



The New South Wales Cichlid Society Inc.

Cichlid Circular

Invasive Cichlids in NSW
Information from the PIAA
Julidochromis Regani
Cryptoheros Sajica "T-Bar" cichlid



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Warren Smith

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Alan Hardie

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Auction Rules

The following are general auction rules and apply to both Mini Auctions and Major Auctions:

- Auction lots can only be entered by a financial member
- Only the member can enter the lots at the scrutineering table themselves. No other person may enter/present lots without prior approval from the Committee.
- The auction is limited to the sale of fish and aquarium products only
- Second hand electrical items can not be auctioned
- All fish must meet the Minimum Size Requirements as described in this circular.
- **Any cichlid 7.5cm or larger must be bagged as an individual fish.** If you want to sell multiple fish larger than 7.5cm together as one lot, bag them individually and tape the bags together.
- Non-cichlids include any fish that is not a cichlid, as well as shrimp and snails.
- Dry goods include any dry goods, as well as plants and live foods.
- Single lots of multiple bags must be taped together with clear packing tape, around the sides and across the bottom.
- All fish must be in **clear** bags. Coloured or printed bags will not be accepted. Fish in buckets or other containers will not be accepted.
- You are responsible for labelling of bags and sexing of fish
- A commission of 10% is charged to Members that are selling fish
- Lots without a reserve clearly marked on the bag will be sold as having no reserve, regardless of what is on the book in form
- Once booked in, lots can only be removed at the end of the auction OR at the auctioneer's discretion. Please approach a committee member if you have an issue to discuss it
- Passed in lots must be picked up as they are passed in - the club is not responsible for misplaced items
- You must keep track of the lots being auctioned and be ready to answer any questions the auctioneers might ask. If you are not present, the auctioneer's decision is final
- Fish lots that are not labelled with the correct name of the fish or without a name will be immediately passed in
- **Please note these recently added clarifications for non-cichlid and dry good lots:**
 - Non-cichlids include any fish that is not a cichlid, as well as shrimp and snails.
 - Dry goods include any dry goods, as well as plants and live foods.

Auction Rules

The following rules are Mini Auction specific:

- Members must be financial for at least 1 month to enter lots into a Mini Auction. For example, if you become a member in June, you can enter lots into Mini Auctions from July onwards. You can not enter lots into Mini Auctions on the night you become a member.
- All lots must be adequately marked with the name and number of fish, plus the reserve price on the bag in Texta/marker.
- Auction lots must be booked in between 6.45pm and 7.30pm. Lots will not be accepted after 7.30pm.
- Single members are entitled to enter a maximum of 3 lots in a Mini Auction, with a maximum of 1 of each species.
- Family members are entitled to enter a maximum of 5 lots in a Mini Auction, with a maximum of 2 of each species. *Note 2 Family Members must be present on the night to be able to enter more than 3 lots.*

The following rules are Major Auction specific:

- All lots must be adequately marked with the name and number of fish, plus the reserve price **on the label**.
- Labels must be stuck vertically on the bag and have clear packing tape over them to ensure they stay stuck on the bag.
- Auction lots must be booked in between 12.00pm and 1.15pm. Lots will not be accepted after 1.15pm.
- Members must be financial for at least 3 months to enter lots into a Major Auction. For example, to book-in lots for an October Major Auction, you must be financial in July.
- Single and Family members are entitled to enter a maximum of 16 lots into a Major Auction, with a maximum of 3 of the same species, a total maximum of 3 non-cichlid species and a maximum of 3 lots of dry goods.
- If possible, please pack 8 bags per foam box and number them from 1-8. This will ensure our auction steward will select lots in the correct order so that equity in our auction process can be achieved.
- Major Auction lots (book in sheets) will be given to financial members in the 2 Monthly Meetings leading up to the major auction. As an example, for a member to receive all 16 lots for the October Major Auction, they must attend the August Annual General Meeting to receive 8 lots, and the September Monthly Meeting to receive another 8 lots.

Minimum Sizing

2cm total length minimum

Cichlids – Class 1

- *Anomalochromis thomasi*
- *Apistogramma* species
- *Dicrossus* - filamentosa
- maculatus
- *Laetacara* - curviceps
- dorsigerus
- *Mikrogeophagus* - altispinosa
- ramirezi
- *Nanacara* spp.- adoketa
- anomala
- aurocephala
- taenia
- *Pelvicachromis subocellatus*
- *Altolamprologus* - calvus
- compressiceps
- *Chalinochromis* species
- *Julidochromis* species
- *Neolamprologus* - brevis
- brichardi complex
- buescheri
- calliurus
- caudopunctatus
- hecqui
- helianthus
- multifasciatus
- ocellatus complex
- pulcher complex
- similis
- splendens complex

Catfish – Class 1

- *Corydoras* - hastatus
- pygmaeus
- *Otocinclus* sp.

