



## The Living Reef

February 2007

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm

Hi everyone,

Its February already, and the new years resolutions are forgotten as real life kicks into gear again after the festive season. We've had some really hot weather and I'm sure heat in the aquarium has been an issue for some members. With Autumn looming over us, we are in for some lovely hot and humid weather, which is quite often trouble as evaporative cooling methods fail to work. Its time to invest in air-conditioning the fishroom, at least then when you are hiding from the crazy in-laws you can do it in peace and comfort and give your salt water friends the attention they really deserve!

But seriously ...If you are having problems with heat building up, there are a few more sensible ways to reduce it. Look at your circulation pumps and how many watts of power they use. The more efficient the pump, the less power they draw and the less heat is subsequently added to the aquarium. Maybe look at a chiller. They seem expensive, but if you add up how much you have spent on livestock, its not that much. Lastly, reduce the amount of time your lighting is on for, especially metal halides. Your corals will survive the hot days with as little as 6 hours of light, so if it gets to crunch time, the tank is at 30 degrees, turn off your lights. Keep cool, and see you at the next meeting.  
Warren

## RTAW Reefpedia

This [wiki](#) has been established as an encyclopaedia of reef keeping by the [Marine Aquarium Societies of Australia \(MASA\)](#).

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The Marine Aquarists Society of WA Inc 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 Meeting Calendar....

February 28<sup>th</sup> - Elmer Ellison  
15 Balwarra Ave Dianella 6059

### Frag Fest XIII

March 28<sup>th</sup> ????  
Special Raffle

May 30<sup>th</sup> ????

April 25<sup>th</sup> ????  
Guess Speaker

June 27<sup>th</sup> ????

## MASWA Contact Information....

### COMMITTEE – 2007

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[stuartnruth@optusnet.com.au](mailto:stuartnruth@optusnet.com.au)

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**Secretary – Membership Enquiries**

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[chris@aussiereef.com.au](mailto:chris@aussiereef.com.au)

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**Web Editor – Web Page Enquiries**

Shona Whaite - 0428 746 620  
[me@shona.org](mailto:me@shona.org)

**Social Coordinator – Meeting Venues**

Advertising Enquiries, raffle donations,  
Even "just to be sociable"

Maria White – 0416 206 647  
[n1venus@bigpond.com.au](mailto:n1venus@bigpond.com.au)

**Frag Fest Coordinator –**

Ronald Tan - 9304 7890  
[cyberon@westnet.com.au](mailto:cyberon@westnet.com.au)

**WEB ADDRESS**

<http://www.masa.asn.au/maswa.php>

### 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....

### MASWA MEMBERSHIP FOR 2007 DUE BY THE MARCH MEETING!

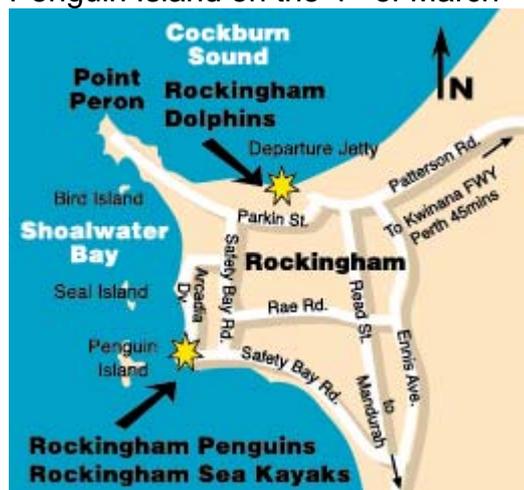
Just a reminder people 2006 is now over and it's time to pay your membership subscription for 2007. MASWA is a non profit organisation and cannot carry unfinancial members for months at a time like in previous years. If your membership dues are not paid by the **March 2006** meeting you will be taken off the membership register and receive no more newsletters and unable to attend any monthly meetings! For payment options please see the "MASWA Contact Info" on page 2.

