



The Living Reef

February 2005 - FRAGFEST VI

From The New ED!

Well I finally talked David into handing over the reins of Newsletter Editor. It took a bit of convincing and he finally gave in. Thanks David for all the effort that you have put in over the past few years and I hope I can keep up the standard.

Well, I must admit that I have never done anything like this before, since high school that is, but hey I'll give it a go. At least I have the winner of the "most submitted articles 2004" living in the same house so I'll have half a chance.

So a little bit about the New Editor. I have been playing around with fresh water aquariums since I was 15. August last year I decided to try my hand at a marine aquarium. After a few successes, set backs and revising the tank I can say I now own a Marine Reef Aquarium! The tank is predominately SPS corals with a few fish. There is a few DIY bits

too. I have really enjoyed having my reef and look forward it evolving into something great and trying to keep up with the Jones, (well Weis's really) I'm sure that some time this year I'll be prompted to have a meeting so everyone can check it out then. Well enough about me and back to the job at hand.

As you will notice there will be a few changes to the newsletter as "I find my feet" so to speak. I hope everyone will like it. I have also changed the layout slightly too. Also if you would like to see something new or old please email me.

So here goes!!!!

Chris Sutton
ED

Inside this Issue....

[MASWA Meeting Calendar....](#)
[MASWA Contact Information....](#)
[MASWA Message Board](#)
[Commercial Sponsors](#)
[Social Pages](#)
[January Meeting Rundown](#)
[February Meeting Information](#)

[MASWA Fragfest This Month!!!](#)
[Fishy Links and News](#)
[Reef Tank Filtration](#)
[Dosing "Kalkwasser"](#)
[Buy, Sell, Swap & Wanted](#)
[Membership Application / Change of Details Form 2005](#)

MASWA Meeting Calendar....

February 23rd 2005 7.30pm

Claudia Greipl

35 Kenmare Ave Thornlie

FRAGFEST VI

Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm!

March 30th 2005 - ?
Special Raffle

May 25th 2005 - ?
FRAGFEST VII

April 28th 2005 – Brendan Chua
Unit 21/1 Henry Lawson Walk
East Perth
Guest Speaker

June 29th 2005 - ?
Special Raffle

July 27th 2005 - ?
Guest Speaker

As you can see we are looking for Meeting Venues so please don't be shy!!!

MASWA Contact Information....

COMMITTEE – 2005

President – General Enquiries
Tony Fiorentino - 0413 153 518
fioren@iinet.net.au

Web Editor – Web Page Enquiries
Michael Olivero –
oliveromichael@yahoo.com.au

Vice President – General Enquiries
Stuart Hoskin - 0413 315 059
stuartnruth@optusnet.com.au

**Social Coordinator – Meeting Venues
Advertising Enquiries,
Even "just to be sociable"**
Maria White – 0416 206 647
n1venus@bigpond.com.au

Treasurer – Treasury/Payment Enquiries
Paul Tayler - 0419 908 264
paul@pmtco.com.au

Frag Fest Co-ordinator –
Matt Weis-
asha01@iinet.net.au

Secretary
Mark Shewell – 9479 7224
markus@iinet.net.au

WEB ADDRESS
www.masa.asn.au/maswa/

**Newsletter Editor – Newsletter Submissions and
Membership Enquiries**
Chris Sutton – 0419 858 108
n1venus@bigpond.com.au

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.

Postal Address:

Paul Tayler (MASWA Treasurer)
PO Box 7185
Shenton Park WA 6008

MASWA Message Board....

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

If you would like to make a contribution to the newsletter please don't hesitate to contact the new Newsletter Editor, Chris Sutton 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.

MASWA 2005 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 2005 newsletters. The content must be suitable for general.

The winner will be announced at the **December 2005 CHRISTMAS** meeting.

MASWA MEMBERSHIP FOR 2005 IS NOW DUE!

2004 is now over and this is your last chance to pay your membership subscription for 2005. We will not be carrying unfinancial members after the February meeting. If your membership dues are not paid by the

February 2005 meeting you will be struck off the membership register and receive no more newsletters!

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 Maria White (Social Coordinator) for your free door prize ticket.

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 raffles go back into MASWA, so the better the prizes the better the raffle and the more we can do during the year.

MASWA Sponsors....

It's official; MASWA now has two commercial sponsors! MASWA sponsors get an advertisement and a banner in the newsletter each month. The advertisement can be used to advertise monthly specials etc. Depending upon what has been agreed with the sponsor they may offer MASWA such things as member discounts, donations of goods, gift vouchers or special offers.