3.5cm total length minimum

Cichlids

- All other species of cichlid not listed in Class 1

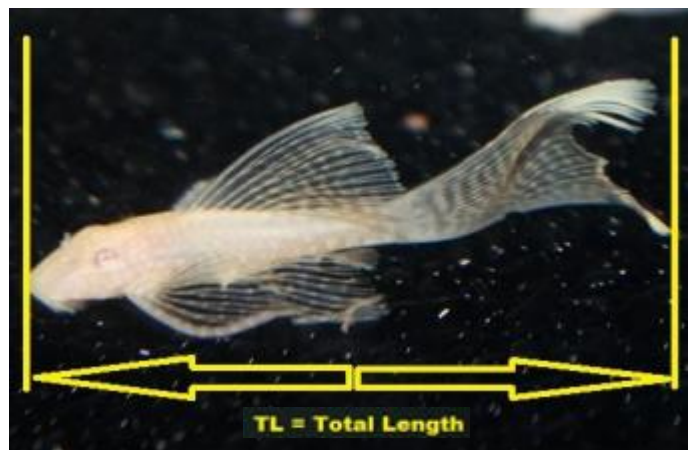
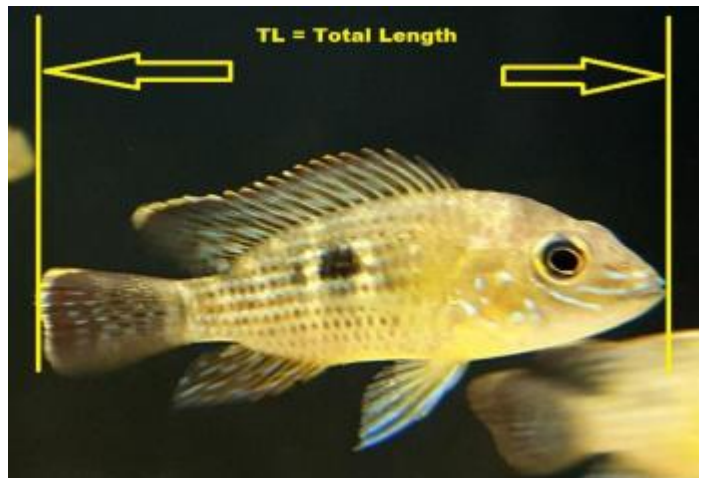
Catfish

- *Corydoras* all species not listed in Class 1
- Loricardae all species except below

5cm total length minimum

Catfish

- Loricardae Long fin Bristlenose
- Whiptail sp. Excludes tail filament





THE NSWCS MINI AUCTION BOOK IN SHEET

Member Name:..... Member Number:

3 Lots for a Single Membership (only 1 of each species)

5 Lots for Family Membership (maximum 2 of each species)

Take Note 2 Family Members Must be Present on the Night

Lot No:	Description (please print) Use Common or Scientific Name	QTY	SIZE (fry, sml, med, lrg)	Reserve	Sale Price
				\$	\$
				\$	\$
				\$	\$
				\$	\$
				\$	\$

Important Mini Auction Information

- The auction is limited to the sale of fish and aquarium products only.
- Second hand electrical items can not be auctioned.
- All fish must be in clear bags. Coloured or printed bags will not be accepted. Fish in buckets or other containers will not be accepted..
- Single lots of multiple bags must be taped together with clear packing tape, around the sides and across the bottom.
- You are responsible for labelling of bags and sexing of fish.
- A commission of 10% is charged to Members that are selling fish.
- Lots without a reserve on the bag will be sold as having no reserve, regardless of what is on this form.
- Fish are booked in between 6.45pm and 7.30pm. No lots will be accepted after 7.30pm.
- Once booked in, lots can only be removed at the end of the auction OR at the auctioneer's discretion.
- Passed in lots must be picked up as they are passed in – the club is not responsible for misplaced items.
- You must keep track of your lots being auctioned and be ready to answer any questions the auctioneers might ask. If you are not present, the auctioneer's decision is final.

Invasive Cichlids in NSW

The Pearl Cichlid (*Geophagus Brazilliensis*), or pearl eartheater is a South American freshwater fish known for its striking appearance, featuring pearly spots on a grey-green body and red fins. While popular in aquariums, it can become a destructive pest if introduced into the wild due to its hardiness, size and aggressive nature.

