nigel!).

After a long drought of half a year or so Tony won a raffle prize at the July meeting. Some may say that it looks a bit fishy since Tony is the social organiser and is responsible for selling the raffle tickets. Some may even say that Tony could have fixed the raffle. I say not a chance – he is not that sharp! (Nathan told me to say that! Ed.).

What's a raffle without prizes? Thankyou to Peter Fullarton for donating some corals to the raffle. Speaking of corals, guess who left the coral he won in the raffle at Nigel's house? That's right, it was Tony (need I say more! Ed.).

August Meeting Information....

For all you south of the river folk you can put your passports back in the draw. This month we are heading south to Bibra Lake to see the aquarium of Jan Anderson (Pronounced Yarn Tony Ed.). In MASWA circles Jan is famous for his gadget fetish. His aquarium has so much automation and microprocessor controlled equipment that he never needs to get his hands wet. Well maybe I am exaggerating a little but he really does have some good electronic bits and pieces on his tank!

The aquarium is 150cm long, 90cm wide and 75cm long with a total volume including the sump of 1200L. Lighting consists of 2X 250 watt Metal halides and 3X 40 watt Philips Blue. Filtration consists of a home made down draft skimmer and a calcium reactor. Just to be different Jan has installed a 220L aquarium behind his main tank so that it is visible through it and from the front. This gives a better depth effect to the whole display.

Jan's aquarium can be found at 50 La Fayette Blvd, Bibra Lake. The meeting starts at 7.30pm so don't be late!

MASWA Message Board....

Meeting Venues WANTED! – One Spot Left!

We have one vacancy left in our meeting schedule this year, October. Next year is wide open. If you would like to host a meeting please contact our Social Coordinator, Tony to book your spot.

MASWA Raffle News....

The committee has decided to make four of our twelve monthly raffle draws extra special by having more prizes up for offer. The bumper raffle draws will occur in March, June, September and December. The extra prizes could include such items as DVD's, aquarium food and hardware, books/magazines and livestock. These will be in addition to the gift vouchers that we always have in the raffle draw. The tickets will still cost \$2. If you want to donate anything to the raffle, be it unused hardware or surplus livestock please don't hesitate to bring it along.

Fishy Links and News....

DENIZENS OF THE DEEP

Many of the known denizens of the deep look as bizarre as their names: Snotthead. Fangtooth. Gulper eel. So what about the creepy creatures that lurk in uncharted depths? A team of international scientists was determined to find out.

This month, they are examining their catch from a deep-sea expedition in the Southern Hemisphere, more than 1,500 species photographed or collected from unexplored waters along the sea floor between New Zealand and Australia.

The haul includes a sea spider with organs in its legs, a shark with sandpaper-like skin and a squid with a big eye to find prey and a little one to avoid becoming it.

"If you lived in pitch black, hunted by feeling vibrations or looking for the tiniest glimpses of light, withstood massive pressures and had to wait for months at a time to feed, you'd end up looking like Gollum as well," said Mark Norman, a biologist who rode on the research vessel Tangaroa, which completed a month-long voyage in June.

Norman's reference is to a gruesome character in J.R.R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings," but some specimens photographed, netted or dredged by

the Tangaroa crew down to depths of 1.2 miles (two kilometers) were too weird for science fiction or fantasy.

The flabby coffinfish walks on the sea floor on short leg-like fins and can swallow large volumes of water to expand into a ball, making it less appealing to predators.

The Pacific spookfish uses its snout like a metal detector, scanning for the electrical impulses of prey hidden in the mud. Goblin shrimp have twisted faces and heavy-plated armor.

And rather than live in shells, which are scarce on the ocean floor, one variety of hermit crab dwells inside the tough, leathery bodies of zonathid, a relative of coral with stinging tentacles.

Many in the Tangaroa catch are relatives of known species, but a preliminary tally suggests there are more than 100 new species of fish and invertebrates, according Norman, senior curator of the Museum Victoria in Australia.

The expedition, dubbed NORFANZ because it sailed near Norfolk Island and was a joint project of Australian and New Zealand, hopes to shed light on the depths of the Tasman Sea, one of the least understood, watery recesses of the planet.

"Life is precious and especially adapted for every nook and cranny of this Earth," said Norman. "The deep-sea deserves as much protection and consideration as the richest of tropical rainforests."

<http://www.cnn.com/2003/TECH/science/07/07/creepy.critters/index.html>

ECOTOURISM HOPES BUILD AS AFRICANS SEEK ANCIENT FISH

Tanzania, July 28, 2003 (ENS) - Tanzanian scientists have joined other scientists from southern African countries to undertake a joint research project on an ancient fish, the coelacanth, which was thought to have gone extinct some 65 million years ago. Its rediscovery has sparked scientific interest that the African countries hope will translate into visitors interested in learning more about the prehistoric coelacanth.

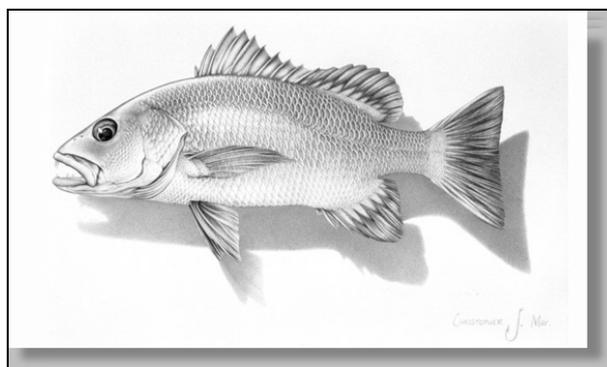
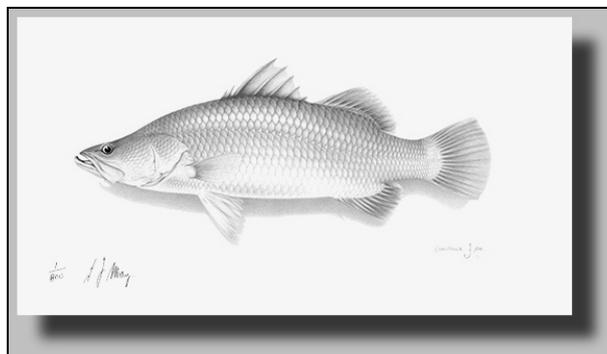
This fish was rediscovered off the mouth of Chumna River at East London, South Africa in December 1938. Since then, more than 180 coelacanths have been found in five different countries. The most recent discovery was in Malindi, Kenya in 2001.

<http://ens-news.com/ens/jul2003/2003-07-28-01.asp>

AMAZING ART!

Welcome to <http://www.pencilart.com.au>. You are about to see something truly unique. One mans love for the natural world, finely portrayed in the form of beautifully drawn native birds, fish, still life and antiques.

We present to you the colored pencil drawings of Australian Artist, Christopher May.



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