



The Living Reef

August 2010 Edition

Next meeting: Sunday 29th August at 2-3.30PM
Host: Oceanarium Coral Farm, 30 Rangeview Drive, Wanerie

Hi everyone,

Our next meeting would be held in Oceanarium. On this occasion MASWA is organising a bus which you can find the full info including registration here: <http://www.masa.asn.au/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=61&t=219476>

Welcome to all our new members. Hope to see you at this month's meeting, or at one of our other upcoming events.

Steven Liman

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RTAW Reefpedia

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

MASWA 2010 Meeting Schedule

Month	Date	Host
January	Wed 27 th	Steve Sterling
February	Sun 28 th	Elmer
March	Wed 31 st	Cicerellos
April	Sun 25 th	David Sarre
May	Wed 27 th	Kambos Canning Vale
June	Sun 27 th	Steve Sterling
July	Wed 28 th	Vebas
August	Sun 29 th	Oceanarium
September	Wed 29 th	Phil Morris
October	Sun 31 st	Justin Grey
November	--	--
December	Sun 5 th	Steve Sterling

MASWA Contact Information

COMMITTEE – 2010

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MASWA Membership Payment

Cheque/money order: Please make payable to MASWA

EFT: BSB 086-136, A/C 8724 73681
A/C name: MASWA Inc.
(please include your name on all EFT transfers!)

Cash: Make cash payment in person only.

Postal Address:

MASWA
c/o Alasdair Whyte
GPO Box R1253
Perth WA 6844

MASWA Message Board

MASWA Club Activities

Our newly appointed Vice President, Anthony Suiter came up with some ideas to improve our club. One of them is through group activities or even just a BBQ. Some of the activities he came up with are bowling, movie night, maybe fishing, diving, etc.

So if you were thinking of contributing to the society, now would be a good time to think of some ideas and post it in the link below. We need people to volunteer to contribute to the team for the benefit of the society, as we are a non-profit organization.

Full discussion is [here](#).

Hosting a MASWA Meeting

We are always looking for members who would like to host a meeting. You don't need to have a showpiece tank, we like looking at all sorts of tanks from nanos to 10 foot monsters, from just setup to well established.

As a host you won't need to provide anything for the meeting (except standing room or some chairs if you have some), MASWA will bring along everything else.

All we ask for is a short talk on your tank (see the Host Presentation below for some ideas on what to talk about)

According to our calendar, there are about 4 spots that need to be filled, so if you are interested in hosting a meeting don't hesitate to contact any committee member or post it in MASWA Members sub forum.

Full information is [here](#).

MASWA TEST KITS **Free water testing**

MASWA 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 also brings along his Phosphate Light Meter and a Refractometer to test the salinity of your water.

MASWA now have HANNA digital phosphate meter to accurately test your phosphate level up to 2 decimal points.

This is a great free resource so be sure to take advantage of it.

If you are unsure of how to test your water, bring along about 100ml and ask for help (also free!)



Last Months Meeting Rundown

Last month's meeting was at Vebas, thanks to Pacco(happy man below) for the time and place, and of course the beers and pizzas! Nobody seems to leave empty handed from what I remember, or maybe I was busy talking and drinking ☺ The new display tank is absolutely stunning, great diversity of corals and fishes and they all like the "washing machine" effect created by multiple Vortech MP40. It was a great night, big applause for Pacco and his team for being there and provides us with great service.



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.

Upcoming Meeting Information

This month's meeting is going to take place in Oceanarium, another exciting place to visit, one of a kind newly setup coral farm, this is a rare event that you can't miss!
Oceanarium is one of Australia's leading online livestock suppliers, and this new facility is a tribute to Peter and Leanne's dedication to the hobby.

You can read the progress of the farm build at the [Oceanarium News page](#)



Formalities of the meeting will be:

- President address
- Introduce new members
- Raffle tickets
- Behind the scenes tour
- Raffle tickets drawn
- Door Prize
- General discussion
- Wind-up

Science News

Scientists Test Australia's Moreton Bay as Coral 'Lifeboat'

ScienceDaily (Aug. 13, 2010) — An international team of scientists has been exploring Moreton Bay, close to Brisbane, as a possible 'lifeboat' to save corals from the Great Barrier Reef at risk of extermination under climate change.



