



The New South Wales Cichlid Society Inc.

# Cichlid Circular

Water Quality in the Home Aquarium  
White Spot Disease  
Otopharynx Testrastigma  
Geophagus Sveni

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# Contents

## Articles

- Your Committee
- Auction Rules & Minimum Sizing
- Mini Auction Book-in sheet
- 2024 Meeting schedule
- Water Quality in the Home Aquarium
- Diseases in the Aquarium – Ichthyophthiriasis multifilis (White spot disease)
- Otopharynx Tetrastigma
- Geophagus Sveni

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AllFish2U is a proud major supporter of the NSW Cichlid Society. Chris and Steve are driven by a shared commitment to foster meaningful discussions about the Cichlidae species and to support the continuation of sustainable aquarium fish-keeping.

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# Your Committee

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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
- *Dicrosuss* - 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

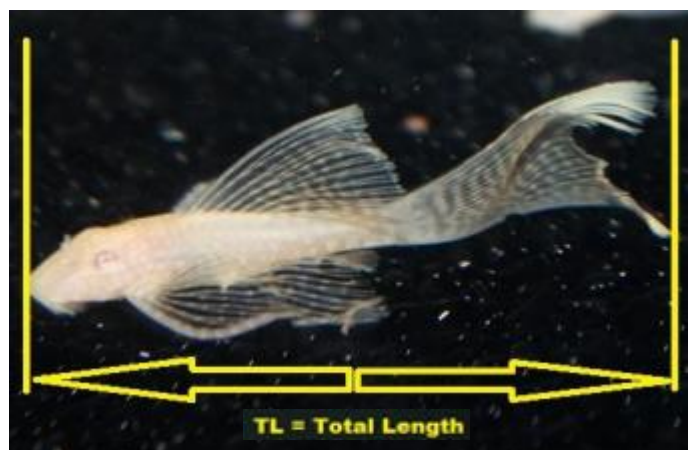
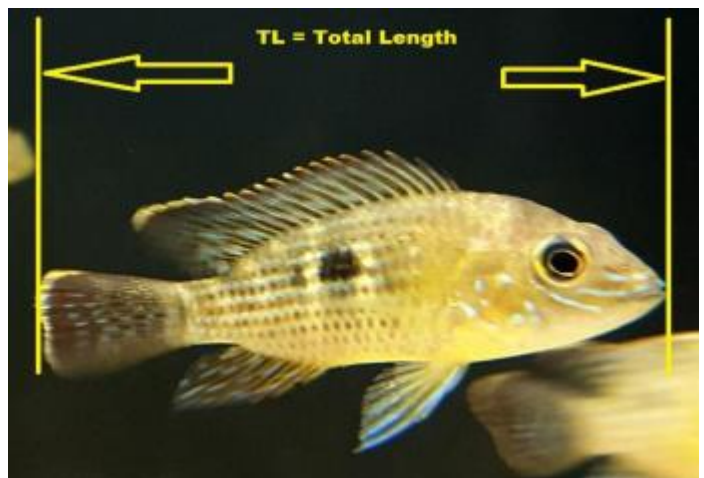
### Catfish

- *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.



# Water Quality in the Home Aquarium

## What is Water Quality?

Water quality in the home aquarium refers to the chemical and physical properties of the water that can impact the health and well being of aquatic organisms. Key components include, but are not limited to pH, ammonia, nitrite, nitrate, kH, gH and the presence of other harmful chemicals such as chlorine, chloramine and heavy metals. Maintaining optimal and appropriate water quality is crucial for a healthy aquatic ecosystem.

Following are short explanations of the most common aspects.

### pH (potential of hydrogen)

pH measures the acidity or alkalinity of the water. Most freshwater fish thrive in a pH range of 6.5 to 7.5. American cichlids generally prefer a pH between 6.5 and 8.0, Lake Malawi cichlids 7.8 to 8.5, Lake Tanganyika 7.8 to 9.0 and Lake Victoria 7.2 to 8.6.

