



**The Living Reef**  
*June 2004 - Special Raffle*  
**SUNDAY MEETING @ 2:00pm!**

**Editorial....**

If you do large water changes, whether they be frequent or infrequent don't underestimate the danger of putting cold water into your warm tank. In summer this is not a problem as the water will warm up to the mid 20's quite quickly, even if left inside the house! In winter however if you have your water delivered or leave it outside it may go down to the low teens or even lower. So what can you do about this? Preferably you would have the new water sitting in a suitable container with a powerhead or airstone circulating with a heater overnight to warm up. Alternately if you are impatient you could use a rapid immersion heater to quickly heat the water up. Either way, the most important consideration is to not give your aquarium a sudden drop of temperature so think about the temperature before your next change water.

**Inside this Issue....**

May Meeting Rundown	2
June Meeting Information	2
MASWA Message Board	3
Collecting Shrimp	3
Recognising & Preventing Problems in the Aquarium	4
Fishy Links and News	4
Buy, Sell, Swap & Wanted	6

**MASWA Meeting  
Calendar....**

**SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> June 2004 – Matt Weis**  
**9 L'Estrel Way, Port Kennedy**  
*Special Raffle*

July 2004 – Terry and Val Peake  
*Decapsulating Artemia (brine shrimp) Cysts*

August 2004 – Nigel Clark  
*FRAGFEST IV*

September 2004 - ?  
*Special Raffle*

October 2004 - ?  
*Guest Speaker/Demonstration*

November 2004 – Bryan Kendal  
*FRAGFEST V*

***This Meeting starts from 2:00pm, formalities start promptly @ 2:30pm!***

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.

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### MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS

**Cheque:** Make all cheques payable to Paul M. Tayler.

**EFT:** Make all EFT transfers to **BSB 086 217 A/C # 69355**

**1664** (please include your name on all EFT transfers!).

**Cash:** Make payment in person only.

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### 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.

## May Meeting Rundown....

Last month's meeting was at the home of Chris Ferret. Chris's aquarium was very well setup with an awesome cabinet to boot. Chris happens to be a cabinet maker so this was not a hard feat for him!

The aquarium had some excellent live rock with some nice staghorn branch rock and was aquascaped in a very natural fashion. The corals all looked pretty good as did the fish. The fish of the night would have had to of been the Moorish Idol that was swimming around in Chris's tank. It was in great condition and eating really well.

The fragfest was held last month and was a great success. We had over eight species of hard and soft coral frags as well as some trochus snails (bred, not fragged!). In total we had 22 coral frags and 10 snails brought in for the night. We also had a small fragging demonstration in which we broke up and glued a few hard corals for the cause. This went well and will continue at the next fragfest.

Last month also was the first month that we started to give away a door prize. This went well even though we forgot which prize was suppose to be given away and gave away the wrong one (Sorry Nathan, it was Tony's fault!). That aside all went well.

Thankyou to everyone for coming and especially Chris and his family for letting us host a meeting at their lovely home. Lastly I would like to thank Peter from Oceanarium for donating some awesome corals to the raffle – we really appreciate your efforts.

## June Meeting Information....

We are once again heading down to the deep south where the reef tanks are rumoured to be spectacular. The location of our next MASWA journey will be Port Kennedy. The home of Matt Weis and his aquarium.

Matt's aquarium is a 6ft X 2ft X 2ft reef tank setup along the lines of the "Berlin" school of aquaristry. The aquarium is skimmed by a Turboflotor skimmer and has a Korallin calcium reactor and a refugeum built into the sump. Lighting consists of two 250W 10000K Metal Halide lights.

In terms of corals this aquarium is predominately a small polyp stony coral tank (SPS) however it does have a few large polyp stony coral (LPS) that have grown up from the rock. Fishwise the aquarium contains 8 chromis, a purple tang, a flame hawk, two pinkline sand sifting gobies and a lawnmower blennie (I am told his name is Victor ☺).

What's going on at this meeting I hear you ask? Not only will we get to all catch up, see a great tank but also there will be the **SPECIAL RAFFLE!** That's right, it's that time again and we have some great prizes up for grab this

month. If I told you what they are I would have to kill you (ie I don't know what prizes Nathan has up for grabs!). Don't forget, the door prize – to be win you need to sign the entry book.

I have heard many good things about this aquarium. Matt has played down these compliments and good words but I think he is just being modest. We will find out however on **SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> June @ 2:00pm** if the rumours are true ☺. The address for the meeting is **9 L'Esterey Way, Port Kennedy**.

Hope to see you all there.