A new landscape, massive corals such as these have only come to dominate Moreton Bay's reefs after European settlement. Branching corals, the major components of reefs worldwide, are no longer dominant in the Bay. (Credit: Photo courtesy of Matt Lybolt, ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies)

In a new research paper they say that corals have been able to survive and flourish in the Bay, which lies well to the south of the main GBR coral zones, during about half of the past 7000 years.

Corals only cover about 1 per cent of the Moreton Bay area currently, and have clearly been adversely affected by clearing of the surrounding catchments and human activities on land and sea, says lead author Matt Lybolt of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies and The University of Queensland.

"The demise of tropical coral reefs around the world is due mainly to overfishing, pollution and climate change. There is also plenty of historical evidence that coral reefs can move from one environment to another as the climate and other conditions change," Matt explains.

"In view of this, various places -- including Moreton Bay -- are being investigated as possible refuges in which coral systems can be preserved should they begin to die out in their natural settings. Indeed, some people have even talked of relocating and re-seeding corals in other locations that better suit their climatic needs."

The team's study of Moreton Bay reveals that it is not exactly ideal coral habitat, being cold in winter, lacking sufficient direct sunlight, subject to turbid freshwater inflows and -- more recently -- to a range of human impacts.

"Even before European settlers came on the scene the Bay underwent phases in which corals grew prolifically -- and phases in which they died away almost completely. We understand what causes corals to die back, but we are less clear about what causes them to recover," Matt says.

"Broadly, the corals seemed to do well at times when the climate, sea levels and other factors were most benign and stable -- and to decline when El Nino and other disturbances made themselves felt."

The Moreton Bay corals have been in an expansionary phase during the last 400 years, initially dominated by the branching *Acropora* corals but, since the Bay's catchment was cleared and settled, these have died back leaving mainly slow-growing types of coral.

"Under climate change we expect winters to be warmer and sea levels to rise -- and both of these factors will tend to favour the expansion of corals in Moreton Bay," Matt says.

"However this expansion of corals may not occur unless we make a major effort to improve water quality in the Bay, by not allowing effluent, polluted runoff or sediment to enter it, and also by regrowing mangrove forests and seagrass beds within the Bay. "

The team concludes that Moreton Bay's potential as a good 'lifeboat' for corals is limited by four major factors:

It is highly sensitive to what the 2 million residents of its catchment do that affects it

It presently has very few branching corals left

The area on which corals can grow is limited, both naturally and by human activity

Finally, the historical record suggests the Bay is only a good coral refuge about half of the time.

Wiley-Blackwell (2010, June 3). Coral transplantation the simple and cheap solution to reef restoration. *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved June 20, 2010, from <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/07/100726094911.htm>

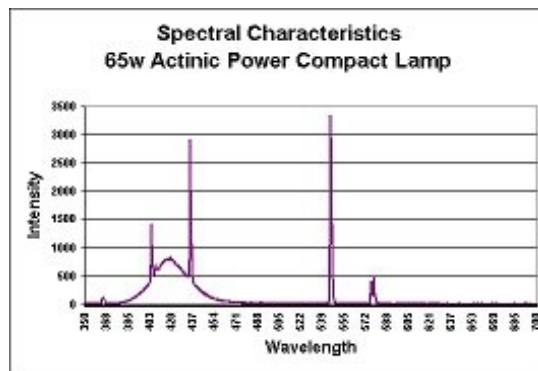
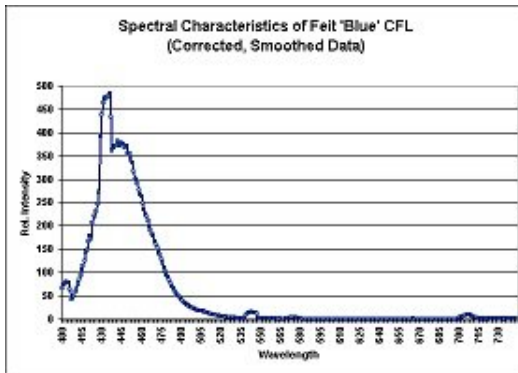
Feature Article

Compact Fluorescent Lamps - Actinic



I did not have high expectations for these lamps when I purchased them. But even after making close to 100,000 light measurements over the course of the last 15 years or so, I realize that I can still be surprised.