A stable pH is important in the health of the aquarium with factors such as overfeeding, overpopulation and varying tap water impacting the levels.

# Water Quality in the Home Aquarium

## pH (cont)

While not always necessary pH can be adjusted using methods such as driftwood or botanicals to lower pH, crushed coral or limestone to raise pH. Commercial pH buffering products are also available.



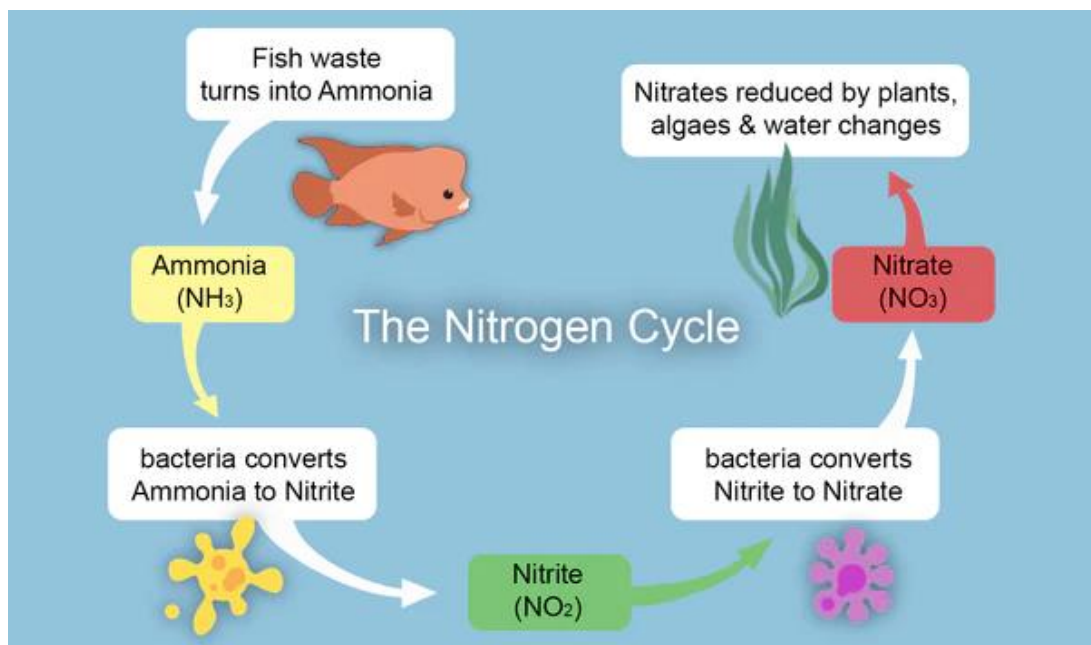
# Water Quality in the Home Aquarium

## Ammonia, Nitrite and Nitrate

Fish waste and uneaten food produce ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) which is toxic to fish. Ammonia is converted to nitrite ( $\text{NO}_2$ ) that is less toxic than ammonia by ammonia-oxidising bacteria. Nitrite is converted to nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3$ ) the least toxic form of nitrogen by nitrite-oxidising bacteria. This process is known as the nitrogen cycle.

Ammonia and nitrite levels should be kept at 0ppm and nitrates as low as possible. Generally accepted is below 40ppm.

Nitrate levels can be lowered by adding live plants to the aquarium that use the nitrates as fertiliser. Regular water changes also help to control nitrate levels.