Advertisements in The Living Reef do not necessarily reflect MASWA endorsement of any product, service or advice offered by the advertised business. If you would like to advertise in The Living Reef, please contact Maria White (Social Coordinator) on 0416 206 647 or email: n1venus@bigpond.com.au.



Marine West has generously donated \$50 worth of gift vouchers each month to MASWA.

Address:

Unit 1, 29 McIntyre Way, Kenwick, WA 6107

Tue-Sun 10:00am- 5:00pm

Tel/Fax: (08) 9493-0966

Email: pjwdrw@bigpond.com

Web: www.marinewest.com.au



Ocean Water Supply has generously donated a water change to the value of **\$50** every month to the MASWA raffle!

Contact Number: 1300 550 171

MASWA Social Pages

Hi Guys,
' Maria here' I finally made it to the social pages, of a sort - to tell the truth no one challenged me!
I'm really excited about my position because socializing is what I do best.

For those of you interested in getting their PADI diving certificate watch this space in up and coming months, I'd love to achieve a group MASWA Dive, it's been suggested we might be able to get a convoy of small boats happening, and of course under the ocean may

very well be the only place you can escape me! But I will kick off with something fun and for all the family a Picnic/Snorkel Day at Point Perrin. To register your interest talks to me at the next meeting.

Oh and I'm pushing for a joke section so send them in and even if they are rude, Chris and I will still have a laugh.

Keep on smiling

January Meeting Rundown....

The January meeting was held at the home of our treasurer, Paul Taylor. This meeting was the first for 2005 and was also the venue for our AGM. The turnout of members was rather good; there were some new faces. Welcome Lee and Brendan, We tried very hard to discourage them from joining however we were unsuccessful because both won raffle prizes. Well Done.

Paul's Tank was looking rather good; the fish had grown so much since last January's meeting. Paul has been battling nitrates and he hasn't had much success with his *Acropora* corals (stag horns) as they have been showing signs of tissue recession. After last years meeting we pinpointed one of the reasons for this. Paul had not cleaned the intake sponges on his two power heads or main pump for god knows how long and because of this they were firstly acting like super nitrate producing filters and secondly they were restricting the water flow to the pumps so much that there was very little water movement at all in the tank.

This year he also has been busy removing his Mangrove grow out tank, successfully reducing his nitrates even further and now hopefully has gotten on top of it. We look forward for next years meeting.

The AGM was conducted and with much deliberations and social co-ordinating, MASWA has had a changing of the Guard so to speak with the changing of all positions except Treasurer and Sectary. With the following positions being filled for the 2005 MASWA committee:

President – Tony Fiorentino

Vice President – Sturart Hoskin

Secretary – Mark Shewell

Treasurer – Paul Taylor

Social Co-ordinator – Maria White

Webmaster – Michael Olivero

Newsletter Editor – Chris Sutton

Frag Fest Co-ordinator – Matt Weis

I think from all members, thanks to all exiting Committee members for their commitment over the last year or so. You can have that well-earned rest now!

As usual Paul's wife Marlyn, cooked a great spread of nibbles that filled myself and everyone else up. Thanks Paul and Marlyn for your hospitality. See you all at next months meeting.

February Meeting Information....

We are off to Thornlie for this months meeting. Yeah I know it's away from the coast and some of the members might become edgy. Claudia, also being a new member to MASWA and putting some of us older members that haven't yet had a meeting to shame, has gracefully put up her hand for the February meeting. We'll gladly come for a looksee. Maybe you can show a few of the guys how it's done!

Claudia's new 6 x 2 x 2 tank has been set up since mid September and she has slowly been stocking it with fish and a few soft corals since early December. Claudia say's she doesn't have all the super duper equipment that a lot of the guys have" ... I just have a canister filter, protein skimmer and fluro's and one power head ... and for the moment I make do ..."

We look forward to seeing the set up.

Claudia's address is **35 Kenmare Ave Thornlie** and the meeting will start at **7.30 pm sharp Wednesday 23rd February**

One of the most important part of the February meeting is the **FRAGFEST** that will take place. This will be the sixth FRAGFEST meeting held and if it's anything like the last one at Nigel's place then it will be a great success. If you are unsure of what the **FRAGFEST** is then please read the MASWA Fragfest This Month section.

See you all there!!!

MASWA FRAGFEST THIS MONTH!

Well, it has come to that time again. Time to take out the wire cutters and chisels and smash up all of our prized corals in the name of the MASWA FRAGFEST. For all the new members or old members that have not participated yet Fragfest is conducted in the interest of captive coral propagation and reducing the impact of our hobby on the reefs. Remember that Fragfest is not limited to cnidarian aquaculture. In the past we have even had young clownfish brought along to meetings!!