The pearl cichlid was first reported in a tributary of the Tweed River in 2008 around Murwillumbah and Uki, and since then has expanded its area to various locations in the Tweed River Catchment. Most recent sightings have included Dum Dum on the Tweed River at Doon Doon Creek. An additional sighting has been reported at Clarrie Hall Dam. These reports as well as frequent flooding in the area raise concern for continued growth of this species.



Invasive Cichlids in NSW

There is little doubt that the wild populations of this species observed in New South Wales have originated from discarded aquarium fish. While the numbers reported thus far have been relatively low, this species' hardiness and adaptability suggest that it has the potential to become more widespread and established in coastal river systems.



There is little that can be done to eliminate the pearl cichlid once established due to its widespread distribution across a large area of the Tweed Catchment. These fish are difficult to locate and even harder to catch. The most effective control method is to remove them opportunistically, and the more people that help, the greater the chance of limiting their numbers. For this reason, anglers catching this cichlid need to ensure it is not returned to the water.

Invasive Cichlids in NSW

Cichlids are a popular aquarium species due to their ease of care, hardiness, adaptability and prolific breeding habits. Unfortunately, these same traits make them highly capable of surviving, establishing, and becoming pests if released into the wild.

Several cichlid species, including the Mozambique tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*), spotted cichlid (*Pelmatolapia mariae*) and Jack Dempsey cichlid (*Cichlasoma octofasciatum*) have already become established in various locations across Australia. However, there is often limited information on how these species impact native fish populations due to their aggressive behaviour and competition for food and space.

The particularly aggressive nature of the pearl cichlid raises additional concerns about the potential threat it could pose to native fauna if it were to establish itself in other New South Wales waterways.



A Visit from the PIAA



During the November Sydney Cichlid Club of NSW meeting, we were fortunate to be visited by Anthony Ramsey, President of the Pet Industry Association of Australia (PIAA) for a talk into the importance of keeping breed purity and responsible fish keeping as it relates to the difficulty of getting new and current allowed species imported.

Australia has strict regulations governing the importation of fish to ensure the safety of its ecosystems, public health, and biosecurity. The importation process is overseen by various governmental agencies, primarily the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and the Australian Border Force (ABF). There are many steps to be undertaken when importing fish into Australia and compliance with the Biosecurity Act 2015 is essential.

A Visit from the PIAA

Fish for import are currently divided into 3 categories:

1. White list – Species that are deemed suitable for live import.



2. Grey list – Species not approved for live import but not yet banned



1. Black list – Prohibited matter. List of species declared noxious / banned in NSW



A Visit from the PIAA

To add a new species to the white list takes approximately 5 years and costs upwards of \$5000 as the requirements for risk assessments are extensive. Responsible stewardship can assist in preventing additional species being considered noxious.





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Julidochromis Regani



The Julidochromis Regani (Convict Julie) is a cichlid fish that is native to Lake Tanganyika. The fish is named after Charles Tate Regan. The word Julidochromis comes from the marine wrasse "julidini" and the Greek word ioulis, which means a fish in the genera Coris or Thalassoma.

The convict julie is found in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, and Zambia. The convict julie is closely related to the Julidochromis marlieri, and it's possible that a male common ancestor of the two hybridized with a female Telmatochromis ancestor.

The convict julie has different morphs depending on where it originates from. The most common morph is the "Zambian" which has four brown-black stripes that alternate with the fish's yellow body color. Another morph has three broad lateral bands and appears to have a black base color with fine yellow lines.

Julidochromis Regani

Julidochromis Regani are a relatively easy to care for cichlid as long as conditions are favourable. They thrive in an aquarium that mimics their natural habitat, the rocky shores of Lake Tanganyika. This natural habitat has high water hardness and alkaline conditions (ph 8.0-8.9). They are commonly found hiding among rocks and crevices in the lake and replicating this environment will ensure a happy, healthy fish.

These fish prefer a substrate of smooth sand or fine gravel to prevent injury to their ventral region. The tank décor should consist of a variety of rocks and hiding places to allow the Julie to retreat when feeling threatened. They typically occupy the lower level of the tank and can be seen most often in lower light conditions.

Julies are peaceful towards their own species and other similarly sized cichlids. However, they are best kept with other cichlids from Lake Tanganyika that have different colorations to prevent hybridization. Suitable tankmates include Neolamprologus Brichardi, Cyprichromis Leptisoma and Altolamprologus Calvus.



Avoid keeping them with aggressive or much larger cichlids, as this could cause stress and territorial disputes.

Julidochromis Regani



Julies are not fussy eaters and will accept a variety of foods. A diet consisting of high-quality flakes, cichlid pellets, and occasional servings of live or frozen foods such as brine shrimp is ideal. Feeding them small meals several times a day is recommended over larger meals to accommodate their small stomachs and prevent digestive issues.

