

JUNE NEWS

from **NIELSEN'S MARINE MATES**

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Thanks to all who came along to our big birthday weekend and helped us celebrate nine years in business. As we head in to our tenth year we hope it will be bigger and better than ever!

Many thanks also to Jeff from Aqacenta who gave up his Sunday to be with us. I know that many customers were impressed with Jeff's product knowledge as he was able to answer all their questions and give out lots of great information. Our own Carl and Brandon also gave some great talks and demos, so thanks go to them also for plucking up the courage to speak in public! Well done, boys.

This month we are highlighting some new and not so new products and as always we have some great monthly specials. We have some cute little Foxface as our marine special. This fish has not been available for a little while so we are pleased to have a good number back in stock as they are great algae eaters. We have great stocks of fresh and salt water fish, plants and corals so we hope to see you in store soon.

Until next month - good fishkeeping.

REGISTER FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

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!**

MARINE FISH OF THE MONTH SMALL FOXFACE

What a great fish these are! Brightly coloured, peaceful and excellent algae eaters – what more could you want? Bright yellow with a black and white face, these are a real standout in the aquarium. When sleeping, or if stressed, foxface exhibit a brown blotchy colouration - the 'rotten banana' look. They are not fussy feeders and will eat most frozen and dried foods but they love green algae, especially hair algae, and will keep the aquarium free of this nuisance algae.

Foxface frequently form an attachment to another fish in the tank and will follow them around, becoming quite panic stricken if they lose sight of their 'buddy'.

Probably their only fault is that they can deliver quite a painful sting from their dorsal spines, so care is needed when

transferring them into the tank. Once there though, they will



serve you well, providing great colour and performing their lawn mowing duties to perfection.

These Foxface are a nice small size but we do have larger ones (not on special) available.

Usually \$49.00.

THIS MONTH ONLY \$39.00.

CONTINUUM CLARION MARINE

Clarion Marine is a marine flocculant water clarifier which works by clumping together fine particles and debris which can then be filtered out of the aquarium. It contains no aluminium, silicates, phosphates or nitrates and is 100% biodegradable. This product is not an algacide and should not be used to clear green water or in freshwater aquariums.



To use, remove all carbon from filters and add fine filter medium. Dilute 1 capful (5ml) in a cupful of water for every 200 lt of aquarium water. Mix thoroughly and disperse around the aquarium in areas of good water flow. Repeat in 24 hours if necessary. Cloudiness in a marine aquarium may occur after a water change or re-aquascaping the tank, when substrate etc is disturbed. Other than this, frequent cloudiness may be a sign that other issues need to be addressed such as increased filtration, less feeding and overstocking.

250ML CLARION MARINE \$17.99

AQUASYNCRO WAVEMAKER



These neat little wave makers are designed for use in small fresh or salt water tanks. The unique impellor design creates a natural wave motion with an adjustable wave direction. A strong magnetic mounting securely attaches the unit to the tank. Two models are available:

HWM2000 measures 6 x 3.5 x 4.5cm, turnover 600lt/hr, uses only 3 watts and recommended for tanks up to 60lt. **\$32.99**

HWM4000 measures 9 x 6.5 x 5.5cm, turnover 1000lt/hr, uses only 6 watts and recommended for tanks up to 100lt. **\$39.95**

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



Male Cherry Barb

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.



Female Cherry Barb

Cherry Barbs normally \$5.30 each.

THIS MONTH \$4.20.

FRESHWATER PLANT OF THE MONTH - THIN VALLISNERIA



This is a very versatile plant which can be used in a tropical or cold water aquarium and also in an outdoor pond. It is a tall growing plant, which looks great planted across the back of the aquarium.

Unlike many aquatic plants which grow from cuttings, Vallisneria grows on a runner. It is sold in bunches and can be planted as is, but can also be separated out and planted as individual plants. If the plant grows too tall, it can be trimmed from the top, but the offcuts will not grow if replanted.

Thin Val, as it is commonly known, can be successfully kept with most fish, even with plant destroyers such as gold fish and with many cichlids.

Normally \$6.50 per bunch. **NOW \$5.50**

NO MORE BLACK BEARD

A common occurrence in fresh water tanks is a black/dark grey algae (known as black beard algae) which frequently colonizes plants, particularly along the edges and can spread all over the tank. This product, No More Black Beard, is Australian made and is an effective treatment for this algae. We have trialled this product in the shop and have been impressed with the results.



Before using, change 30% to 40% of the tank water. Use 5ml per 50 litres initially and then 1ml per 40 litres every two days for one to two weeks. Repeat

again if necessary, water changing again before another treatment. It is important to aerate the tank well during treatment and DO NOT OVERDOSE. This product should **NOT** be used in conjunction with SEA CHEM FLOURISH EXCEL OR CARBO MAX as some of the ingredients may interact badly.