The general idea is that the fraggers receive one coral back for each frag donated and any frags left over at the end go to new members. There is usually quite a few left over so for all those newbies this is a great month to get involved. There is an **Award at the end of the year** for the most productive fragger. So get fragging!!

It is a good idea to cut any corals that you intend on bringing about a week or ten days early to allow them to settle down prior to being moved. Fragging a coral is an easy task on most occasions depending of course on the target species. For Acropora or Pocillopora Sp it is as simple as taking a pair of wire cutters and cutting off a branch and then using Selleys Aquakneadit or Superglue gel to mount it to a small piece of rock.

Mounting it vertically or horizontally will encourage different growth forms as well.

For Large polyp corals such as Euphyllia or Cataphyllia something more drastic in the way of tools may be required. A hammer and a chisel will do the job on all but the toughest specimens. These families of corals will not require mounting just pop them back in the tank in a favourable spot and your on your way.

For soft corals such as Sinularia, Sarcophyton or even Corallimorphs, use of a surgical blade to cut off a lobe or head is recommended. Although it sounds rough, the use of a needle and thread to attach the frag to a piece of rock is the best way to go. A couple of loops are sufficient. The slime and exudate these corals produce when disturbed make them difficult to glue using superglue or other methods.

Fragfest is a great opportunity to help each other out as well as providing a safety net for your tank in the event of a crash (you can get all your corals back in the form of new frags) but it wont work without participation so find those old cutters and get to work!!

Matt

Fishy Links And News

[CO2 emissions put corals at risk](#)

*BBC News UK Edition
February 01, 2005*

Israeli scientists predict the world's coral reefs could begin to collapse in as little as 30 years from now. Studies show the oceans are becoming increasingly acidic as they soak up manmade emissions of carbon dioxide

[Dying Reefs](#)

*PBS
February 01, 2005*

Tsunamis and hurricanes did serious damage to coral reefs in 2004. Correspondent Betty Ann Bowser takes a look at problems with reef health and management solutions in part one of a two-part series.

[Scientists Discover New Species of Coral Off Southern California Coast](#)

*ABCnews.go.com
Feb 10, 2005*

Scientists have discovered a new species of coral off the southern California coast that flames like a pink and white Christmas tree as well as a new species of worm that lives off it.

[Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2004](#)

*Resource Shelf's DocuTicker
February 11, 2005*

Source: Australian Institute of Marine Science
[Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2004](#)

"The Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2004 report documents how human activities continue to be the primary cause of the global coral reef crisis. The report details many new initiatives aimed at reversing this degradation such as by conserving the biodiversity, the economic value and beauty of coral reefs." Download in sections (PDF) or as two complete volumes:

[Octopus Borrows Vertebrate Strategy for Lifting](#)

*ScientificAmerican.com
February 10, 2005*

When it comes time to perform difficult tasks, octopuses do their best impression of humans, according to a new report. Results published today in Nature indicate that the soft-bodied creatures move their arms as if they were jointed to lift objects.

Reef Tank Filtration

I was surfing on the web and came across this article "[reefing 101](#)" and thought some of my fellow hobbyist would like a read. I don't advocate that this article is incorrect/ correct in any way.

Hobbyists moving to reef tanks from the freshwater or even saltwater fish only tanks are frequently puzzled over the apparent lack of massive power filters that they are familiar with in the other hobbies. Reef tanks require a degree of finesse rather than sheer brute force when it comes to filtration. Whereas the other hobbies typically are trying to achieve crystal clear water via removal of all particulate matter and rely upon water changes to dilute pollution, reef tanks are trying to achieve crystal CLEAN water through removal of all pollutants at a level that water changes alone could not accomplish.

REEFING TIP

Ensure your return pipe is securely attached to your return pump so that if you accidentally knock it while messing around in the sump the pipe doesn't come off and send water all over your stand, including all over your fuge lights and all your other lights ballasts.

What does this mean? In simple terms:

- The hobbyists want to remove as much biological waste from the water as possible before it enters the nitrogen cycle.
- What waste does enter the nitrogen cycle gets processed quickly and completely from Ammonia to Nitrite to Nitrate and finally to harmless gases that can escape into the atmosphere.

There are a number of ways to try to achieve these goals.