### MASWA Test Kits (Free Testing)

MASWA's members are able to bring along water samples to any meeting and test their water. This is handy to verify your own test kits, or to try a kit you don't have at home. The kits are mainly Salifert Tests and include PH, Calcium, Carbonate Hardness/ Alkalinity, Nitrate and Silicate. Chris will also be bringing along his Phosphate Light Meter and MASWA now has a Refractometer to test the salinity of your water. This is a great free resource so make sure to take advantage of it. If you are unsure of how to test your water, bring along about 100ml and ask for help, its free!

### Penguin Island Day Trip

MASWA has planned a day trip to Penguin Island on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March



You can read about May 05 trip [here](#)  
Again this year Maria will organise a few activities and competitions for us. This will be family orientated day so please feel free to bring your partners and kids

along too.

To get to the island you can brave the walk across the sand bar or take the Ferry

### Ferry Departure Times

Ferry Departs - Hourly between 9.00am and 3.00pm

Return at your leisure: Hourly between 10.00am and 4.00pm

Prices as follows (To be confirmed because we may qualify for a group discount)

### Penguin Island Ferry

Adults \$10

Concession \$10

Child \$10 (3-12 years old)

### Penguin Island Ferry + Discovery Centre Entry

Adults \$15.50

Concession \$14.50

Child (3-12 years old) \$12.50

### Penguin Island Ferry + Waddle

Adults \$15.50

Concession \$14.50

Child (3-12 years old) \$12.50

### Penguin Island Ferry + Discovery Centre Entry + Waddle

Adults \$22.00

Concession \$19.50

Child (3-12 years old) \$16.50

Last time there we organised a snorkel which I recommend doing this again. The gear can be hired from the kiosk( Also to be confirmed)

Also this year a few of us want to organise a scuba dive from the Island. I have sent an email confirming we are aloud to do this and if we can organise a private boat to transport the scuba gear to the Island.

Hope to see you all there

## Last Months Meeting Rundown...

Last months meeting was at the Taylers in Shenton Park.



The aquarium is really thought out well, with nearly everything automated, and easy water changes done with a large reservoir in the garage connected to the tank.



Paul has nearly every piece of equipment available on his aquarium and the results speak for themselves.

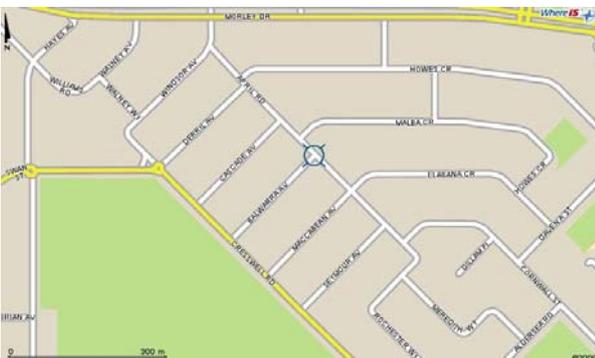
One of the most interesting features is the back wall of the aquarium actually being doors, giving excellent access to equipment, and adding that little bit more light that everyone craves.



It was a really good meeting with Fran Stephens giving us an insight on fish disease from an aquaculture perspective, nearly everyone won a raffle prize and the food was great as usual.

## Up & Coming Meet Information.....

### Frag Fest!



This months meeting is at Elmer's. If you haven't seen this tank, you shouldn't miss this meeting. Elmer's tank is humungous. At 7ft x

7ft x 2.5ft (or is it bigger?) It has to be the largest aquarium in the club. It is lit with a huge skylight, as well as 400W metal halides, and is fully viewable from 3½ sides. If you are having trouble viewing the tiny map I have provided, zoom in! At 500% you can see the road names as clear as day.

It is also Frag fest time. 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 newbie's 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.

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!

## Feature Articles

This months Feature Article topic is on request from your Vice President Heath. This is a huge article, and the rest of it can be found [here](#). Some of the ingredients can not be found here as the article is aimed at the American market, however substitutes are easily found.

