

FEBRUARY NEWS

from **NIELSEN'S MARINE MATES**

45 – 47 Beenleigh Redland Bay Road, Loganholme. 4129

www.nielsensmarinemates.com.au Ph 3801 4222



Here we are – February already! This month we are featuring a range of Australian made marine products from Ultimate Aquacare. Although new to us, this range has been marketed, mainly in Sydney, since 2009 and offers an innovative range of well-priced additives, treatments and salts, especially designed for the salt water aquarium. See pages 2 and 3 for all the information.

Our fresh water special is for two catfish, both small growing and excellent algae eaters, so if you want your tank to be sparkling, without any algae, these are the fish for you. Our marine special is for anemones so why not give your clown fish a home? Don't have clown fish? If not, why not? Clown fish are perhaps the most iconic reef fish you can keep and any salt water tank without them won't look quite like a reef.

Perhaps one of the most beautiful fresh water plants, Ambulia is our special this month so perhaps spruce up your tank with a few bunches whilst they are at a great price.

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 PLANT OF THE MONTH – AMBULIA

Ambulia is a spectacular plant with fine, lush, lime green foliage. It is a beautiful background plant as it grows quite tall and full, so is good for hiding filters, heaters etc. As it is a soft



leafed plant it is perhaps not suited to keep with plant eating fish and will do best in a well-lit community aquarium. Sold in bunches. Normally \$6.50 per bunch. **THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL \$5.50 PER BUNCH.**

MARINE SPECIAL OF THE MONTH – BUBBLE ANEMONES

This month we are offering the beautiful bubble anemone as our special of the month.

Clownfish will not adopt just any type of anemone as their



home but this type seems to be amongst their favourites. Anemones should be fed once or twice a week by dropping small pieces of frozen food onto the tentacles. Normally \$55.00 each. **THIS MONTH \$49.00**

**INTRODUCING THE
ULTIMATE AQUACARE RANGE
OF MARINE PRODUCTS.**



This company offers many marine treatments, additives and sea salts along with a great deal of advice and information on their use. There are UTube videos on pretty much all of their products and a handy free maintenance manual with log book available for download. In addition, an app is available, again for free, which calculates dosages required for your tank along with commonly used conversions and calculations.

❖ **Ultimate Aquacare's Marine/Reef Salt** is manufactured in Australia using only the finest ingredients available and helps to promote coral growth. The salt is naturally sourced from seawater with enhanced levels of Calcium, Magnesium, Alkalinity, Chlorides, Sulphates, Potassium, Iodine, Strontium and other key elements. This salt can cater for all types of salt water aquariums from fish only to SPS and everything in between; when coral growth is required, this salt will help provide the essential elements. Available in 2.2kg, 5.5kg and 11kg buckets and a 20kg box.



❖ If natural sea water is used, often it will have a higher salinity than is desired and will have to be diluted with fresh water, resulting in a diluted level of essential ions also.

Natural Seawater Ionic Top Up is a two part mix designed to provide these elements without increasing the salinity. Available in 2 x 250ml bottle set. \$33.99.



❖ If supplements are added without balanced nitrate and phosphate, metal ions (mainly calcium) can be depleted faster than the corals can absorb them. This is because calcium, or other metal ions, are bonding to the existing phosphate ions forming compounds such as tricalcium phosphate also known as (for the technically minded) tricalcium diphosphate ($\text{Ca}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$). Therefore it is important to balance nitrate and phosphate levels prior to the addition of any supplements. *Even though only low phosphate levels may be detected, phosphate may still be present in the form of tricalcium diphosphate ($\text{Ca}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$).* This may result in the growth of potentially harmful blooms of deep red cyanobacteria. This increase in cyanobacteria levels causes competition with denitrifying bacteria which raises the nitrate levels within your tank. Two products designed to assist with this are:

Phosphate Remover: *Reactors & resins can only remove ionic phosphate (PO_4^3) then rely on chemical equilibrium to slowly dissolve bound up phosphate ($\text{Ca}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$). This Phosphate Remover removes both ionic and chemically bound phosphate within your aquarium. The purification process helps the active ingredient to favour attraction of*



phosphate as opposed to other negatively charged species such as carbonates.

Nitrate Remover: Algae uses phosphate, nitrate and light to grow.



While we can limit light, predominantly reducing nitrate & phosphate will seek to stunt algae growth within your aquarium. Nitrate Remover is specifically targeted to the denitrifying bacteria and multiple carbon sources work together to give your denitrifying bacteria the energy it needs to remove nitrate. Both Phosphate and Nitrate Removers are available in 250ml (\$18.50) and 500ml (\$27.99) bottles.