Wet / Dry Filter

Old school was that a filtration device called a wet / dry filter was necessary for success with reef tanks. In fact, there are many still being sold today. Wet/dry filters are large acrylic or grass filters that become the sump for the tank and include a tower area in which return water from the tank is trickled or sprayed over a plastic media. The logic was that oxygen-loving bacteria would colonize the media and convert the waste products generated by the tank into relatively harmless nitrates. This was the 'dry' portion of the filter. The 'wet' portion typically included a sponge for mechanical. They in fact accomplished this mission, but have several important downsides. Tanks with wet/dry filters frequently have problems with nitrates continually increasing, only to have the nitrates drop to zero when the wet/dry filter is removed. Why this might be, is not fully understood, but it is a well-established phenomenon. The conversion of wastes to nitrates is accomplished efficiently, but the final step to convert it to harmless gases is not and therefore the nitrates accumulate in the system. Also, the mechanical filtration that is sometimes employed in wet/dry filters is counter productive. Reef tanks house countless organisms whose lives depend on filtering the water. Mechanical filtration is redundant and counterproductive in the long-term.

Long story short, do not spend money on a wet/dry filter. If you already have one and are having problems with nitrate accumulation, slowly remove the biomedial until the unit serves as simply a sump.

Protein Skimmer

The first step in clean water is removal of pollutants before they enter the nitrogen cycle. Mechanical filtration of visible particulate matter in the water may seem like the best way to achieve this, but it is not. Much of the visible matter is harmless flocculent while the harmful stuff is invisibly dissolved in the water column. This is where protein skimming comes into play.

A protein skimmer operates on the principal that protein and other organic wastes tend to collect at the water surface due to the affinity to having half their molecule in the air and half in the water. This is why scum forms on the water surface. A bubble floating in the water tends to collect these wastes for the same reason.

These organic wastes are mostly fish wastes and the protein skimmer does a good job of removing them before they have to go through the biological breakdown cycle. A person only has to see and smell the output from the protein skimmer to realize how much gunk these things do remove from the water.

Algae Filtration

A method of filtration that has found favour with those who prefer the natural approach. The logic behind this approach is that algae will consume nitrates and other water pollutants as they grow and subsequent frequent pruning of the algae will export those nutrients outside of the tank. The algae employed are usually one or more of the Caulerpa species, although any algae, including hair algae, will perform the same function. Simply adding a small light over the sump and throwing some Caulerpa in gets this process started.

Downside to this method includes the fact that Caulerpa algae can go sexual and disintegrate almost overnight, dumping a heavy biological load back into the system. Frequent pruning seems to help minimize the chance of this occurrence. Algae growth can also leach chemicals back into the water that tend to yellow the water. Carbon can be used to minimize this problem.

Deep Sand Beds

Sand beds with medium to fine grain particles that are over about 1" in depth create oxygen poor conditions in their deeper layers that are conducive to growing the type of bacteria needed to convert nitrates to harmless gases. DSB's take this strategy to extremes through the use of sand beds that are generally 4" to 6" in depth. At this point, they enter the realm of intentional (vs. incidental) filters and so are included here. Old school is that deep substrates will allow noxious gases, like hydrogen sulphide, to form in the anaerobic areas that can cause problems in the tank. Current thinking is that this is not a major concern and that this set-up closely approximates what occurs in the substrate in the ocean. DSB's, and for that matter any substrate, should not be disturbed more than necessary. Current thinking is that the sand bed should not be disturbed more than necessary to allow it to create and maintain the anaerobic regions. The sand bed also becomes populated with worms and other organisms that further help to recycle wastes within the tank.

Reefing Tips

The next time you buy a new power head, go over it with a fine grade wet and dry sandpaper, the coralline algae will cover it much faster.

Carbon

Carbon is frequently employed in reef tanks as an adjunct to other filtration methods. Carbon can be from a natural mined source similar to coal, or can be produced through extremely high temperature processing of coconut shells or similar. Carbon absorbs compounds in the water that can discolour the water, improving the look and light penetration. It can also absorb other compounds that might be otherwise harmful to the tank. Some reef keepers are concerned that it might also remove useful components as well, but the benefits seem to outweigh any likely negatives. Carbon is recommended to be used continually in small quantities. The carbon should be replaced about once a month to keep it effective. Some people only use GAC a few days a month to minimize its absorption of any good compounds, but the sudden change in water clarity and composition this method imposes on the tank does not make much sense and is counter to the goal of maximizing water stability within the reef environment.