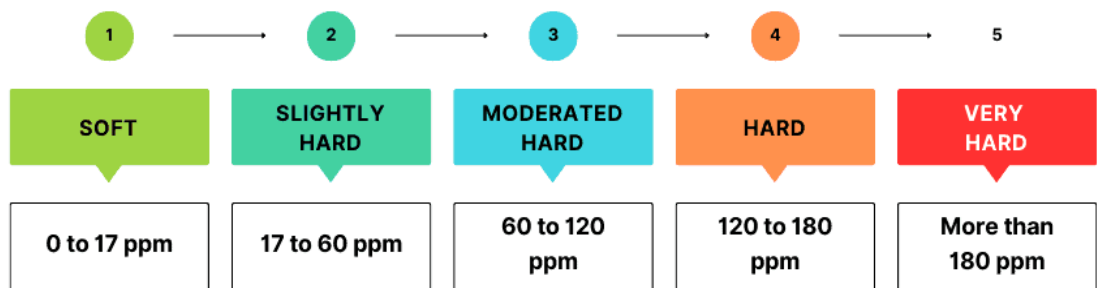
# Water Quality in the Home Aquarium

## KH and GH

KH (carbonate hardness) is the measure of the bicarbonate and carbonate ions in the water. These ions act as a buffer, in that they can absorb changes in pH preventing drastic fluctuations.

KH is measured in parts per million and the optimal level for an aquarium is 70-140ppm. You can raise KH by adding limestone, crushed coral or alkaline buffers to the water.

### Water Hardness Scale



GH (general hardness) is the measure of the total amount of calcium and magnesium ions in the water. These minerals are important as they are essential for fish metabolism and bone development.

GH is measured in parts per million and the optimal level for an aquarium is 70-140ppm. You can raise GH by adding limestone, crushed coral or buffers based on magnesium sulfate and calcium sulfate.

# Water Quality in the Home Aquarium

## Other Considerations

### Temperature

Most cichlids require temperatures between 22-28°C.

### Chlorine, Chloramine and heavy metals

Tap water often contains a combination of Chlorine, Chloramine and a variety of heavy metals. These should always be treated using a water conditioner when adding water to the aquarium.





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# **Ichthyophthiriasis multifiliis (White spot disease)**

White spot disease, also known as “ich” is a common parasitic infection in fish characterized by small white spots on the body, fins, and sometimes gills. These spots resemble tiny crystals and are caused by protozoan called *Ichthyophthirius multifiliis* that lives under the fish’s skin. The parasite attaches to the fish, feeding on their cells and body fluids.

## **Symptoms of White Spot Disease**

Small white spots on the skin of the fish are the primary indicator of ich, appearing as small, white specks on the fish’s body, fins and sometimes gills. The fish may frequently rub or “flash” against objects in the aquarium to relieve the irritation caused by the parasite. In severe cases the parasite can accumulate in the gills, leading to difficulty breathing and respiratory distress.



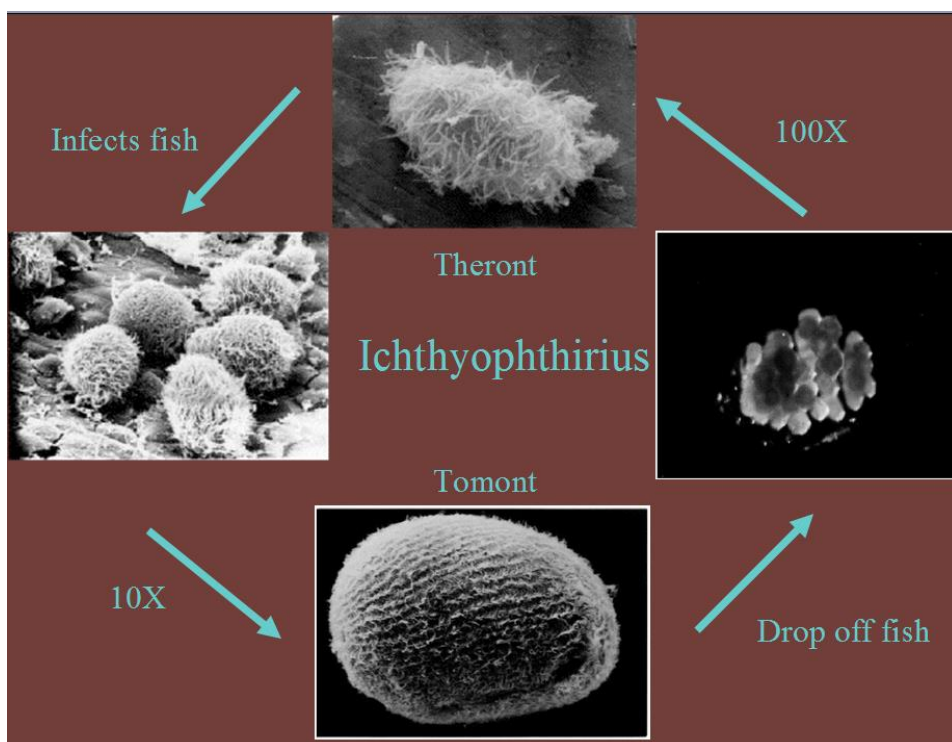
# Ichthyophthiriasis multifiliis (White spot disease)