## MASWA Message Board....

### MASWA DOOR PRIZE!

From now on, we will be having door prizes at every meeting. In order to be in the draw to win the prize, all you have to do is make sure you **write down your name** (and the name of any partner/guest you have brought with you) **on the meeting registration sheet** and then **put on your name badge** (ensure that partners/guests have one too). Once you've done that, see Nigel Clark (Social Coordinator) for your free door prize ticket. This month's door prize is a \$50 voucher donated by **Reef Online**, MASWA's first official sponsor.

### MASWA SPONSOR

It's official, MASWA finally has a commercial sponsor! **Reef Online** has offered to sponsor us for the next 12 months and over that period, you will see an advert for them in each issue of The Living Reef. Naturally the advert will tell you who Reef Online is and what they are all about, but will also inform you of new product launches and special offers exclusive to MASWA members. Reef Online has also generously donated several prizes for MASWA to use as we wish throughout the year PLUS an extra 5% MASWA discount on top of the existing 5% MASA discount (ie, MASWA members now get a 10% discount from Reef Online

### MASWA 2004 ARTICLE PRIZE!

To try and encourage members to get actively involved we have decided to offer a \$100 prize to the person who has contributed the most hobby related articles, cartoons or jokes etc to the MASWA 2004 newsletters. The content must be suitable for general audiences (no rude jokes Nigel and Tony! Ed.). The winner will be announced at the **December 2004 CHRISTMAS** meeting.

### RAFFLE PRIZE DONATIONS

If anyone has any books, hardware, livestock or any bits and pieces they wish to get rid of how about donating them to the raffle table? All the monies raised in the raffle go back into MASWA so the better the raffle the better the prizes and the more we can do during the year.

### GENERAL MEETING AGENDA (Sunday's)

For those new members who have not been with us long or perspective visitors/members reading this for the first time below is a rough agenda of what happens at a MASWA meeting:

**2:00pm:** socialise and catch up with friends, introductions of visitors and new members to everyone by social coordinator and other committee members.

**2:30pm:** opening of meeting, formal introduction by president, welcome visitors and new members.

**3:00pm:** introduce host, host presentation of aquarium.

**3:30pm:** draw raffle and if appropriate start "fragfest" or guest speaker talk/presentation.

**4:30pm:** draw meeting to a close.

## Collecting Shrimp....

By Jack Lee

The subject of collecting glass shrimp was brought up by Michael on the 'reefing the Australian way' discussion board (<http://www.masa.asn.au/rtaw>). I think his idea was to get free food for that big nasty pet Mantis of his (who would want to keep a mantis, everyone else is trying to get rid of theirs) but i wanted some to keep in a temperate tank i am re-starting and find a source of live food for a future lion-fish tank. I managed to find a good spot for them in Ocean Reef and Nathan prompted me to write a piece for the newsletter. Places that have been suggested by others are Woodmans Point and Hillarys Boat Harbour but I decided to try down at the Ocean Reef Boat Harbour as it is nice and close to home. There are many rock pools along the ocean-side of the wall but i went in the afternoon and it was just too rough to be safe (and im a wuss) so i walked along the rock pools inside the harbour near the boardwalk. I picked up some nice macro-algae, a few interesting looking anemones and a sea urchin before i came to a pool that looked promising. I have been told the best place to look is along rock walls covered in weed and to just drag my net along in the weed. after dragging the net through the weed I was surprised at how many shrimp were swarming around the pool. I ran the net through the weed a few more times and managed to catch alot of shrimp, after emptying a few out I took what I had and left. I have put a few of them into my temperate tank and i am experimenting with 2 in my reef tank, and a few became anemone and coral food.

I am almost certain these shrimp are *Palaemon serenus*.



# Recognising & Preventing Problems in Your Aquarium....

By Maria White

You often hear people saying, "I don't know what's wrong, I've done tests and still can't work it out!" Does this sound familiar? One of the ways that we can avoid problems is by doing regular maintenance.

First thing on the agenda would have to be a head count of fish. Performing this at each feeding time would be best as this is when you are most likely to see all your fish out at once. Should you find you have absentees, you need to try to locate them as soon as you can. Why is this so important? Firstly because we all know fish can get themselves into some tricky places, but mostly because of the amount of ammonia released by the decomposing fish can have adverse effects, not necessarily in the long run but recovery time of a tank can be longwinded.

When adding new fish to your tank, choose healthy stock and add them to the aquarium after a proper acclimation process. A good way to do this is to put the fish in a small bucket with the water they came in and then setup a slow drip of water from the aquarium into the bucket. Do this until the water volume has doubled. When adding the fish to the tank after acclimating them feed the other fish to distract them from seeing the new fish. Above all things, avoid stressing the fish!