### **An Improved Do-it-Yourself Two-Part Calcium and Alkalinity Supplement System** **by Randy Holmes-Farley**

#### Introduction

This two-part additive system is similar to the many commercial two-part additive systems. It allows aquarists to supplement calcium and alkalinity without greatly skewing the water's ionic balance (something that is claimed by many of the commercial products, but that is not independently verified). Equal addition of the two parts to a reef aquarium will provide calcium and alkalinity in approximately the same ratio used in calcification by corals and coralline algae.

One part is calcium chloride dissolved in water, and the other part is baking soda (either baked or not prior to use) dissolved in water. The balance between these two additives is very important, and the recipe is designed for aquarists to dose equal portions of the two parts every time they dose. An aquarium using such a balanced additive system is unlikely to undergo large short-term swings in calcium and alkalinity, as can happen if an aquarist using independent additives were to inadvertently overdose one or the other. This problem is surprisingly common, and using balanced calcium and alkalinity additive systems for most additions serves to eliminate that potential danger.

A "third" part of this additive system contains magnesium, sulfate, and chloride. It needs to be added only once in a while at a fixed rate relative to the other two parts. It cannot be readily combined with either of the other parts, based on the ingredients discussed here that are readily available to aquarists (commercial systems may have more chemicals to select from, such as sodium sulfate, allowing more flexibility). This third part is necessary to prevent magnesium depletion, and to prevent abnormal chloride and sulfate ratios in the aquarium.

#### Summary:

This improved two-part additive system is inexpensive and simple to make. Many reef aquarists have been successfully using the original recipe for more than a year now, and this improvement should make it even more appealing.

For those who use it, be sure to check the calcium and alkalinity values over time, even after establishing a routine that looks to do the job. Because of the uncertainty in the amount of moisture in these products when purchased, and in the amounts that you actually measure out, the system may not be perfectly balanced, and a slow drift toward elevated or depleted calcium (assuming you are dosing to maintain alkalinity) may take place even in the absence of other potentially disrupting factors such as water changes.

Measuring magnesium once in a while is also likely a good move, just in case it is being used more or less rapidly than expected for a typical case.

Happy Reefing!

## Fishy Links And News

### Conflicting pieces of advice I have received as a "noob"

*Just a mini rant about how confusing it is when you try to get into this hobby. The single biggest hurdle to getting into reef keeping is contradicting advice. And a lot of times responses seem to be an all or nothing situation. When after a lot of reading it seems there is more greys in reef keeping then black and whites.*

### RO water and the guilt factor??

*Just a quick survey...Does anyone feel guilty about using RO water for water changes considering the amount of waste it produces and our current water crisis? I must admit it worries me a little. Any innovative ways to use the RO waste?? is it ok for the garden for example?*

### Wet skimming

*Just wondering what your views are on wet skimming. I see many posts about getting as dry skimmate as possible, but why? wont more wastes be removed with wet skimming. Apart from checking the salinity more frequently and emptying the skimmer more often is there any other reason?*

### Barrier Reef faces pesticide threat

Pesticide run-offs may be polluting larger areas of the Great Barrier Reef than originally thought. A series of satellite images obtained by CSIRO scientists have confirmed for the first time that

sediment plumes travel to the outer reef, and beyond.

It was originally thought that the plumes, which can contain pesticides, herbicides and other micropollutants from our river systems, affected only the inner Great Barrier Reef Lagoon and the inner reef corals.

However the new images, taken by NASA's MODIS satellite by GeoScience Australia's Alice Springs site between February 9-13, show they are travelling up to 135km offshore.