## Causes of White Spot Disease

Ichthyophthiriasis multifiliis is a microscopic, ciliated protozoan that thrives in freshwater aquariums. The parasite has a complex lifecycle, including a free-swimming stage where it can infect other fish. Ich can spread through contaminated water, new fish or infected live plants or décor.

Weakened fish, often due to stress or poor/fluctuating water conditions are more susceptible to Ich. Stress can suppress the immune system, making it easier for the parasite to take hold.

In essence, Ich outbreaks occur when fish are stressed, the environment is unsuitable and the parasite is introduced into the aquarium.



# **Ichthyophthiriasis multifiliis (White spot disease)**

## **Treating White Spot Disease**

To treat Ich on fish you can either increase the water temperature and add aquarium salt, or use a specific fish medication targeted to eradication of the parasite.

To treat with temperature and salt:

- Slowly increase the aquarium temperature to 30°C over a day to speed up the parasite's lifecycle
- Add a small amount of aquarium salt (1tbsp per 10 litres of water)
- Vacuum the substrate daily to remove fallen parasites
- Continue the higher temperature and substrate vacuuming for at least 5 days.

To treat with medication always follow instructions on the label and/or consult with a veterinarian. When treating with medications always remember to remove carbon from your filter as it can absorb the medications.



# **Ichthyophthiriasis multifiliis (White spot disease)**

## **Preventing White Spot Disease**

To prevent Ich in a fish tank, focus on maintaining excellent water quality, quarantining new additions, and minimising stress on your fish.

Quarantining new fish:

- Quarantine all new additions in a separate tank for at least 3 weeks, ideally 4-6 weeks, with separate equipment.
- Observe the fish closely during quarantine for any signs of infection.

Maintaining water quality:

- Regularly test your water for pH, ammonia, nitrite and nitrate levels.
- Perform partial water changes regularly to maintain water quality and remove waste products.
- Keep the water temperature stable.

Minimising stress:

- Provide a stable environment
- Avoid overcrowding your tank as this can lead to stress and aggression
- Feed a varied and nutritious diet to maintain strong immune systems
- Ensure proper hiding places and territories for each fish.

# ACE



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## Australian Cichlid Enthusiasts Inc.

- ✓ Totally free to join & use
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Photos: Jón Helgi Jónsson

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# Otopharynx Tetrastigma



Otopharynx tetrastigma is a species of cichlid native to Lake Malawi, Lake Malombe and the upper reaches of the Shire River first described in 1894 by Gunter. This species can reach a length of 16 centimetres and can be encountered in sandy and rocky areas of the lake, where it grazes on small invertebrates and detritus. They are a relatively peaceful cichlid that prefers to hide and is often quite timid.

The males of this species are brightly-coloured, iridescent turquoise with orange highlights to most of the flank scales, and numerous orange markings in the dorsal and caudal fins. The dorsal fin margin is conspicuously white with a red edge. The anal fin is dark with large faint egg spots and an orange lower margin. Females and juveniles are silvery with several flank spots in an oblique line. The expected lifespan is around 8 years in captivity.



