

APRIL NEWS

from **NIELSEN'S MARINE MATES**

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This month we are highlighting a number of fresh and salt water specials – lyretail mollies, anubius plants, trochus shells, gold mystery snails and venustus cichlids, so there is sure to be something for every aquarist.

Due to flood inundation, the Shark and Stingray display which we featured last month and which was due to open this month has been delayed until May. Visit: <http://www.ozsharkandray.com.au> for updates or phone (07)37081330 for further details.

We will be open all over Easter (see below) so hopefully you can tear yourselves away from your Easter eggs long enough to visit us.

We have been pleased by the response to our new 'fishy' gift lines (see pge. 2) so be sure to have a look while good stocks are still available. Until next month ... good fishkeeping.



EASTER WEEKEND

We will be **OPEN EVERY DAY**, 9a.m. to 5 p.m., over Easter so you will have four days to

come in for some fishy therapy. There are lots of great new fish in stock. The plant nursery and of course our Lorikeets Coffee Shop will be open every day also, so if your other half is not into fish, they can browse around the plants and you can join them for breakfast, morning or afternoon tea, or lunch. As it's often a busy weekend, café bookings are available on 3806 1313.

WOW! GOT A LARGE AQUARIUM SPARE?

BLUESPOTTED ROCK COD (CEPHALOPHOLIS CYANOSTIGMA)



We currently have just one of these big boys available and he is already 30cm and capable of growing to 40cm. Needless to say it will need a **BIG** tank to maintain this fish and plenty of filtration and water changes.

Bluespotted Rock Cod are a solitary fish which frequent shallow coastal reefs and seagrass beds and in nature feed on crustaceans and fish. As a result, they are not your average community fish as they will eat any fish or crustacean which will fit in their mouth. Additionally, the amount of waste they put out will preclude them from being kept in a reef aquarium.

In a tank, they feed on most chunky foods such as frozen fish, prawn and other crustaceans, and large marine pellets. Whilst some are happy to feed on a daily basis, others will prefer to eat a large amount at once and then not again for a day or two. Be sure to check for, and remove, uneaten food to reduce tank pollution. **\$149.00.**

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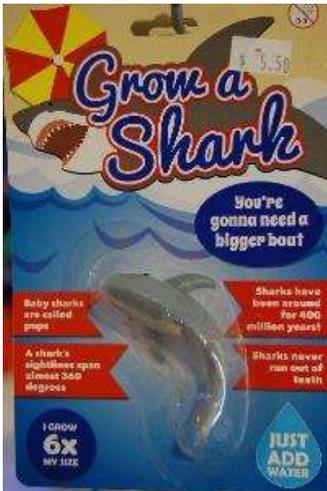
FISHY GIFT LINES

We have received a shipment of 'fishy' themed gift lines and these are already proving very popular. These are not aquarium ornaments but magnets, keyrings, kids' books and games, salt and pepper shakers and others. Here are just some:



BOBBLE MAGNETS \$6.50

These fun magnets have spring loaded fins, tails etc. giving great movement. There are an assortment of colours and styles available.



GROW A SHARK \$5.50

Great fun for kids. Just add water and see the shark grow up to six times its original size. Dry it out and regrow it again and again.



FISH SALT & PEPPER SHAKERS \$16.99 SET OF TWO

How cute are these? Just the salt and pepper shakers every aquarist needs! These would make a great gift for fishy family and friends.



STICKER BOOK WITH PUFFY STICKERS \$5.99

Kids will love this fish themed sticker book. Great entertainment for the school holidays.



SHARK ATTACK \$16.99

Are you brave enough to put your hand in the shark's mouth and touch his teeth or will you be bitten? Random teeth will trigger an attack, so you risk being bitten every time! These are walking out the door they are so popular, so be quick.

**OTHER LINES ARE AVAILABLE –
CHECK OUT THE RANGE IN
STORE!**

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 APRIL UNLESS SOONER SOLD OUT.

FRESHWATER FISH OF THE MONTH - LYRETAIL MOLLIES



Mollies are a live bearing fish giving birth to 10 to 20

babies at a time. As they are amongst the larger size babies born, their survival in a community tank is better than most, especially if a lot of plant and hiding places are provided for the babies. They are easy to feed on standard dry and frozen foods and as an active and hardy fish they make a great community fish. Mollies come in a large variety of colours ranging from reds, orange, yellow, white, silver, black, black and white, green and more. Mollies are available



in a few fin

variations including sailfins and lyretails, the latter being our featured fish this month. These are also a larger than usual size, very robust and great colours. Normally \$7.50

APRIL SPECIAL \$5.99

FRESHWATER PLANT OF THE MONTH - SMALL ANUBIAS

Anubias generally is a tough leafed plant with glossy leaves. It is one of the few



ANUBIAS

aquarium plants which do well in low light situations and because of the thickness of the leaves can usually be kept successfully with plant eating species such as gold fish and cichlids.

It is usual to attach anubias to rocks or driftwood rather than planting in gravel. Attach the plant with string or fishing line and in a relatively short time the roots of the plant will take



JAVA MOSS

hold. Java Moss (*Fontinalis*) can also be attached to the same wood/rock for an added decorative effect.

Regularly \$10.99

THIS MONTH \$8.99.

CICHLID OF THE MONTH - VENUSTUS

This Lake Malawi cichlid is a big grower - up to 25cm, so a large tank is required and plenty of regular water changes.



MALE VENUSTUS

It can be aggressive, particularly between males, adults of which can be identified by a blue face whilst females and juveniles show the blotched pattern on a silvery background.



FEMALE/JUVENILE COLOUR

Protein foods are required so feed a variety of frozen foods along with good cichlid pellets. Regular price \$16.99

THIS MONTH ONLY \$13.99

MYSTERY SNAILS

Tired of cleaning algae from your fresh water tank? Maybe you could



MYSTERY SNAIL

do with a few mystery snails. These are great algae eaters and can be kept in tropical or cold water

tanks. Be sure to keep the tank covered as they are prone to climbing out! This is because when they breed they lay their eggs above the water line. The eggs look like little bunches of honeycomb. This means that, unlike many snails which reproduce at an alarming rate and become a pest, mystery snail numbers can be easily controlled by removing the eggs if desired.

A great many people keep mystery snails successfully for a few months and then sadly the snails die. Why? Usually because they have eaten all the algae in the tank and have starved to death. If you have no algae you need to feed them!!! They eat sinking wafers or tablets and are partial to zucchini attached to a small rock with a rubber band (zap in the microwave for a few seconds before feeding - the zucchini, not the snails!). Normally \$3.50 **THIS MONTH TWO FOR \$5.00.**

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:

HWM4000 turnover 1000lt/hr, uses only 6 watts **\$59.99**

HWM6000 turnover 6000lt/hr, uses 20 watts **\$89.99**

MARINE OF THE MONTH – TROCHUS SHELLS

These pyramid shaped shells are hardy additions to the marine aquarium once settled. As with most molluscs they are sensitive to changes in water quality so should be properly acclimatized to the aquarium when introduced and should not be exposed to many medications, particularly those that are copper based.



They are huge eaters of algae and diatoms and will chomp their way along the glass as well as over rocks etc. Whilst you may not see these on a daily basis, they will be busy eating away somewhere in the tank and will pop up when least expected.

To keep your trochus in good condition be sure to maintain high levels of calcium in the tank to promote shell growth. Also, it is good practice to use vegetable matter such as seaweed sheets in the tank on occasions to ensure the shells are getting enough food. This is particularly important once they have depleted much of the algae in the tank. Regularly \$8.99

APRIL ONLY \$7.50