250ml bottle treats 2500lt. \$26.50.

CALCULATING TANK VOLUME (IMPORTANT FOR DOSING)

Many aquarists take the 'guess and hope for the best' approach to dosing their tanks, sometimes with disastrous results. It is worthwhile to take the time to calculate the correct litreage of your tank. Most people simply multiply the length by the width by the tank height in centimetres and divide by 1000 to give the number of litres. It is much more accurate to measure the water height (from the top of any substrate to the top of the water) rather than the tank height. If the tank has a sump underneath, turn off the filter and allow the water levels to stabilize before measuring the tank and repeat the measurement for water in the sump and

add to your tank volume. Don't forget to allow for water that is displaced by rock, wood, coral and any decorations. This could easily be as much as 10% of your tank volume or even more if the tank is heavily decorated. Deduct this amount from your previous total. You may be surprised that the result is not anywhere near what you previously thought!

It is very important not to overdose your tank with any medication or water additive and knowing the correct tank volume will go some way to preventing this. Fortunately, most products now show millilitres per litre, making it easy to calculate the correct dosage. However, some products, particularly from the U.S.A., will still use gallons. The conversions generally used are:

1 U.S. gallon = 3.8 litres

1 Imperial Gallon = 4.5 litres (This measurement is rarely seen these days.)

Taking the time to dose your aquarium correctly may be the difference between life and death for your aquarium inhabitants.

BETTA VILLAS



Single
16x16x16cm
4 litres



Duo
24x17x17cm
6 litres



Trio
36x17x17cm
9 litres

Why not give your Siamese Fighter (Betta) some deluxe accommodation this winter? Whilst Fighters can be kept unheated if kept in a very warm environment, they really do best when kept in a heated aquarium, especially in winter.

As you probably know, male fighters cannot be mixed together. These divided tanks make it possible to keep a single fighter, two fighters or three fighters. They come complete with colourful gravel, a plastic plant and a mini filter and heater concealed behind the back plate. Priced from \$81.99, there is even an optional clip on light available for the duo and trio models.

ACROPOWER AMINO ACID FORMULA FOR SHORT POLYP STONY CORALS

From the Two Little Fishies Company is AcroPower which supplies amino acids that corals need to build their skeletal architecture. Corals have a special ability to uptake dissolved amino acids across their entire surface. However, closed system aquariums with protein skimming and other ultra-low nutrient filtration methods deplete amino acids that are vitally



important for coral health. Small polyp stony corals, such as Acropora, Pocillopora, Montipora etc. become more colourful within days due to the extension of the growing margins when AcroPower is used. In fact, our testing shows most corals including long polyp stony corals like Euphyllia, Trachyphyllia, Lobophyllia etc. are also improved with this product.

AcroPower does not promote algae blooms or elevate nutrient levels nor does it affect the operation of a protein skimmer.

AcroPower can be used at least weekly in the aquarium or as much as daily. Two sizes are available:
250ml treats 5000 litres \$24.50
500ml treats 10000 litres \$35.50

GROWING CORALLINE ALGAE



Apart from live corals, one of the things which really make a reef tank look like a 'real reef', is

live rock. This is basically calcareous rock encrusted with live coralline algae. Coralline algae is the pink and purple encrustation growing on the rock and even on the glass of the aquarium. Although it feels quite hard, it is a living

plant life. To grow coralline algae in your tank you need to seed the tank by either introducing living rock already colonized by coralline algae or by taking scrapings of coralline algae from another tank. Coralline algae requires good water quality, low in phosphates and nitrates, high in carbonate hardness and with calcium levels around 400 ppm. There is much debate about lighting requirements and it seems that whilst some types of coralline algae require quite high lighting levels, others will grow easily in dark areas, even inside skimmer boxes, protein skimmers etc. In summation:

- *some form of coralline algae must be introduced into the tank. It will not just appear as do many soft algae.

- *high dissolved phosphate levels inhibit the growth of coralline algae (and corals) and favour the growth of nuisance algae. Check phosphate levels and lower phosphate levels if necessary.

- *carbonate hardness levels should be maintained at natural seawater levels of 125ppm or higher.

- *high waste levels encourage nuisance algae growth, keep nitrogenous waste levels in check.

- *keep ph in the range of normal seawater (8.2).

- *grazing animals such as snails, tangs and reef friendly hermit crabs encourage coralline algae by consuming competing fast growing nuisance algae.

- *coralline algae has a life cycle that determines the speed of formation of new colonies. Different species of coralline algae may grow at different rates. It is not unusual to take several months for pink and purple coralline algae to reach rapid growth rates.

Many customers ask us how we achieve the prolific growth of plating coralline algae in our display tank and products such as CaribSea Purple Up and Continuum Purple CX will greatly assist in the growth of coralline algae.

