RTAW Forums Rules, Policies and Disclaimers

This is a mirror of the RTAW Forums Rules, Policies and Disclaimers, which requires RTAW Forum registration to read. Last updated the 7th of July 2008.

General Guidelines

1.
"RTAW" refers to the bulletin board called Reefing the Australian Way owned and run by the Marine Aquarium Societies of Australia. "We" and "us" refers to the administrators and/or moderators of RTAW.

2.
By registering to post and reply to threads on RTAW you agree to abide by the rules, policies and disclaimers (RPD) of the RTAW bulletin board, as listed here.

3.
Considering the real-time nature of RTAW, it is impossible for us to review messages or confirm the validity of information posted. Please remember that we do not actively monitor the contents of posted messages and are not responsible for any messages posted. We do not vouch for or warrant the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of any message, and are not responsible for the contents of any message. The messages express the views of the author of the message, not necessarily the views of MASA or any entity associated with MASA. Any user who feels that a posted message is objectionable is encouraged to contact us immediately by email. We have the ability to remove objectionable messages and we will make every effort to do so, within a reasonable time frame, if we determine that removal is necessary. This is a manual process, however, so please realise that we may not be able to remove or edit particular messages immediately.

4.
You agree, through your use of this service and registration, that you will not use RTAW to post any material which is knowingly false and / or defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, vulgar, hateful, harassing, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, invasive of a person's privacy, or otherwise violative of any law. You agree not to post any copyrighted material unless the copyright is owned by you or by MASA, or permission for use has been obtained.

5.
Although RTAW does not and cannot review the messages posted and is not responsible for the content of any of these messages, we reserve the right to delete any message for any or no reason whatsoever. You remain solely responsible for the content of your message(s), and you agree to indemnify and hold harmless MASA, the administrators and moderators of RTAW and their agents with respect to any claim based upon transmission of your message(s).

6.
We at MASA also reserve the right to reveal your identity (or whatever information we know about you) in the event of a complaint or legal action arising from any message posted by you.

7 Whilst preserving each user's rights under law, anyone:

(i) threatening legal action; or

(ii) taking actions that may cause threat of legal action;

against
MASA, any associated persons or organisations, administrators and moderators of RTAW and their agents will automatically have their user account(s) on RTAW suspended for a period of 12 months, regardless of the circumstances. This suspension is subject to review during this 12 month period and may be removed or extended as deemed appropriate.

8.
With the exception of the Commercial Forum(s), RTAW is a non-commercial bulletin board. Therefore, posts of a commercial nature (as explained below) are limited to the Commercial Forum(s). See the Commercial Guidelines below for further information on commercial posting.

9.
Group Buys are organised for the benefit of the financial members of MASA societies and are conducted only in the Group Buy Forum.

10. Please note that the following are inappropriate on RTAW:

(a) chain letters, pyramid schemes and solicitations (all forums)

(b) advertisements (exception in Commercial Forum(s) as detailed below)

11.
Anyone found to be contravening the letter or the spirit of the General Guidelines or engaging in behaviour that is inconsistent with our view of acceptable community standards on RTAW, may at the discretion of us be given a private and / or public warning depending on the severity of the offence. Repeat offenders will be dealt with as seen fit by us.

12.
This RPD may be changed or amended (including being terminated and replaced with new RPD) at any time by the MASA Committee without giving any reason or prior notice. The MASA Committee will notify RTAW Members following any changes to, or replacement of, this RPD. Notification of changes to, or replacement of, this RPD will be via a message with a subject heading the same as, or similar to, "Modification of RTAW Rules, Policies and Disclaimers" posted to the General Discussion forum. Making any post (including Private Messages) within RTAW following any amendment or replacement of this RPD binds an RTAW Member

to the amendment or replacement of the RPD

13.
The Forum Rules, Policies and Disclaimers are enforced by an entirely volunteer staff. You agree not to, in any form, abuse, harass, threaten, or descend upon members of staff over issues relating to their duties. If you would like to discuss with the MASA Committee any aspect of the forum rules or how moderation is conducted, please contact us at masa@masa.asn.au

14.
Any ban imposed on a user of the RTAW Forum may also be imposed on other users who login from the same IP address. The ban may have the same expiry date as the original ban. We encourage you to think before you type as your actions may collaterally punish family, friends or other forum users on a shared internet network.

Business Guidelines

The following guidelines apply to all users that fit within our definition of a Business User as set out in the Businesses & MASA: Business Definition page.

B1.
A Business must be registered with MASA before any users associated with that business are permitted to participate on the RTAW Forums.

B2. Business user RTAW Forum profiles must comply with the signature requirements as set out in the Businesses & MASA: RTAW Forum Signatures page.

B3. Business users must comply with the spirit and the letter of the posting guidelines for businesses as set out in the Businesses & MASA: RTAW Forum Participation page.

B4.
Any user representing a hobby related business may not reply to posts made in the Business Forum(s) by any other hobby related business

B5.
The number of posts made in the Business Forum(s) soliciting business by a Business User must be of a reasonable number. Excessive spamming and flooding of the forum is unacceptable.

B6.
Anyone deemed by the us to be contravening the letter or the spirit of the Business Guidelines will be dealt with as seen fit by us. This means that any post deemed to be non compliant with any of the above or

inconsistent with the values that we place on the RTAW forums, will be dealt with accordingly and at the discretion of us.