❖ **Calcium/Strontium:**

Calcium is a major constituent in your marine aquarium with concentrations around 410-450ppm. Strontium is a minor constituent with suggested concentrations of around 8ppm. Calcium and Strontium are taken up within specific ratios and this dual supplement can maintain the correct levels of both calcium and strontium whilst achieving the correct ratio between the two additives. 250ml bottle \$19.99. 500ml bottle \$29.99.



❖ **Iron/Manganese (+ Other Trace):** The recommended level of iron is 0.1-0.3ppm and Manganese, with a relative concentration to iron of 4%, gives a level of 0.004-0.012ppm. Iron and Manganese help with the growth and health of organisms such as coralline algae, phytoplankton, corals, micro and macro algae and zooxanthellae. 250ml bottle \$18.50.

❖ **Foundation:** Foundation is a combination of Calcium and Carbonates. Although it does contain

significant concentrations of both, it should not be used as a primary dosing supplement for either of them. As a result, a maximum dose of 4mL/100L/day is recommended.

Foundation is primarily designed to help promote coralline algae growth and the added benefit of Foundation is it contains Calcium Gluconate. This compound helps provide a direct energy source for organisms such as corals and coralline algae and helps stimulate growth.

250ml bottle \$18.50. 500ml \$27.99.

❖ Other supplements available are: Alkalinity, Calcium and Amino Acids – all available in 250ml \$18.50 and 500ml \$27.99 and Iodine, Magnesium and Potassium all available in 250ml for \$18.50.



AUSTRALIAN & NEW GUINEA RAINBOW FISH

We carry a great range of rainbow fish which are displayed in the native fish section of the store. Perhaps because they are located a distance away from the tropical fish section, many people do not consider them for tropical community tanks. Whilst they make a lovely display in a rainbow species tank as can be seen in our rainbow display tank, the



majority of rainbows do make great community fish being peaceful, active and

brightly coloured, with their colour only intensifying with age. Pictured is a Goyder River rainbow, just one of the beautifully coloured rainbows in stock, so be sure to check out the range next time you visit us.

(Photo is of a fish currently in store).

THIS MONTH WE HAVE TWO FRESHWATER FISH OF THE MONTH

1. OTOCINCLUS CATFISH



The first of our specials is the great little algae eating Otocinclus catfish.

These fish originate from South America and are generally seen at a maximum of 5cm. They are one of the few catfish which will eat algae off the leaves of plants without damaging the leaves. They will also keep the tank free of algae whether on the glass, plants, driftwood and ornaments and the substrate. Otocinclus should have their diet supplemented with vegetable foods – algae wafers, green pellets and even zucchini slices.

They partner well in the aquarium with Corydoras catfish which will be busy scavenging for uneaten food etc. whilst the Otocinclus clean up the algae.

Otocinclus are a very peaceful fish so can be mixed with most community fish of a small to medium size. They need clean, well filtered water to thrive. Normally \$14.50

FEBRUARY SPECIAL \$11.55.

2. BORNEO SUCKERS



Our second algae eater this month is the Borneo Sucker. They grow slightly larger than the Otocinclus and, with a spotted pattern, are often confused

with Bristlenose catfish at first sight. Borneo Suckers tolerate cooler water and can be successfully kept with indoor cold water fish such as goldfish as well as in tropical tanks. They love strong water movement and will grip on to the glass with their sucker mouth whilst 'surfing' the current.



As with the Otocinclus catfish, Borneo Suckers will feed on most types of algae and slime but should also have additional green matter in their diet.

They are a very peaceful fish but are pretty much defenceless against other fish, as is the case with many catfish. For this reason, mix with peaceful tank mates and provide plenty of cover for them in the form of rocks, driftwood, caves and plants. Regular price \$16.50.

**SECOND FEBRUARY SPECIAL
\$12.99**

FINDING CATFISH

You may be surprised at just how many different types of catfish we have! Whilst many are scattered throughout tanks in our tropical fish section, some are also located in the discus section.

As catfish are often secretive little creatures, you may have to search in amongst the plants, rocks and driftwood to find them, but checking out the fish names on the tanks will usually point you to the correct tanks. If you are a catfish connoisseur, you may also find some L number catfish and fancy corydoras if you look hard. Lastly, should you not locate what you are looking for, then please just ask!