

FEBRUARY NEWS

from **NIELSEN'S MARINE MATES**

45 – 47 Beenleigh Redland Bay Road, Loganholme. 4129

www.nielsensmarinemates.com.au Ph 3801 4222



This month we are featuring some aquarium substrates for both freshwater and marine tanks. These come from the Two Little Fishies company and the new range from world renowned aquascaper, Oliver Knott. Be sure to read the article on them for further information.

We are also showcasing two odd ball fish – one for freshwater and one for marine, so if you are in the market for something different, here are a couple of suggestions.

As always we have some good monthly specials – Firetail Gobies are our marine special this month and these are a beautiful addition to a reef tank or even a 'fish only' tank if kept with suitable sized fish. Glass Bloodfin Tetras (our freshwater special) look stunning in a group and the red tails are a real standout, especially against nice green planting. So, plenty on offer. We hope to see you 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.



SPECIALS IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE AVAILABLE ONLY FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY UNLESS SOONER SOLD OUT.

FRESHWATER FISH OF THE MONTH – GLASS BLOODFIN TETRAS



Here is a less common tetra which has a lot to recommend it. Growing to about 5 – 6 cm, these tetras are an active schooling fish which swim mainly in the top one third of the aquarium.

As with all tetras, they are best kept in groups of five or more in a tank with heavy planting and will display best colour when this is done. When kept in these conditions the fish tend to be less timid and more outgoing.

They have a semi-transparent body with a bright red tail and are quite peaceful. They mix well with similar sized fish and are ideal with other tetras.

Not fussy to feed, they will be happy with flake food and



an occasional supplement of frozen brine shrimp or bloodworms.

Normally \$5.70 each.

THIS MONTH A GREAT SPECIAL OF ONLY \$3.50 EACH.

SEA CHEM PURIGEN

If you are troubled by discoloured or yellow water in your aquarium, then Purigen may be your answer. Purigen is a macro-porous synthetic polymer which removes soluble and insoluble impurities and assists in the control of ammonia, nitrite and nitrate with minimal impact on trace elements. It polishes water to unbelievable clarity removing colour and any odour. Where it differs from the other products is that it is rechargeable a number of times with bleach. During use, Purigen will discolour indicating when recharge is necessary. Purigen is especially useful to remove driftwood staining and a buildup of phenols in the water. However, it does not, and should not, replace regular water changes. A very high quality product suitable for use in fresh or salt water.



NEW IN – WAVEREEF 4 HEAD DOSING PUMP

This dosing pump can deliver from one to four different liquid additives, ranging from 1ml to 99ml per dose. Each dose can be administered from every hour (H) setting, a half day (HD) setting and a daily (D) setting. Thus, a setting for 1H means a pump will dose every hour, 8H every eight hours etc, 1HD will dose every half a day, 1D will dose every day and so on, right up to 7D to dose every seven days. Each of the four pumps are calibrated independently and should two pumps be set for the same time, one will be delayed by 2 minutes to allow the first one to finish. The unit can also be used to dose manually should an extra dose be required. Excellent value at \$214.99.



REMOVING BLACK BEARD AND OTHER FRESHWATER ALGAE

A common occurrence in fresh water tanks is 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.

Another way to control not only black beard algae, but also other types of

freshwater

algae, is the use of a fish called **Siamese Flying Fox**,

priced at \$7.50. These hardy fish are excellent algae eaters, using their sucker



mouth to mow down many types of algae in the freshwater aquarium. They are quite compatible with most community fish of a similar or smaller size. Tanks must be kept well covered though as Siamese Flying Fox are inclined to jump if startled.

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT - BLACK GHOST KNIFE FISH

These would have to be one of the most bizarre looking fish for the freshwater aquarium. They originate from South America and can grow to about 30cm in the aquarium. They have little eyesight



but have a weak electrical sensor to locate food etc. They are semi nocturnal and like plenty of roots and rocks for hiding places and subdued lighting. If you would like to see more of your black

ghost, supply a clear plastic tube for it to hide in. The fish will feel secure as it can sense something around it, and you will be able to view him easily.