# Otopharynx Tetrastigma

Otopharynx breeding rituals involve the male choosing a flat rock as a spawning site, then engaging in courtship with the female, including displays of intense coloration and body movements. The female deposits eggs at the chosen site, and the male fertilizes them.

As mouth brooders the female then collects the eggs and stores them in her buccal cavity (inside mouth) for about 3 weeks after they hatch. She will often not eat during this period to ensure the safety of her young.

Fry can take several months to reach their full adult size, but the general timeframe for them to mature is around 90 days. Like many fish, they experience rapid growth in the first few weeks, particularly between week three and four, where they double in size and their colors intensify. While they may appear like miniature adults by the end of the first month, they still require time to reach their full adult size, which can take about three months.



# Otopharynx Tetrastigma

## Keeping the Otopharynx Tetrastigma at home

Water parameters: pH 7.8-8.4, Temperature 24-28°C, GH 150-350ppm, KH 120ppm

Diet: Cichlid pellets, spirulina flakes and occasional frozen food such as brine shrimp or bloodworms.

Housing: Sandy substrate and high filtration.

Tank mates: Other peaceful African cichlids.



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*Facebook – Tropical Paradise Aquarium*

# Geophagus Sveni



*Geophagus sveni*, also known as Sven's Eartheater, is a medium-sized cichlid native to the Tocantins River drainage in Brazil. They are a type of "eartheater" and are known for sifting through the substrate for food. They are a medium sized cichlid that reaches around 17cm in length. The fish is named in honor of Sven O. Kullander of the Swedish Museum of Natural History in 2010, for his many contributions to cichlid systematics.

*Geophagus sveni* are known for their striking coloration, featuring a combination of blue and red hues, along with a prominent spiked dorsal fin and long, filamentous fin extensions. Additionally, they have iridescent scales on their flanks, ranging in color from gold-orange to blue-green, and unique patterns on their operculum. The males' fins are longer and more pointed however, determining the sex can be extremely difficult until the breeding phase begins. At that point the males will exhibit a more vibrant colouration.



# Geophagus Sveni

When the Sveni are ready to breed the colours will become more vibrant. A courtship consisting of circling, fin slapping and mouth-locking will then ensue. They will pair off and the female will lay eggs on a flat surface such as a slate rock or dig out a section of the substrate and lay the eggs there.

Once the eggs have been laid and fertilised, both parents guard the eggs for 1 or 2 days until the female assumes the responsibility of mouth brooding. The female will carry the developing eggs in her mouth until they hatch and the fry is able to swim freely.

*Geophagus sveni*, like other *Geophagus* species, are generally slow growers compared to other cichlids. They can reach a maximum size of around 10 inches (25cm) as full-grown adults, with some individuals reaching a slightly smaller size. They often don't show significant growth in the first few months, but will eventually reach their full size if provided with adequate care and space.



# Geophagus Sveni

## Keeping the Geophagus Sveni at home

Water parameters: pH 6.0-7.5, Temperature 24-28°C, GH 50-140ppm, KH 80ppm

Diet: Cichlid pellets, and occasional frozen food such as brine shrimp or bloodworms.

Housing: Sandy substrate and high filtration.

Tank mates: . Blue Acara, Severums, and other Geophagus species like Tapajos, Steindachneri, Corydoras catfish, Angelfish, and some barbs and tetras like Colombian or Buenos Aires tetra, various types of plecos, from common to more exotic varieties, can be compatible due to their bottom-dwelling nature and lack of aggression.





# 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 4pm, with doors open to members and guests at 3:30pm. Members can enter their major auction lots from 2.00pm to 3.15pm.

## 2025 Meeting Schedule

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

Visit the NSWCS website at [www.nswcs.org](http://www.nswcs.org) for the latest meeting information.

# Sponsors Wanted

## SPACE FOR SALE



Do you know an aquarium business that would  
like to partner with the NSWCS?

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