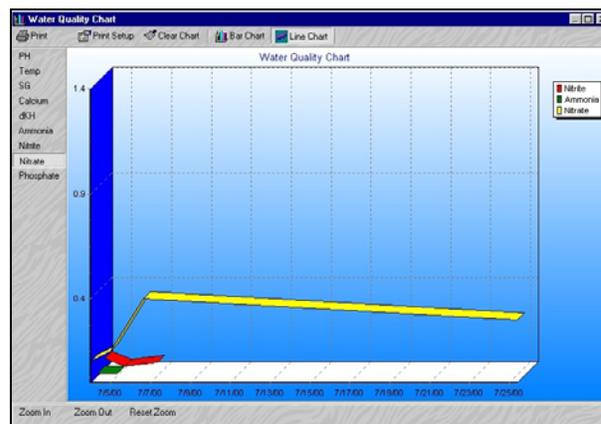
Learn to recognize the symptoms of impending water problems, frothy, cloudy, yellowing or smelly water are all signs of deteriorating conditions. Do not neglect regular partial water changes. Top up evaporation losses with fresh water. Make all necessary water condition changes gradually to avoid stressing the marine life. Check that water flow rates from filters remain high. Clean and check filters & air stones. Clean the protein skimmer cup regularly. After a period of time, algae will grow all over the tank. This needs to be kept under control.

Regularly check the temperature, nitrite, nitrate levels, ammonia and the pH of the water. Do not mix medications and always quarantine sick fish. Try to follow some kind of schedule and record what's happening in your tank and you might just be able to stop a tragedy.

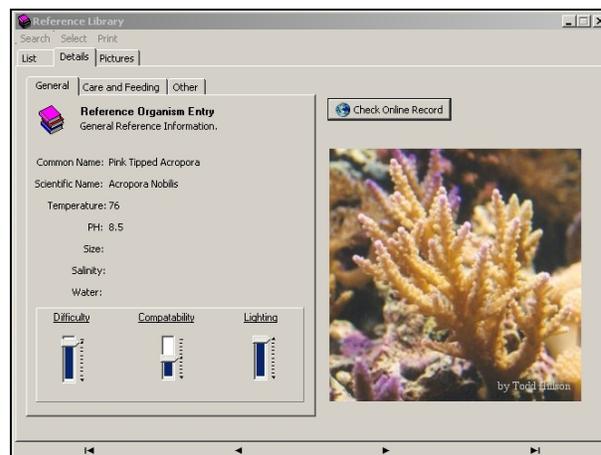
Many people have advice, let's face it, we will all voice our opinions willingly to any one that wants to listen, we must remember not everyone is an expert, so most of what you're told is bull. Be careful your wives & girlfriends are not susceptible to the numerous changes, they tell you, you'll stuff it and you know you did when it takes you 6 weeks till all is right in the tank again and all major problems have been solved.

Chris uses a software package he got from the Internet called Reefcon Pro at <http://www.infinitysoft.net/>. This software helps him track and document everything with his tank. It also reminds him of maintenance he has scheduled and is easy to use.

If you provide your tank with the necessary care and attention in return it will repay you in the best possible way - your very own beautiful living window.



Water Quality Chart screenshot from ReefCon Lt



Reference Section screenshot from ReefCon Lt.

## Fishy Links and News....

### **COLD-WATER CORALS POSE NEW CHALLENGE FOR ENVIRONMENTALISTS**

PARIS - Cold-water corals, lesser known than their warm-water cousins, are much more widespread than previously thought but nevertheless face serious threat, the United Nations (news - web sites) warned ahead of World Environment Day.

Launching an appeal, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) said that cold-water corals unlike the warm-water type in the tropics, are usually found in depths between 200 and 1,000 metres (660 and 3,300 feet) and in waters of between four and 13 degrees.

They can even occur in waters as deep as 6,300 metres.

Cold-water corals build beautiful but fragile three-dimensional lace work structures, which are particularly vulnerable to damage from heavy deep-sea fishing gear.

"Some reefs in the East Atlantic have already been destroyed, and most others show scars from trawling," UNEP said in a written statement.

The new findings, released to mark World Environment Day on Saturday, are included in a report being published at an International Coral Reef Initiative meeting in Okinawa, Japan, between July 3 and 4.

That is set to follow the 10th International Coral Reef Symposium which opens on 28 June.

"We are finding not only new species of corals and cold-water corals in new locations but associated organisms, like snails and clams, that were believed by paleontologists to have become extinct two million years ago," said Andre

Freiwald, professor at the German University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, who has led explorations.

