

APRIL NEWS

from **NIELSEN'S MARINE MATES**

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This month we are featuring Hygrophila as our freshwater plant special, but did you know that as well as being a superb background plant, it can also be grown as a ground cover? This plant is growing well in this manner in our freshwater tropical display tank so take a look next time you are in store – it may well let you see this plant in a whole new light.

We are pleased to finally have good stocks of peppermint shrimp available again. These scavenge and eat aiptasia in the marine aquarium, or, if these are not to your liking, we have other recommendations in our article titled Marine Clean Up Crew.

Fluval have released a new range of LED lights especially for freshwater tanks or fish-only marine tanks so if you are looking for a light with all the bells and whistles at a more reasonable price this range may be for you.

Be sure to take the time to read our article on Warranties, especially how you can get extended warranties from companies such as Aqua One.

Until next month - good fishkeeping.

COLDER WEATHER ON THE HORIZON – TIME TO HEAT YOUR TANKS.

It's that time of year when you should most definitely have a heater in your aquarium – unless, of course, you are keeping gold fish or other cold water fish. We are happy to recommend a suitable sized heater for your aquarium.

Please note that heaters work on a thermostat, only running when the temperature falls below the selected temperature, so if the room (and

water) temperature is higher than the set temperature then the heater will not operate. Although some models do have a safety cut-out which shut off the heater when it is exposed to air, for added safety we would always recommend disconnecting the heater at the power source whenever working on the tank. Safety first is always the best policy.

FRESHWATER FISH OF THE MONTH – CHERRY BARBS

These pretty little fish grow to a maximum of 5cm and, unlike some others in the barb family, are a peaceful fish suitable for the community tank. They should be



kept in a school of five or more with a ratio of one male to at least two females. There will usually be a dominant male in the group who will display the bright cherry red colour which gives the fish its name. This colouration is also evident during breeding and when males display with each other. They are rarely aggressive at this time.

Cherry Barbs are a hardy little fish and tolerant of a wide range of water quality. They are easily fed on dried and frozen foods. They will display best in a planted tank providing some shade and hiding spaces but with some open swimming spaces.

Cherry Barbs normally \$5.30 each.

THIS MONTH \$4.30.

MARINE CLEAN UP CREW

There are a number of invertebrates which will do a good job of cleaning up your aquarium ranging from those which eat algae, uneaten foods and turning over the substrate. Here are some which we currently have on offer:

STROMB SHELLS

These often hard-to-get molluscs are great because they eat heaps of algae but only from the substrate. They are not climbers so will not knock down



corals etc. Fascinating to watch and always busy – worth their weight in gold. A must for every marine tank.

PEPPERMINT SHRIMP

Best known as eaters of nuisance anemones (aiptasia), Peppermint Shrimp are also good general scavengers.

They are also quite attractive with red striping but their soft bodies mean they cannot be mixed with toothy fish! Although not always available, we currently have good stocks so get a few while they are available.



NASSARIUS SNAILS

Nassarius may be small but they have a very large appetite and are amongst the best available for cleaning up uneaten food, fish waste and general detritus. They spend a lot of time seeking out food and have a keen sense of smell.



When not busy foraging, they will bury in the sand with their syphon tube extended from the substrate so as to pick up the scent of any available food. For this

reason, they prefer to be kept in a tank with some depth of substrate. Their burrowing behaviour will also assist in keeping the substrate from compacting.

Nassarius have been given the name 'Zombie Snails', so called as they rise up out of the sand to feed as soon as any food is detected in the tank.

HERMIT CRABS

Whilst very large hermit crabs can be a pest in some tanks, rearranging and undermining rocks and corals, small hermit crabs serve a useful purpose by eating up almost any uneaten foods plus algae.



In addition, they are entertaining to watch and really quite endearing.

SEACHEM REEF GLUE

Just in is Seachem Reef Glue which is a superior cyanoacrylate gel for mounting coral frags and colonies to reef rocks or plugs. It bonds within seconds and has excellent control, hold and durability characteristics. It can even be used under water. Reef Glue can be used for any aquascaping in freshwater or saltwater aquariums or for any plastic repairs. Reef Glue comes in an aluminium tube for extended stability. With a new formula that is



17 times thicker, there's more control while gluing and less mess in application. Always follow directions carefully and wipe the tip of the tube free of glue before replacing cap. As with all super-glue type products care is needed in use and it is not recommended for use by children. 20g tube \$21.99.

FLUVAL AQUASKY LED LIGHT

For some time there have been a number of LED lights available with a multitude of options to simulate various day and night time lighting conditions and much more. These high end lights have been designed for use mostly on marine reef tanks and mostly in the upper price range. Now Fluval have released an LED light with impressive features at an affordable price and recommended for use in freshwater tanks with low to mid light level plants or fish-only salt water tanks.

