June 2011 - Tone

Congratulations Tony on winning TOTM for June 2011 with your inspirational reef tank.

Tony is known simply as Tone on the RTAW forums and
you can find out more about his tank in his tank journal.

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Firstly, thankyou to all of the reefing
buddies and peers who have voted in sympathy for me – I could have become a lot
more mean in the forums, LOL. Truthfully, it is once again humbling to find
myself in the great company of the many excellent TOTM’s that have preceded this
award. Among them are many true reef-nerds, neurotics, and reef addicts in far
worse condition than myself.

We begin somewhere around 1993. After many
visits to my local LFS located only a few hundred metres from home, my LFS guy
convinced me that freshwater species would be better off if I changed to
marine. Believe it or not, in Australia
those were very much the pioneer days of marine aquaria … just keeping fish
alive for more than a week was an accomplishment.

There was scant information available online
back then and only if you had access to academic search engines. It would be
fair to say that worldwide the hobby was in the embryo stage of development. So
I bumbled along with my LFS guy trying to make sense of things.

1998 was a Rubicon year in my discovery of
Reef Central and then RTAW which was still a text based bulletin board … what a
relief to discover that it wasn’t just myself and my LFS guy decimating the
wild-caught marine livestock. Along with a few other hardnuts we established
MASQ in 2000/ 2001 which has grown into arguably the biggest and most active
Marine Aquaria society in the country. Well done to the crew that keeps it
going.

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Things developed along with the advancement
in equipment through a plethora of 3’ tanks to a 5’ter and then the 2000L
system around March 2007. The mega-tank plan had been with me for a few years

and so I had collected an array of pumps, lights, skimmers, etc., to get going
… most of which were now outdated and useless before I started.

So here we are;

Biotope - Reef-crest / Reef-face / Bommie

System Volume - Aproximately 2000L maximum

Tank - 2.85m wide x 0.90m deep x 0.75m high, euro-braced and 3 x cross braces.

Custom built by Dennison of Mary-Anne's Aquariums, Brisbane.

Stand - 75mm x 25mm RHS Duragal framing with 25mm x 25mm infill framing, custom

built by Ri-Co Engineering.

Recycled timber cladding, open faces.

Weir - Full depth end weir, 300mm in width.

40mm Durso standpipe, 40mm intake for closed loop,

40mm emergency overflow.

Sump - 450mm x 600mm x 450mm tall.

Profilux Opti-level sensor controlling the RO storage sump pump.

Return Pump - Laguna 16000 fed to perimeter return loop with 8 x 3/4" outlets.

Manifold diverts partial return through the chiller and carbon reactor.

Refugium - 900mm x 450mm x 450mm tall connected to the sump.

Refugium designed in the 'race' style based on A. Calfo's coral propogation tanks.

4 x 39W x 10,000k T5 lighting in anti-cycle.Natural mud & Caulerpa.Small DSB

in separate compartment.

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Cryptic Zone - Weir doubles as a CZ due to its large size.

Lighting - LED: 5 x Inwatter 120W LED units

Florescent: 2 x 2 x 54W Ozram ballasts.

4 x 54W x 20,000k Aquaz Pro-Blue.

Moonlights: LunarTracker auto lunar cycle – 5 LED

Lighting Cycle - LED – 12 hours

T5 Florescent – 12 hours

Skimmer - ATB Deluxe ‘Normal’ size up to 3,000L

Water Movement - Closed Loop - Sequence Barracuda pump.

Ocean Motions 8-Way, 8 x 1” outlets feed to 2 banks of 4 x ¾” Locline multi-directional nozzles fitted in bulkheads through the wall of the weir.Runs 12 hours per day, off at night.

Wavemaking - 2 x Ecotec Marine Vortec MP40W

3 x Tunze 6100

1 x Tunze 6250

1 x Tunze Wavebox (no extension)

Make-up water - PSI Custom RO/DI water filter, +250L per day.

Aquatec pressure booster pump controlled by solenoid and a float level switch located in the RO storage sump.

220L RO reservoir – lasts 7 to 10 days on average.

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Climate Control - Kelvinator 7kw Inverter split unit.

Chiller - Aquaone 1200

System Controller - Profilux 3e

- • pH monitoring.
- • ORP monitoring.
- • Temperature monitoring.
- • Management of chiller.
- • Management of heaters.
- • Control of fans.
- • Management of LED lights.
- • Opti-level return water level management.
- • Management of display water circulation.
- • Other things I know nothing of.

Calcium Reactor - Decommissioned in favour of 3-part dosing regime.

Ozone - 50mg/hr continuous through skimmer.

UV - 80W – seldom used now.

Test kits - I generally prefer Salifert above others although the LaMotte Alkalinity kit that I use is

superior.

Phosphate – Hanna low range photometer.

Alkalinity – Hanna Checker and LaMotte.

Calcium – Hanna Checker enroute.

ORP is monitored by the Profilux 3e.

Fe, Sr, and Mg - Salifert

Don’t measure ammonia, nitrite or nitrate … long past that stage.

Miscellaneous - 2 x 750W Standby power generators.