Cold-water corals grow at only a tenth of the growth rate of warm-water tropical corals.

Many of the fish species found living in and around cold-water corals are also slow growing and have lower reproductive rates than shallower living species such as herring and cod.

These deep-water fish, which include orange roughey, blue ling and some deep water sharks, are increasingly being targeted as trawlers switch from traditional, depleted fishing grounds to deeper ones.

"Other threats include impacts from oil and gas exploration and production, the laying of cables and telecommunications links and waste disposal," UNEP said.

The UN agency hopes the discovery that cold-water corals are more widespread will spur other nations to introduce measures to protect them by, for example, designating cold-water coral reefs within marine protected areas.

A number of countries -- Norway, Ireland, Britain and the United States -- have begun implementing tighter protection.

Six types of cold-water corals have been registered compared with more than 700 warm-water species. Cold-water corals are part of a group of organisms known as Cnidaria, which means stinging nettles and include anemones and sea pens. They are closely related to the species forming reefs in warm, tropical waters.

The largest cold-water coral reef, discovered in 2002 southwest of the Lofoten Islands, northern Norway, covers about 100 square kilometers.

Researchers are now discovering cold-water coral reefs in many of the world's seas and oceans including the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean.

The corals are also found off more than 40 countries including Spain, Surinam and the Seychelles.

"We are only beginning to understand where these life forms are and what their role is in, for example, replenishing deep sea fish stocks and nurturing other marine living organisms,"

Klaus Toepfer, UNEP's Executive Director said in the statement.

### **RESEARCHERS SAY ALGAE MAY HELP PROTECT REEFS FROM GLOBAL WARMING**

SYDNEY - Australian researchers reported that algae living inside coral tissue could help protect the world's reefs from the effects of global warming.

Experiments carried out by the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) found that a species of algae that live and reproduce naturally in some types of coral could increase the reef organisms' heat tolerance.

"A mechanism exists in coral that allows them to rapidly change how well they can cope with environmental conditions," said Madeleine Van Oppen, a senior AIMS research scientist.

"The algae inside the coral tissues use sunlight to make the energy and a large part of this energy or food is available to the coral," she said.

"It leaks out of the algal cells into the coral tissues, so the algae actually works as sort of solar panels."

By changing the algae inside their tissues, coral can alter their own physiology in ways that help them adapt to environmental changes like rising sea temperatures, she said.

Warming seas have been blamed for causing one of the greatest threats to the world's tropical reefs, coral bleaching -- a process where the colorful tissue of the coral dies off, leaving the white skeleton behind.

Scientists have predicted that colourful corals which make up Australia's Great Barrier Reef and other tropical reefs will fall dramatically and die in numbers by 2050 because of warming seawater.

### **SCIENTISTS DISCOVER NEW FISH SPECIES OFF BRAZIL COAST**

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — Brazilian scientists claimed to have found a new fish species believed to have lurked deep in the south Atlantic Ocean for more than 150 million years.

The fish, of the Chimaera genus, is about 30 to 40 centimeters (12 to 16 inches) long and is found at depths of 400 to 600 meters (1,300 to 2,000 feet), scientists said Thursday.

"This is a fantastic discovery, because before this we believed there were no Chimaera off the Brazilian coast," said ichthyologist Jules Soto, who discovered the fish.

Soto is the curator of the Oceanography Museum at the Vale do Itajaí University and co-author of the fish's scientific description, which will be published in the upcoming edition of the U.S. scientific journal *Zootaxa*.

Soto said the fish was discovered on a Spanish fishing boat trawling off the coast of Rio de Janeiro state in 2001. Soto said his students first photographed the Chimaera aboard the vessel as part of a research project, but they were

unaware of the fish's importance and threw it back in the ocean.

Soto realized the significance of the discovery while examining the photographs.

"I could see right away it was a very different animal, just from the shape of the fins," Soto said by telephone from Santa Catarina state, 450 miles (700 kilometers) southwest of Rio de Janeiro.

It took Soto and his team two more years to locate more specimens and to complete the scientific work needed to prove it was a new species.

The fish, which Soto has named *Hydrolagus mattallansi*, has a snub nose, winglike side fins, a spiky back fin, and stinger tail. It is closely related to sharks and skates.

The Chimaera can sense the presence of other animals by scanning the electromagnetic field around it, but it also has large eyes that can sense even the smallest bit of light, Soto said.

Ichthyologists called the new Chimaera an "important discovery."

"Deep water fish have been little studied here, and it's very difficult to get information about that environment. The sad thing is that environment is being devastated by industrial fishing so species new to science are likely disappearing even before they are discovered," said Adriano Lima, an ichthyologist at Rio de Janeiro's National Museum.