To ensure proper nutrition, it's important to vary their diet. Include vegetable-based foods occasionally, as this will help in maintaining their health and vibrant coloration. Avoid overfeeding to prevent water quality issues, as they are sensitive to sudden changes in water conditions.

Julies are cave spawners and breeding them requires a tank environment that offers plenty of hiding spots. They are known to be timid, so it's essential to place the breeding tank in a quiet area to prevent disturbances. Remove other fish from the tank to reduce stress and competition.

The pair will lay their eggs in a cave, and the parents will take turns guarding the fry once they hatch. To increase the success rate, add baby brine shrimp to the tank for the fry to feed on. For better survival rates, the fry can be moved to a separate tank once they are free-swimming and capable of finding food in the water column.

An average lifespan for a Julidochromis Regani is 8 years and make an excellent addition to a community Lake Tanganyika tank.

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Cryptoheros Sajica

“T-Bar” Cichlid



The Sajica T-bar cichlid (*Cryptoheros Sajica*) is a freshwater fish that originated in Central America and is known for its distinctive T-shaped marking. It lives in freshwater streams and lakes on the Pacific slope of Costa Rica. They inhabit rivers which have moderate to strong currents and found in the bottom of the water column where there are smaller rocks and gravel.

The fish is tan coloured with 7 indistinct bars on the body. The third bar is usually prominent and coupled with a dark lateral stripe running from the gill cover results in a horizontal T-shaped mark, hence the common name of T-bar cichlid.

T Bar Cichlids are an excellent beginner cichlid as they are not as aggressive as other cichlid species, show interesting spawning behaviour and not particularly sensitive to changes in water parameters.

Cryptoheros Sajica

“T-Bar” cichlid

The T-Bar cichlid prefers neutral to slightly alkaline water (7.0-8.0) with a temperature range of 23-27C. They like a sandy or smooth gravel substrate to sift through and lots of hiding places. This cichlid can be kept in a planted aquarium if the plants are hardy and well rooted to still allow digging without plant destruction.

T-Bar cichlids are mildly aggressive. The males will nip and harass smaller males and females however a school will overcome this, they can also be kept with similarly sized South American cichlids. Smaller or slow moving fish are likely to be predated on by this cichlid, however it will become prey to larger predatory South American cichlids.



Cryptoheros Sajica

“T-Bar” cichlid

These cichlids are cave spawners, with spawning occurring most often at the top end of their preferred temperature. Once a pair has formed and breeding behaviour is evident, it is best to remove other fish to prevent harassment.

The female's ovipositor becomes visible a day or two before the spawning occurs. They will lay hundreds of eggs at once and hatching occurs 3 to 4 days later. The male is not very active in raising the fry preferring to patrol the area. The female will stay with the fry, even protecting them after they are free swimming if she feels they are threatened. Once the pair is ready to spawn again the fry should be removed to another tank to prevent being attacked by the male.

These fish are omnivores and eat a wide variety of processed foods. Bugs and frozen worms are a great addition to the diet to increase condition in the female prior to spawning.



The Sajica “T-Bar” cichlid has a life span of around 10 years and is an interesting and personable dwarf cichlid perfect for beginners or a community South American tank.

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Meeting Schedule

Location

All NSWCS meetings are held at Nuwarra Public School, McKay Avenue, Moorebank NSW 2170.

When

Meetings are held on the 1st Saturday of every month, except in January.

Monthly meetings always begin at 7.30pm, with doors open to members and guests at 6.30pm.

Major Auctions always begin at 2pm, with doors open to members and guests at 11.30am. Members can enter their major auction lots from 12.00pm to 1.15pm.

2024 Meeting Schedule

- 3 February @ 7.30pm - Monthly Meeting & Mini Auction
- 2 March @ 2pm - Major Auction
- 6 April @ 7.30pm - Monthly Meeting & Mini Auction
- 4 May @ 7.30pm - Monthly Meeting & Mini Auction
- 1 June @ 7.30pm - Monthly Meeting & Mini Auction
- 6 July @ 7.30pm - Monthly Meeting & Mini Auction
- 3 August @ 7.30pm - Annual General Meeting & MEGA Fish Raffle
- 7 September @ 7.30pm - Monthly Meeting & Mini Auction
- 5 October @ 2pm - Major Auction
- 2 November @ 7.30pm - Monthly Meeting & Mini Auction
- 7 December @ 7.30pm - Christmas Meeting & Mini Auction

Visit the NSWCS website at www.nswcs.org for the latest meeting information.

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