Unusually, these fish can swim backwards as fast as forwards. They are relatively peaceful with fish of their own size or larger but cannot be trusted with very small fish. They are sometimes aggressive towards other black ghosts especially if kept in a very confined space. They eat frozen foods, especially bloodworms, chopped earthworms and small pellets and in time they may become tame enough to hand feed. \$23.00

GOOSE SCORPIONFISH

Just as strange as the Black Ghost is the marine Goose Scorpionfish, also known as the Weedy Scorpionfish. This one can grow up to 20cms and although relatively peaceful, it will eat smaller fish and crustaceans. They spend most of the time on the bottom of the

bottom of the aquarium, where they will rock back and forth, resembling a leaf, and hoping to



attract a smaller fish which will then be devoured. They will initially need to be

fed live foods although they may learn to take frozen foods from a stick in time. The dorsal spines along their back are venomous and although they are not prone to attacking, they will sting if provoked or cornered. The colours of these fish vary enormously ranging from yellow, orange, purple, red, and in this case, pink. They are masters of camouflage however and can change colour to blend in with their surroundings. These fish are rarely available and we currently have the one pictured for \$499.00.

MARINE FISH OF THE MONTH FIRETAIL GOBIES

Firetails are a superbly marked and coloured fish. In groups, they get along well but will eventually start to pair off. When this happens, the pair will often prevent other firetails from feeding and keep them boxed up in the coral. For this reason, unless a pair can be obtained, it is often

best to keep these singly, if in a small tank, although large groups may have enough



room to form territory in larger tanks and how good do they look in a big

group? Firetails are generally peaceful to other species of fish and mix well with small to medium sized

fish. Once settled they are quite outgoing and will be seen darting in and out of the coral. They use their extended dorsal fin in a flicking motion to signal to one another. Firetails are good feeders, eating most dry food and small frozen food. Normally \$37.00

THIS MONTH \$32.00.

**TWO LITTLE FISHIES
OUTSANDING SELECTIONS
LIVE ARAGONITE SAND**

Live aragonite sand is sustainably collected from sites in the Western Pacific and Caribbean and is comprised of calcium rich, and very white, reef sand intermixed with pink coralline algae fragments and very tiny shells, making it the ideal substrate for marine tanks. It is packed with naturally occurring beneficial microorganisms that help purify water. It is available in two grades – fine with a grain size of 1 to 3 mm and coarse with a grain size of 2 to 3 mm. The coarse grade is especially useful in tanks with high turnover water movement as the larger minimum grain size means less likelihood of unwanted sand movement. Both grades come in 6.8kg bags and sell for \$43.99.



**OUTSANDING SELECTIONS
REFUGITE LIVE MINERAL SAND**

Also from the Two Little Fishies company is Refugite, designed as a deep refugium sandbed which absorbs phosphates and encourages denitrification which can effectively lower nitrate levels in marine aquariums. It is packed live with BioPronto ensuring a quick start up for new tanks and ongoing nitrification and denitrification in heavily stocked aquariums. Refugite is also rechargeable so will not need replacing. Available in 6.8kg bags and sells for \$69.99.



**OLIVER KNOTT
AQUAIRON AND AQUAEARTH
SUBSTRATES**

Developed by renowned aquascaper, Oliver Knott, these substrates are for freshwater use and will both promote outstanding plant growth previously only available with the addition of additives such as iron-based fertilizers.

AquaEarth is comprised of Japanese volcanic ash, clays and minerals whilst



AquaIron is a black sand, sourced from sub-tropical islands of Australia, which is rich in iron and other minerals. Both are pH stable and safe for use with fish.



AquaIron is available in 15kg bags for \$45.99 and AquaEarth in 7 lt bags for the same price.

**PLANT OF THE MONTH –
JAVA MOSS (FONTINALIS)**

If you are not exactly a 'green thumb' when it comes to growing aquarium plants, then here is the plant for you. Java Moss, or Fontinalis, will grow in most conditions, even low light, and does not even have to be planted down in the gravel. Java Moss grows in a clump or ball and will attach itself to the gravel, rocks, driftwood etc. It can be pruned to pleasing shapes and will even suffer being ripped out by the handful. Sold in bags. Usually \$8.50



NOW \$7.50 PER BAG.