Scientists have identified about 25,000 fish species in the world but suspect there may be as many as 40,000 yet to be discovered.

Soto said it was rare that such a large vertebrate animal should be undiscovered but that the deep waters off Brazil's coast have not been extensively explored.

He claimed to have discovered three other new species that he is still in the process of describing.

Chimaera evolved 400 million years ago during the Devonian Period and are one of the oldest fish species alive today.

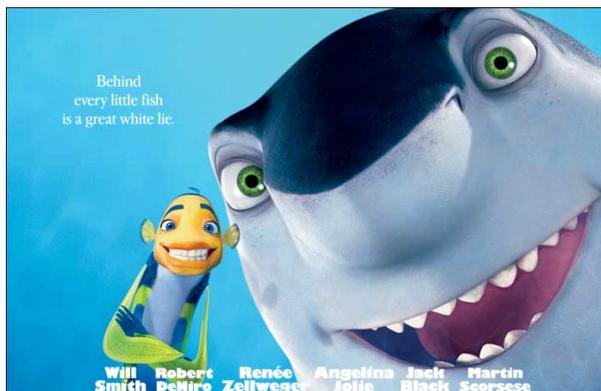
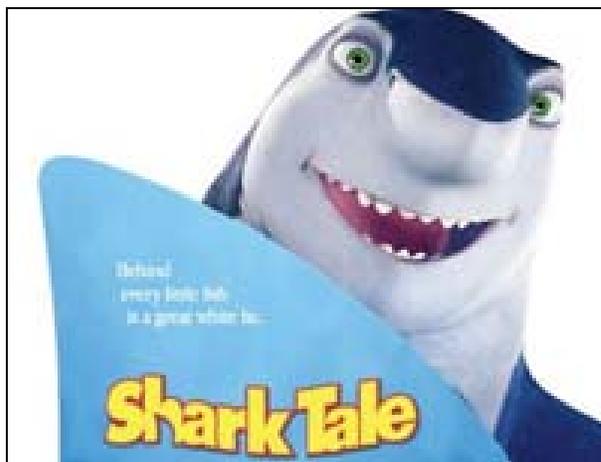
### SHARK TALE

Riding on the coat tails of Finding Nemo, a new underwater computer animated movie by DreamWorks, the makers of Monsters Inc., Shrek and Shrek 2, will hit screens on the 1<sup>st</sup> October this year in the US. The plot of "Shark Tale" goes something like this:

This mafia movie, set in the world of saltwater fish, is the story of what happens when the son of the shark boss (De Niro) of a fish crime family is killed by a dropped anchor, and a bottom-feeder named Oscar (Smith) is found at the scene of the crime. Hoping to win favour with the enemies of the gang lord, the fast-talking hustler poses as the killer known as the "sharkslayer", but soon learns it's a dangerous game in a world where the big fish generally eat the little fish...

With the likes of actors such as Will Smith, Renee Zellweger, Robert De Niro, Angelina Jolie, Peter Falk and Martin Scorsese lending their voices to the various characters this movie is guaranteed to be a big hit.

[http://www.sharktale.com/SharkTale\\_backtomain.html](http://www.sharktale.com/SharkTale_backtomain.html)



## Buy, Sell, Swap and Wanted?....

### FOR SALE:

2ft cube tank on pine cabinet with hood & 32mm overflow in tank - **\$250 ono**  
Tank 120cmW x 100cmL x 70cmH with tapered front on sandstone look cabinet with hood. Tank has 2X 40mm holes for external sump **\$450 ono**.  
Contact **Paul Groves** on **0421 803 288** if you are interested.

### WANTED:

Second hand Chiller to fit 250 Lt tank  
Contact: **Andrew Brandreth** on **0423 801 552** or email [bsa@powerdsl.com.au](mailto:bsa@powerdsl.com.au).



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



Reef Online are proud to announce that they have come on board as the first official sponsor of MASWA!

As part of the sponsorship agreement with MASWA, **Reef Online are offering 10% discount to MASWA financial members on everything in the store.** This is not an introductory offer, this offer will be in place for as long as the agreement is in place!

Reef Online prides itself on selling only the best in Aquarium equipment, such as AquaFX Water Filters, Korallin Calcium Reactors, AquaC Protein Skimmers, Salifert Test Kits, and only the best book titles... many of which are not available anywhere else in Australia!

So come and check us out at <http://www.reefonline.com.au> and see what all the fuss is about!

No web access, no problem... give Natalie a call on 0408 530 934!



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