The Aquasky LED lighting unit comes in three sizes – 18 Watt with 42 LEDs, 27 Watt with 63 LEDs and 35 Watt with 84 LEDs. Each unit has an extendable mounting bracket to fit tanks 61 – 91cm, 91 – 122 cm and 122 – 153 cm respectively. The lights have a IP67 waterproof rating which means that the unit can be mounted close to the surface for



better light penetration and will endure regular water splashing. We would recommend wiping down the unit regularly to ensure optimum lighting.



The LEDs are a mix of 3000 – 25000K temperature lights for a customized light spectrum with both white and tri-coloured RGB (red/blue/green) LEDs. Each



individual LED casts 120° of light dispersion for full area coverage and uniform lighting and are designed to last 50,000 hours under regular operating conditions.

The Aquasky comes complete with its own remote control to adjust colour, brightness and sky effects. There are

six preset colour blends or you can individually adjust the red, green blue and white colours to your liking and save your settings. Alternatively, you can opt to choose the colour cycle setting which will continuously cycle through various colour settings. Next are 11 preset sky effects – cloud cover, sunrise, sunset, moon, storm, lightning and more so your fish can experience a range of



weather conditions in the comfort of their own tank. Conveniently, the sensor which picks up the remote control commands is attached to the light by a cord so that if your light is inside a hood the sensor can be mounted externally.

These fully featured lights, complete with remote, are reasonably priced as follows:

- 16W (for a 60cm tank) \$164.50
- 25W (for a 90cm tank) \$213.99
- 30W (for a 120cm tank) \$236.99

COMING SOON – FLUVAL LED LAMP TIMER



We will shortly have stock of the Fluval LED lamp timer, an optional companion to the Fluval Aquasky lights and expected to sell for around \$50.00. This will allow you to automate your Aquasky, turning

the light on and off and also featuring sunrise, midday and dusk settings. Progressive dimming options are also available to slowly fade in and fade out lighting on start up/turn off. The timer can control up to 2 LED lights simultaneously and is, in fact, compatible with any LED with a standard 2.1mm x 5.5mm DC plug connection.

AQUA ONE WARRANTIES

We have been surprised to learn that many customers are not taking advantage of the Aqua One extended warranties. Any Aqua One warranty which has a '+1' attached to it (whether it be 1 + 1, 2 + 1 etc.) can have the warranty extended by one year by simply registering your warranty on their web site. That's it! Simple?

It is important to note that pretty much all of our suppliers, not just Aqua One, insist on proof of purchase for all warranty claims. **The moral of the story is that you must keep your sales docket when making a purchase.** We suggest that you scan or photocopy your docket (as unfortunately almost all cash register dockets fade with time) and staple it to the instruction manual with your product. This will avoid disappointment should you later need to make a warranty claim.

FRESHWATER PLANT OF THE MONTH – PISCES HYGROPHILA

This hygrophila has been cultivated with attractive pink veining and leaf tips. It is usually grown as a tall background plant and grows well from cuttings. However, it is possible



to grow it as a prostrate plant or ground cover. This is because the plant will

send out roots wherever it touches the substrate. It is a simple matter to lay out stems of the plant and perhaps weight it with a small stone where you want it to root. Shown is hygro grown this way in our tropical display tank.

Normally \$6.50 per bunch.

APRIL SPECIAL \$5.50

MARINE FISH OF THE MONTH – PYJAMA WRASSE

Pyjama Wrasse, also known as Six Line Wrasse, are a great addition to the marine aquarium. Although they do not eat coral they will prey upon some inverts, particularly small shrimp and molluscs. They are a hardy, active fish, very colourful and are not fussy feeders. In the ocean they are said to grow to 10cm but are rarely seen that size in the aquarium. They are generally compatible with similar sized or larger fish and compete well for food.



They are however, inclined to jump so cover the tank. Unlike many wrasse which frequently bury for long periods in the substrate, Pyjama Wrasse are not prone to doing this and are normally out and about and on show, at least while the tank lights are on. Normally \$35.

THIS MONTH \$30.00.

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either in store or email us at:
nielsensmarinemates@bigpond.com
Check out our Facebook page which is regularly updated with photos of new livestock and products.
'Like us' to receive notification of updates.

DON'T FORGET ...
ALL SPECIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL ONLY UNLESS SOONER SOLD OUT!

PLEASE NOTE –
WE WILL BE CLOSED ON ANZAC DAY, MONDAY 25TH APRIL.