Livestock - Fish (25) or so

5 Pseudanthias sp assorted Anthias

1 Cirrhitichthys falco Dwarf Hawkfish

1 Centropyge loricula Flame Angelfish

1 Centropyge aurantia Golden Angelfish

1 Centropyge potteri Potters angelfish

1 Pomacanthus xanthometopon Blueface Angelfish

2 Amphiprion melanopus Red & Black Anemone Fish

1 Coris gaimard Yellowtail Coris

1 Psuedocheilinus hexataenia Sixline Wrasse

1 Microcanthus strigatus Stripey

1 Cirripectes stigmaticus Reticulated blenny ?

1 Atrosalarius fuscus holomelas Brown Coral Blenny

1 Siganus vulpinus Foxface Rabbitfish

1 Siganus vigatus Virgate or Scribbled Rabbitfish

1 Acanthurus pyroferus Mimic Surgeonfish

2 Paracanthurus hepatus Pacific Blue Tang

1 Zebrasoma scopas Scopas Tang

1 Zebrasoma xanthurum Purple Tang

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Invertebrates

Shrimp

Lysmata amboinensis Scarlet Cleaner Shrimp

Sea Stars

Linckia laevigata Blue linckia

Sea Cucumbers

Holothuria hilla Tiger tail

Soft Corals

Xenia spp. Pulsing Xenia

Lobophytum spp. Green Leather Coral

Cladiella sp. Finger Leather Coral

Anemone

Heteractis crispa Sebae Anemone

Zoanthids

Protopalythoa spp. Green Zoanthids

Pink Zoanthids

Orange Zoathids

Protopalythoa vestitus Button polyps

Corallimorphs

Discosoma spp. Mushroom Coral

Rhodactis sp. Hairy Mushroom Coral

Ricordea yuma

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Hard Corals

Pocillora damicornis Pink, Green, Magenta

Seriatopora hystrix Birds nest

Acropora grandis Staghorn acropora

Acropora formosa Staghorn acropora

Acropora nobilis Staghorn acropora

Acropora austera Branching acropora

Acropora nasuta Cluster acropora

Acropora granulosa Bottlebrush acropora

Acropora clathrata Table acropora

Acropora millepora Cluster acropora

Acropora gemmifera Cluster acropora

Montipora verrucosa Encrusting montipora

Montipora efflorescens Encrusting montipora

Montipora sp. Plating montipora

Porites lichen Plating jewel coral

Porites sp. Boulder coral

Fungia sp. Disk coral

Lobophyllia hemprichii Lobed brain coral

Caulastrea furcata Candy Cane / Trumpet coral

Favites sp. Moon coral

Platygyra daedalea Brain coral

Catalaphyllia jardenei Elegance coral

Plerogyra sinuosa Bubble coral

Duncanosammia Wiskers coral

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Natural Filtration - Around 200kg of Live rock. Some of the LR has been in my tanks since my first days in reefing.

Deep Sand Bed - 100mm to 300mm deep made up of mainly Calgrit Fine Calcium feedstock, 40kg of Fiji Pink, and 10kg of 3mm marble chip in high flow areas.

Next time around I would not use the marble chip nor the Fiji-Pink as the silica in the aggregates scratches the display glass.

The high water flow tends to move the bed around a bit creating areas of exception depth and other areas bare.

Top up with a cup or so of mangrove mud every so often.

Water Parameters - Temperature Range 25.3C – 27C. Average 26.1C

Salinity 1.025

pH 8.05 – 8.3

Alk 9.2 – 10.8 dKh

Ca 420 - 450 ppm

Mg +/- 1750 ppm

Sr 12 ppm – rarely measured

Nitrate Not measured

Phosphate 0.08 – 0.12 ppm

Additives & Conditioners - 3-Part Dosing with Kamoer 7-station dosing pump

Alkalinity – Focus ‘pHBuffer’ swimming pool chemical +100ml per day, 840g in 10L of RO water

Calcium – Calcium chloride hexahydrate or Focus Calcium swimming pool chemical +100ml per day, 735g in 10L of RO water

Magnesium chloride hexahydrate also use Kent Marine Tech-M to check bryopsis

Probiotics - ProdiBio

Bioptim – 6 vials per week

Biodigest – 6 vials per week

ReefBooster – 1 vial per week

Vodka / Sugar / Vinegar - Currently suspended

Phosphate Remover Lo-Chlor ‘Starver’ 40ml per day in a 100ml solution of RO water dosed into the skimmer intake and discharged into a 100um sock

Brightwell Iodine 1ml x twice per week

Brightwell Strontium 1ml x twice per week

Koralien-zucht Coral Snow I dosing per week

Koralien-zucht ZEOzym 1 dosing per fortnight

Phol’s B-Balance 1ml x twice per week

Phol’s K-Balance 1ml x twice per week

Phol’s XTRA special 1 ml x twice per week

Granular Activated Carbon Carbon Technologies 2L of granular in a reactor

powered off the return line changed once per month.

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Husbandry - Generally, I spend ½ to 1 hour a day messing with the tank.

Water changes - 200L / 4 - 6 Weeks

Clean glass - Once per week

Vacuum sand bed - Never – high water motion plus Coris wrasse to keep sand surface

‘churned’.

Clean skimmer - Overflow cup drained daily. Neck washed twice per week.

Change GAC - 2L per month

Pet hate? - I hate Bryopsis!

What would I do different? - I wish I had purchased my own power station when Queensland

Government sold them off.

Observations - A united and strong representative hobby organisation is hugely useful in peddling

influence to protect our natural marine environment and our access to it for the

longevity of the pleasure it brings to us.

I would encourage more technical standardisation of setups – less ‘Robinson Crusoe’ approaches to setting up and maintaining a captive marine environment.

I would also encourage reefers to adopt the natural ‘pure’ methods in establishing and maintaining a reef tank and its inhabitants … think more ‘biotope’ for aquascaping and livestock selections.

And finally, but not least - Thanks to my many buddies in MASQ who have been supportive over the years and pretended to listen when I have had something to say.Also thanks to the many RTAW supporters and other MASx reefers whose banter I continue enjoy.