



The Living Reef

April 2007

Wednesday 18th 7:30pm

Hi everyone,

Its time to get ready for the winter months ahead. For most people this means plugging those heaters back in if you have not already. To save a last minute emergency fish shop run, place your heater into a bucket with a powerhead circulating the water before you switch them on to test that they still work. Leave it be for thirty minutes and test the water with a reliable thermometer. This gives you a chance to calibrate the heater as well.

As with all electrical stuff that goes into your fish tank, check the cabling before turning the appliance on, as

the plastic can deteriorate over summer in the heat if not stored correctly. If the cabling looks bad, have a qualified sparky check the cabling for you or just throw it away and purchase a new unit. It's not worth the lives of your animals, yourselves or your loved ones to risk using a dodgy heater.

If you are worried about rockwork, kids, or aggressive fish breaking glass heaters, have a look at the plastic guards that fit over the heaters, or remortgage the house for a titanium heater!

See you at the 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....

April 18th-Veba's Aquarium
Cnr Carrington and Forsyth St O'Connor

May 30th
Way Down South Meeting

June 27th
Halszka Antoszezwska

July 25th Guest Speaker
Lee McIntyre

August 29th
Warren Taylor

MASWA Contact Information....

COMMITTEE – 2007

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stuartnruth@optusnet.com.au

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paul@pmtco.com.au

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Advertising Enquiries, raffle donations,
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Maria White – 0416 206 647
n1venus@bigpond.com.au

Frag Fest Coordinator –
Ronald Tan - 9304 7890
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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 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!

Membership Cards



MASWA will be introducing a Membership Card this month. The cards has been introduced so members can increase their social prestige, showing them off to your mates at the Sunday BBQ's and also to show your partners and families there's a reason why you keep disappearing the last Wednesday of each month.

But more importantly, the card has been introduced to help raise awareness that MASWA is a society of Marine Aquarist's in WA and it will help members to be easily identified to our Sponsors and other marine stores that you may shop at.

So don't be afraid to flash them around and

who knows you may even get a discount from your local fish shop.

The new MASWA web pages are now up and running!

To view them, go to www.masa.asn.au and click on "Western Australia" from the menu on the left.

Visitors can find out more about MASWA, our meetings & other events, membership benefits, join up using our online membership form and more.

Our web site will continue to grow over time, so if you have something you would like to see on the site just let me know.

Shona Whaite
MASWA Web Editor

New Members

Please make welcome our new members!

Michael Fitzgerald
Michael Davidson
Karl Fehlaur
Russel Kardos
Janey Pagnels
Chris Cooper
Jacqueline Dent
David Sarre
Chrios Lawlor
Ryan Vesser
Samual Goon
Leigh Boucher

Last Months Meeting Rundown...

Last months' meeting was at Charlie's in Balga. There was a great turn out of members, with a good show of new members too. The house was packed.



Charlie's tank is a huge in wall reef, measuring 2m by 1m x 1m, with an extra couple of hundred litres in the sump behind the tank.



Charlie has air-conditioned the room the tank sits in. This is where he has performed a master stroke of pure genius. His tank was in need of a cooling system, and he was in need of a better aircon system... So... upgrade the old unit to a flash new wall mount system, and use the old window unit on the fish room! Charlie's fish are happy, and so is Charlie's wife!

The fish were in top notch condition, fed a variety of seafood in a homemade mix of shellfish, and the corals looked great also, with most of them being years old.

A great water change system was installed as well. Charlie always keeps a thousand litres on hand, so if he feels like the corals aren't looking their best, or just for the sake of it he can open a few taps and give the tank a refresher in a few minutes. Water changing is the biggest chore an aquarist has to perform so this sort of system is priceless.



It was special raffle night as well, with some great books and prizes on offer. A big thanks to Veba's who donated an all-in-one aquarium as the major prize, and a new Resun 15000/h wave maker powerhead.

Scott Richards won the major prize, and as he couldn't make it to the meeting, he received congratulation over the phone from our social coordinator Maria... "where the (bloody) hell are ya?"...

Well done to all that won a prize. The contributions from the raffles go straight back into the club, and will no doubt be spent on more great raffle prizes in the upcoming meetings!

Up & Coming Meet Information....



This months meeting is being held at Veba's (local fish shop) in O'Connor. It is a great chance to have a look at a shop without the hustle and bustle of other customers...and especially without those pesky freshwater enthusiasts gawking at our selection of salty animals.

Hopefully we will also get a talk and a glimpse at some of the stuff that goes on behind the scenes at a local fish shop.

Feature Articles

This months feature article is getting back to basics and is great guide for new hobbyists. It is part one of a five part series, and the rest will follow in the next four months. A big thanks to Ross Coghill (aka Kranky) who is the author and has allowed us to publish this fantastic material!

