

September 2010 - Peter Blagojevic (blags)

Congratulations to Peter Blagojevic on winning TOTM for September 2010 with his bigfoot mixed reef tank.

Peter is known as blags on the RTAW Forums and you can read more about him tank in his Tank Journal .

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Introduction

I've had reef tanks for over 8 years now. I started with a 18" then added to it with a 28" both of which crashed due to a power supply failure whilst not home in 2005 with almost total losses. After a lot of soul searching and a lot of encouragement from my partner I started again in 2006 with a 7' x 3' x 28" mixed reef tank. This went along nicely and was just getting that feel of a real reef until disaster again befell us in Nov 2008 in the form of a house fire. And so began this tank once we were back in the rebuilt house in Sept 2009. I'm nothing if not persistent This is essentially the tank of my dreams, no penny pinching, and no compromise on size or equipment. The rock structure is based on the reef formations that we snorkelled over on Hideaway Is in Vanuatu. Many a breakfast has been had in front of the tank and also many a bottle of wine in the evening just chilling life's little worries away.

Tank

10'6" L x 4'28" W x 28" H (3200mm long x 1220mm wide x 710mm high) Built by Dennison Seeto (rainmun on the forums) from Mary-Anne's Aquariums. Located in Browns Plains Qld.

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Display Lighting

Currently 4 x 250W Lumen Bright reflectors with 12000k Reeflux globes on Electronic ballasts down the middle and 4 4x80W T5 ATI Powermodules. Two each, along either side. The lights are on a hinged light track for ease of tank maintenance, there is no hood. Lighting is operated by the Profilux III. The right bank of T5 lights come on at 10am followed by the left bank 15 minutes later. The halides progressively come on from 12pm in half hour increments along the tank then go off in the same order from 6pm. The T5 lights turn off in the same order as they went on from 9.15pm.

Stand

10'6" L x 4'41" W x 41" H (3200mm long x 1220mm wide x 1040mm high) made from 50mm square tube by a work mate who has his own business Brassall Engineering.

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Sump

6'3" L x 3'6" W x 2'2" H (1830mm long x 1067mm wide x 610mm high).

Refugium

3' x 1'6" (920mm x 460mm).

Refugium Lighting

2x39W T5 unit

System Water

Natural salt water

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Display Water circulation

11 x VorTech MP40W two of which are
MP40WES models

Return Pump

Sequence Euro 18,000L/hr.

Skimmer

Bubble King Super Marine 300 with self cleaning head.

Evaporation Top Up

Auto top up via DIY auto top up unit made from the group buys years ago and it survived the fire

Calcium Addition

Turbo Dual Stage Calcium Reactor filled with coral rubble.

Alkalinity Addition

Turbo Dual Stage Calcium Reactor filled with coral rubble.

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Other Chemical Maintenance

Manual dosing of Alkalinity is via the addition of Sodium Bicarbonate.

Calcium is via the addition of Damprid (Calcium Chloride).

Tropic Marin Phyton and Zooton every few days

Poylp Labs Reef Roids every few days

100% Reef Safe Amino Acid Protein Supplement every few days as well

Current Water Chemistry

Nitrates: 0 tested with API test kit

Phosphates: .01 to .03 on the MASQ Hanna meter

Alkalinity: 8 to 10 dkh

Calcium: 440 to 460 ppm

Salinity / Specific Gravity: 1.026

Magnesium: About the 1300 to 1350 ppm {mosimage cw=300 popup=1}

Current fish stock

1 x Zebrasoma xanthurum Purple Tang

1 x Zebrasoma flavescens Yellow Tang

1 x Acanthurus dussumieri Dussumieri Tang

1 x <i>Naso lituratus</i>	Lipstick Tang
1 x <i>Zebrasoma scopas</i> Tang	Scopas
1 x <i>Paracanthurus hepatus</i>	Blue Tang
1 x <i>Acanthurus olivaceus</i> Shoulder Tang	Orange
1 x <i>Ctenochaetus binotatus</i>	Twin Spot Bristletooth Tang
1 x <i>Pseudocheilinus ocellatus</i>	Mystery Wrasse
1 x Unidentified Fairy Wrasse	
1 x <i>Centropyge loricula</i> Angel	Flame
1 x <i>Centropyge aurantia</i> Angel	Golden
1 x <i>Centropyge flavissima</i>	Lemonpeel Angel
1 x <i>Halichoeres melanurus</i>	Tailspot Wrasse
2 x Coral gobies	
1 x <i>Chromis nitida</i>	Barrier Reef Chromis
2 x <i>Synchiropus splendidus</i>	Green Mandarin Fish
1 x <i>Salarias fasciatus</i>	Lawnmower Blenny
2 x <i>Lysmata amboinensis</i>	Redline Cleaner Shrimp
1 x <i>Labroides dimidiatus</i> Cleaner Wrasse	Bluestreak
7 x <i>Pseudanthias dispar</i> Anthia	Dispar
1 x <i>Neocirrhites armatus</i> Hawkfish	Flame

1 x *Paracirrhites arcatus* Arc-eye
Hawkfish

1 x *Linckia laevigata* Blue linkia starfish

Numerous hermit crabs, turbo and
strombus snails

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Current coral stock includes

Whilst it is a mixed reef tank the
emphasis is on hard corals (SPS).

Various *Acropora* sp.frag and a few
colonies

Euphyllia ancora

Cynarina lacrymalis

Euphyllia glabrescens

Faviidae sp

Zooanthoan

Lobophyton sp.

Sarcophyton sp.T

racyphyllia geoffroyi

Goniopora sp.

Symphyllia sp.

Maintenance

Maintenance consists mainly of topping up the RO/DI water every week in the 220Lt barrel. Emptying the skimmer every 3 days with about 6lt of skimmate. Water change every month at a minimum, but I have been a bit slack and let it slide every now and then. Carbon is changed every month. Phosphate remover is changed every month. Only used when required. Glass is cleaned every second or third day. Pumps are removed and thoroughly cleaned every 2 to 3 months to ensure proper and efficient operation.

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Acknowledgments

This tank wouldn't have happened after our litany of disasters without the ongoing support and encouragement of my partner, Sue and the many friends I have in this hobby. Without you all this would not have been possible, you know who you are. The tank is still a young tank with plenty of room for more stock and improvement. My idea was for a tank with select corals, fish and inverts to allow for future growth and wellbeing of all the inhabitants. Remember what ever life throws at you, just pick yourself up, dust yourself off and set up a bigger and better reef tank! Happy reefing everyone, and thank you for this honour.