When using carbon, it is very important to choose a high-grade version, which is typically called GAC (Granulated Activated Carbon). GAC is fairly soft and has small rice grain particle sizes that increase absorption rate. High quality versions also minimize any phosphates or other contaminants that they might otherwise contain since they are organic in nature. The small grains of GAC require that it be contained in a mesh bag or similar to prevent the particles from migrating around. It is also important to not put loose GAC in direct water flow as there is evidence that tumbling GAC can create small carbon particles that enter the tank and can be somewhat detrimental to the tank inhabitants. If used in a high water flow area, ensure the GAC is tightly packed to prevent its movement; otherwise a quieter part of the sump where the water can circulate gently around the GAC is the best place to locate it.

The carbon typically sold in LFS for freshwater use that is very hard and has very large particle size should not be used in reef tanks. They are fairly ineffectual and may have unwanted contaminants.

Other Contraptions

UV sterilizers were quite popular for a while and are still used by some hobbyists. They work on the principal that a stream of water is passed through an enclosed tube and over an intense UV light source which kills any organisms that it comes into contact with, effectively sterilizing the water. The value is dubious at best although a case may be made for it when the water has parasites or similar that needs to be dealt with.

REEFING TIP

When you install a new fluoro tube, write the date on one end with a felt tip permanent marker, then there won't be a problem with remembering when to change it over.

Utilizing ozone to sterilize water was popular at one time, but is little used today. Ozone is a gas, which is formed in the presence of an electrical field and has a very noticeable odour to it. The smell associated with lighting or other electrical arcs is ozone. Ozone, unlike UV, it is not limited to a small reaction chamber and has far reaching side effects. Ozone is a strong oxidant and it can easily damage delicate membranes such as fish gills.

Current reef keeping theory is that a healthy tank automatically helps to fight bad organisms in the water and such preventative measures such as UV sterilizers and ozone are unnecessary and potentially bad. Unlike fish only tanks that seem to frequently have massive fish infections from parasites and bacteria, which must be controlled via medication or mechanical means, reef tanks that are in good health rarely have significant disease problems.

For further reading please visit [Reef Keeping 101](#)

Dosing "Kalkwasser"

What is "Kalkwasser"?

Dripping Kalkwasser is an excellent method to maintain calcium and alkalinity in tanks with a medium calcium/alkalinity demand. To produce "Kalkwasser" you need the chemical Calcium Hydroxide. Calcium hydroxide can be the more expensive aquarium brands such as Seachem or you can use cheaper substitutes such as builder's lime (AKA hydrated lime) or pickling lime. It is a very simple and inexpensive method to drip Kalkwasser into an aquarium

For further reading please visit [Aqua care](#). Also visit [A Simple DIY Kalk Dripper BY Agu Lukk](#) or [ATJ's Marine Aquarium Site- DIY](#) for simple Kalk Drips and Info

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

Unfortunately there is apparently nothing for sale, swap or is wanted this month. Hopefully this will change soon

MARINE WEST

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

Welcome to Marine West. With over 20 years combined experience, Paul & Danuta Williams are specialising in creating exciting living reefs for your home or office.

We believe that your marine aquarium is limited only by your imagination - you dream it and we'll create it. Now working with Perth's finest home builders, designers and architects. We specialise in custom aquarium furniture and standard shaped aquariums. We can custom design to suit any budget.



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Opening Hours: [Tue - Sun 10:00am - 5:00pm](#)

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Email: pjwdrw@bigpond.com

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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.



Membership Application / Change of Details Form 2005

Office Use Only		
* Membership No.	* Application Date: / /	
* Annual Membership (pro-rata for remaining months of the calendar year @ \$2 per meeting):		
General - \$24	Country/Associate - \$12	Pro-rata - \$

Items below marked with a * are mandatory.

Name (Family Name must be included)*:		
Address*:		
		Postcode*:
Telephone No. (H)*:	Telephone No. (W):	
Mobile No.:		
Email Address (no Hotmail addresses):		
I wish to receive the MASWA Newsletter via*: Email <input type="checkbox"/> Post <input type="checkbox"/>		

Answering the following questions is not mandatory, but it does help the society in preparing articles, presentations and tours for future newsletters and meetings.

Where did you first hear about MASWA? _____

How many marine aquariums do you have? _____

Would you like one of the experienced MASWA members to guide you in setting up/improving your aquarium? **Yes** **No**

Is there a particular area of marine aquaria that you feel you need help with/more info. on?

What are you hoping to gain by joining MASWA?

Date*:	Signature*:
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Payment can be made by:
CHEQUE - make cheques payable to the MASWA treasurer, **Paul Tayler**
EFT - BSB 086 217, A/C # 69355 1664 (please include your name on all EFT transfers!).

Send applications to: **MASWA Membership Applications**
 C/o Paul Tayler
 PO Box 7185
 Shenton Park WA 6008

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