

MARCH NEWS

from **NIELSEN'S MARINE MATES**

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There are undoubtedly products in store which are often overlooked and which customers do not know exist, and so this month, on page 4, we are featuring just a few of them for your information.

As always, we are offering great specials this month on Firetail Gobies, Harlequins and assorted potted Amazon Sword Plants. Firetails are such a beautiful marine fish, suitable for reef tanks or fish-only tanks with suitable sized fish, whilst Harlequins, a personal favourite, are outstanding additions to the tropical community tank. Of course, Amazon Swords are one of the most popular aquatic plants and are a great bargain.

Be sure to check out the details (opposite) of the mobile interactive Shark and Ray display which will be visiting Nielsen's next month. Here is your chance for you and your children to get up close to sharks and rays and learn more about these amazing creatures. Bookings are now open.

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 MARCH UNLESS SOONER SOLD OUT.

THE AUSTRALIAN SHARK AND RAY NURSERY - PAT AND PLAY WITH SHARKS & RAYS COMING IN APRIL TO NIELSEN'S!

The coolest mobile Shark and Stingray interaction where you can pat and play and even get in the water with these unreal dudes! The Australian Shark and Ray Nursery is all about introducing some of the babies of the ocean (babies are not necessarily small) to you!



With nearly 10 species of sharks and rays, plus other fish, this an experience for everyone.

This travelling interactive exhibition will be located in the grounds of Nielsen's Native Nursery during the month of April.

Bookings can now be made directly online with The Australian Shark and Ray Nursery. Visit:

<http://www.ozsharkandray.com.au>

and follow the links to book for this amazing experience. **NOTE: BOOKINGS & PAYMENT AVAILABLE VIA THE ABOVE WEBSITE ONLY, NOT AT NIELSEN'S NATIVE NURSERY & MARINE MATES.**

SIAMESE FIGHTING FISH



Standard

Siamese fighters are a stunningly beautiful fish which are quite easy to keep. They are an air breathing fish, taking air from the surface, and can therefore be

kept in much smaller volumes of water than most fish. In nature, they are found in shallow water in places like rice paddies. The wild fish is not as colourful and the finnage is not as long.

Male Siamese fighters cannot be kept together as they will fight, sometimes to the death. Even keeping a female in with the male is not always successful. When



Crowntail

breeding, the sexes are usually kept separate but where they can see one another. When the female is very full with eggs she can be

tried in with the male. The male squeezes the female to expel the eggs but he can become over-enthusiastic in his quest to do this and sometimes kills the female. To avoid this, it is necessary to watch the pair carefully and remove the female if she is not ready to release the eggs. Once the eggs are laid, the male

fertilizes them and carries the eggs up to a bubble nest which he has blown on the



Half Moon

surface of the water. The female can then be removed as she does not care for the eggs or fry in any way. The male will care for both the eggs and the fry until they are free swimming when they must be separated from the male. It is ironic that a fish which can be so aggressive towards others of his species, can be so gentle with the fry, picking them up in his mouth and placing them carefully in the nest.



Veiltail

Siamese fighters are commonly kept in small fish bowls, even vases, but keep in mind that the smaller the volume of water, the more

often they will require cleaning. Although they are not a very active fish they still need reasonable room to swim and keep healthy. Fighters are not a true cold water fish but they will do well in an unheated bowl provided they are kept in a warm position in the house.

Fighters can be somewhat fussy feeders preferring tiny pellets made specifically for fighters or frozen foods rather than flake foods.

These days there are numerous fancy varieties which have been bred through from the wild species. We most commonly stock the standard variety, the



Big Ear

popular Crowntail variety, which feature a shredded edging to their finnage, Half Moon with enormous fins and tail, Veiltail with pendulous, flowing tail and anal fins and Big Ear

(also known as Dumbo or Elephant Ear) which have huge pectoral fins. Fighter colours range from reds, pinks, blues, greens, white, yellow and even black and combinations of colours also.

Siamese fighter setups make a great gift and are perfect for those who do not have much space. All that is required is a small tank or bowl, neutralizer, food, a fish, of course, and any tank decoration you may wish to add.

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.

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

NOW ONLY \$34.00.

FRESHWATER FISH OF THE MONTH - HARLEQUIN RASBORAS

These are perhaps the perfect fresh water tropical fish. They are very



peaceful, look stunning in a school, are quite hardy, eat almost any food ranging from flake,

small pellets and granules to frozen foods – what more could you want? In a planted aquarium, these fish will colour up even more. They are best kept in groups of at least five – the more the better. They are similar in keeping to tetras and mix well with other small to medium fish.

Normally \$5.45

THIS MONTH ONLY \$3.99 EACH.

FRESHWATER PLANT OF THE MONTH – ASSORTED POTTED AMAZON SWORDS



Amazon Sword Plants come from, well, the Amazon! There are a wide variety of leaf forms available in this plant family, ranging from quite broad to very narrow and colours can be

various greens to reds. A wonderful feature plant in the aquarium, they can be prolific growers given a little TLC. Most grow to a larger sized plant. As a tougher leaf plant these will often do better than some other plants in tanks with plant eating fish. These come already potted up and ready for planting.

Normally \$9.50

MARCH SPECIAL \$7.99.

**DID YOU KNOW?
PRODUCTS YOU MAY NOT KNOW
WE STOCK**

**DIAL A DIET AUTOMATIC
DIGITAL FEEDER**

This digital feeder can be set to feed up to five times per day with up to three portions per feeding, allowing different amounts to be fed at different times of day. It can be used with most types of dry foods – flakes, pellets etc. and can be operated manually as well as automatically on cold water, freshwater tropical and marine tanks. It attaches to the side of the aquarium with an adjustable mount and uses 2 AA batteries (not included).



NO MORE BLACK BEARD

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.

MAGICLEAN HOSE CLEANER

This product has a stiff brush attached to a flexible nylon handle, 1.9 metres long, which makes cleaning long lengths of tubing (diameter size from 12 – 32mm) simple. A build-up of slime and algae in the lines to and from your filter can seriously reduce the water flow rate and you will be amazed at the flow improvement after cleaning out hoses with this product.



**AQUAONE BATTERY OPERATED
AIR PUMP**

Take the stress out of storms and power cuts by having a battery operated air pump handy. Comes complete with airline and air stone. Ridiculous not to have one when you consider the value of your fish and corals. Get one for each aquarium. Also handy for transporting fish and inverts.



DOUBLE SIDED RAZOR BLADES



Do you use an algae scraper which has double sided razor blades? It is surprisingly difficult to get replacement blades from supermarkets etc. so, Nielsen's to the rescue, we carry double sided razor blades in packets of 10.