The images were taken during the heavy rains in far north Queensland, and show floodwaters carrying a larger sediment load than during regular rainfall and river flow. [MORE](#)

### Davidson Seamount: Exploring Ancient Coral Gardens

Most people think that corals are found in warm water and that mountains are only on land. In 2002, we were able to use new technologies to explore the cold waters, 4,100 to 12,000 feet deep (1250 to 3660 meters), off the Central California coastline. Our destination, the Davidson Seamount, was covered with spectacular organisms, including large and ancient coral gardens. We found that the corals are mostly located on seamount ridges, and that we still have much to learn about the taxonomy (scientific names) of these species. We are now returning to Davidson Seamount, still 99.98% unexplored, to test a model we developed that predicts where corals will be found. [MORE](#)

## Classifieds

4x2x2.5(H) Including- all live rock, corals, fish, zebra eel, refugium, berlin protein skimmer, 400w metal halide, 300w jager heater, cabinet & open hood. \$2500

Breeding system - 2 tier stand with ten 18 inch square tanks, all connected to main sump. Incl. pumps, heaters and lights \$500

Breeding system - will suit marine or f/w. Incl 10x 120L tanks, 3x 80L tanks, all connected to main sump and two separate sumps for remote deep sand bed and refugium use. also c/w heaters lights and pumps \$1500

Breeding colony of bristlenose catfish - (1 male and 5 females) comes with 3 4ft tanks on 3 tier stand all lights gravel pumps heaters plants etc included \$400

Brand new tank - 1200 x 450 x 800 H - comes with 150w metal halide, black cabinet and hood, sump. Currently f/w set up with fish but will sell fish separately if tank is wanted for marine purposes. Tank has over flow box and is done with black silicone. Also comes with heater and pump.\$1000

Brand new tank - unused black silicone with over flow box and hole for return 1200 x 350 x 800 H \$400

400W Metal Halide, 14000k lamp, ballast, control gear and reflector \*Brand New\*Never Used\* \$200

Wanted: Macro algae's, sea grasses, Caulerpa etc please bring to next meeting.

Enquiries into all the above ads can be made to Heath at: 0416 240 115 [boucherh@dodo.com.au](mailto:boucherh@dodo.com.au)

## MASWA Sponsors....

It's official; MASWA now has six 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](mailto:n1venus@bigpond.com.au).



Fremantle Ocean Farm will generously donated the next water change to all new members who join MASWA and 2 free water changes vouchers for the raffles



Open Saturdays Only 10am to 5pm  
Golden Bay Fish Ponds and Marine Aquarium Centre generously donates prizes for the MASWA raffles



P.O. Box 283, Quinn's Rocks, Western Australia, 6030.

Phone 0427 941 126 Fax (08) 9305 9891

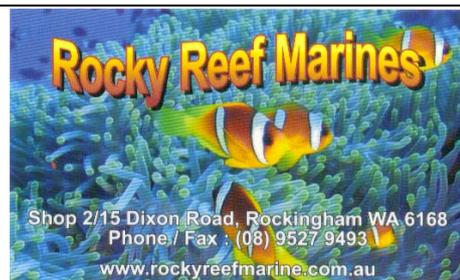
<http://www.oceanarium.com.au>

[Fish@oceanarium.com.au](mailto:Fish@oceanarium.com.au)

Suppliers of marine aquarium specimens and accessories throughout Australia.

Our mission statement is to supply you with quality specimens you can confidently order over the Internet knowing they will arrive in a healthy condition.

**Oceanarium has generously donated corals for Frag Feasts, Demonstrations and Raffles**



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

[info@rockyreefmarine.com.au](mailto:info@rockyreefmarine.com.au)

Suppliers of quality net caught fish from Vanuatu and the Fiji Islands. Also a

Large selection of corals and Inverts

Come and see Martin and Marc and mention you are a MASWA Member and they will give you 10% discount on your purchase.

**Rocky Reef Marine has generously donated gift vouchers and products for the MASWA raffles**



Cnr Carrington & Forsyth St O'Connor WA 6163

ph: (08) 9314 7630

web: <http://www.vebas.com.au/>

email: [vebas@vebas.com.au](mailto:vebas@vebas.com.au)

Open 7 Days 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM (Thursdays 8:00 AM - 8:30 PM)

**Veba's generously donates prizes for the MASWA raffles**



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

**Perth Aquarium and Display Centre has generously donated gift vouchers for the MASWA raffles**

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