Although the Feit 'blue' lamp does not possess the same spectral characteristics of a 'true' actinic lamp, it is remarkable close. See Figures 19 and 20.



However, the light quality of the daylight lamp is about equal to any daylight lamp on the market. The Feit 'green' lamp likely has applications when one wishes to mimic turbid reef environments, though they will have to be mixed with daylight and/or actinic lamps to gain PAR and aesthetic value. Interestingly, the output of the green lamp possesses wavelengths known to enhance red and orange fluorescence in at least some coral species. Black lights have applications in specialty aquaria, especially where the goal is to showcase most any of the fluorescent pigments found in so many corals.

The amount of PAR produced by the daylight and soft white lamps is very good for a low-wattage lamp. The green and blue lamps, when not housed in a reflector, produced a disappointing amount of light. However, selective use of a quality reflector and lamp positioning makes these lamps worthy of your attention. It is not difficult to imagine a number of these lamps wired in series and housed in proper reflectors projecting enough light into a shallow nano-reef or specialty tank (such as a refugium or frag tank). Such a luminaire would be inexpensive to build and operate, and lamp replacement cost would be minimal. These are factors we rarely encounter when dealing with reef aquaria and could be easily exploited to the advantage of hobbyists possessing basic carpentry and electrical wiring skills.

Obviously, care should be taken to avoid water splashing on these or any other electrical devices. When designing your luminaire, consider use of clear acrylic material to shield the lamps from splashes and/or salt spray. This, in turn, will require the use of some sort of non-passive cooling such as a small computer fan. Keeping the lamps cool is important and should increase lamp longevity and PAR/spectral output.

There are some drawbacks - these lamps are not dimmable, and are not recommended for use with timing devices (since these tend to shorten the life of the lamp). However, these specialty lamps should lend themselves well to applications devised by an enterprising hobbyist. Replacing these lamps every six months (~2,000 hours of operation) should not be a difficult or expensive endeavor.

Full Article here: <http://www.advancedaquarist.com/2010/8/aafeature>

MASWA Sponsors

MASWA now has fourteen commercial sponsors with Ultra Reef as our latest addition. It is owned and run by Adrian Li (Masa username amashun). MASWA sponsors receive an advertisement (for monthly specials, etc) and a banner in the newsletter each month. 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 are interested in becoming a MASWA Sponsor, please contact Chris Sutton on 0419 858 108 or email: maswa@masa.asn.au



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Perth WA 6000

[Website](#)

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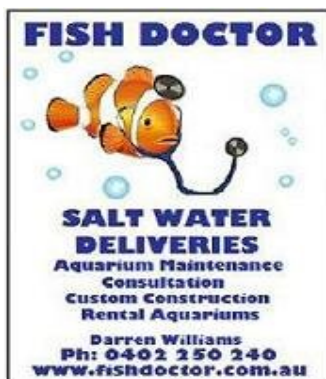
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[Ocean Reefs Marine Aquariums](#)

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Perth WA 6065

[Website](#)

Phone: +61 8 9409 3039

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[Oceanarium](#)

P.O. Box 283
Quinns Rock WA6030

[Website](#)

Phone: 0427 941 126

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[Pet Magic Cannington](#)

8 / 1500 Albany Hwy
Cannington WA 6107

[Website](#)

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[Website](#)

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[Seaview Aquariums](#)

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[Website](#)

Phone: (08) 9344 7210

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[Ultra Reef](#)

OPENING SOON
Sydney NSW 2220

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[Veba's](#)

Cnr Carrington & Forsyth St
O'Connor WA 6163

[Website](#)

Phone: (08) 9314 7630

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Tank of the Month - July

This month's TOTM Winner is Brendon Cameron aka danger, his tank journal can be found here: <http://www.masa.asn.au/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=148&t=170255>



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