Jumping in the Deep End!

So you've seen the display tanks, you've cruised the internet for pictures and you have to have one.

Some things to consider first:

- Do I have the dedication?
- Do I have the support to run it?
- Do I have the money required?
- Do I have room?
- Do I have a PLAN?

Do I have the dedication?

You will need it. A marine system and particularly a reef system is complex ecosystem and it can be hard to replicate in your lounge room. Before you plunge in there is a multitude of information to gather, water quality requirements, fish size limits, bioload, filtration – the list can seem never ending if your not prepared. Sacrifices will need to be made, do you really want to run a household without aerosols?

Do I have the support to run it?

Well yes you do, the internet has an overload of information. In Australia we have [Reefing The Australian Way](#) with its included [Forums](#) and its information package [The Reefpedia](#). You will also need someone reliable for those weekends away, a friend, family member or a friendly reefer close by to check the system while you're away.

Do I have the money required?

You'll need it. Complex systems can require complex support and it can be expensive. This hobby has a relatively high turnover of participants as often the solution to the problem requires a big dollop of cash to fix. Be prepared because it happens but it need not be a debilitating expense.

Do I have the room?

You have to have somewhere to place your system. There are constraints here also, placement (not too close to windows where heat might affect it for instance), room and access for support systems, ease of viewing etc.

Do I have a PLAN?

Crunch time, you've answered positive to the above and your going for it. Where do you start? You'll need a plan to get things moving, you cannot just drop a tank in your lounge room and throw fish in it. So some things to consider while making your plan:

- Type of system?
 - Temperate
 - Tropical
 - Fish only
 - Seahorse
 - Reef
- Size of the system?
 - What can I afford?
 - What will fit?
 - Nano?
 - BIG?
- What equipment will I need to support the system?
 - Lighting
 - Filtration
 - Circulation
 - Sump

Scary huh? Well not really. Research is your friend and a plan well executed is a rewarding experience.

Marine systems are truly fascinating to watch, to top that off you've got the fuzzy feeling of having achieved something many would like to do but cant, and of course the wow factor from visitors will fill you with pride – and it should.

Healthy reefing to you
Ross Coghill
(aka Kranky)

Fishy Links And News

Full Frontals

Everyone loves looking at tank pics.....so why not everyone who can, post a full frontal of your tank so others can have a bit of a perve...

Is my tank crashing - please help

I have posted another topic - Water Chemistry, and am seeking some fairly urgent advice please...

Should I throw out my neglected Live (/dead) Rock?

A few months ago I had to dismantle my reef tank in a hurry for house renovations. I put my little damsel (my only fish at the time) back into his quarantine tank and piled my 30kgs of live rock into a new 60L plastic bin and topped it off with tank water...

The "How To" Guide to Reef Aquarium Chemistry for Beginners, Part 2: What Chemicals Must be Supplemented by Randy Homes-Farley

This article is the second in a series that deals with coral reef aquarium chemistry issues on a basic and practical level. Its primary purpose is to get new aquarists to focus on those aspects of reef aquarium chemistry that are truly important, instead of on those that are not. New aquarists are bombarded with a huge assortment of issues and opinions relating to aquarium husbandry practices, and none seems to cause more anxiety than chemistry issues. Some of these issues are actually very complicated, and the answers to many questions are simply not known. Fortunately for hobbyists, knowing the answers to these questions is rarely important to keeping a wonderful reef aquarium. Those issues that are important to understand are much more straightforward and can be solved without excessive anxiety...

Classifieds

4 x 2 x 2.5 (H) - Incl. -- 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

Contact Heath on 0416 240 115

Your stuff for sale here!

Please try to keep it aquarium related.

It can be equipment, fish, corals etc!

Email a committee member to get your ad shown!

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.



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



<http://www.aquaticrocks.com.au> has kindly donated a door prize for the MASWA Meetings

Available from:

Midland Pet Aquarium Center
205 Great Eastern Highway Midland
Aquaria Australia Warehouse

www.aquaria.com.au

Perth Aquarium & Display Centre
1234 Albany Hwy, Cannington
<http://www.perthaquarium.com.au/>

Pisces

Unit 3/11 Augusta st., Willetton

OCEANARIUM Marine aquarium supplies.

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

Phone 0427 941 126 Fax (08) 9305 9891

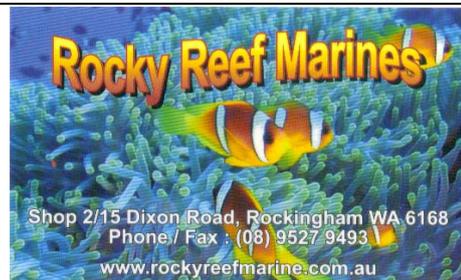
<http://www.oceanarium.com.au>

Fish@oceanarium.com.au

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

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

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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