



GREETINGS!



Have you noticed how gardeners come out of hibernation when the weather is cool and damp? The garden is irresistible.

Take a break from digging in the garden and visit Zanthorrea to see the latest native plant releases and cool displays created by our talented team.

The display gardens are looking spectacular. Mark has transformed the area, renovating many of the older plantings which were established in the late 70's.

It is interesting to note which plants have survived the many years of dry summers, and competition from the surrounding gum trees.

The formal native garden uses plants which require a minimum of water. Two shallow ponds nearby will encourage frogs to settle, and the area near Yorn, the giant bobtail, contains plants suitable for a rockery. There are other themed gardens planned, and our aim is to give you ideas for using our fantastic Aussie native plants in your garden.

Come and see for yourself.

-Jackie, Alec and the team

WHAT'S ON AT ZANTHORREA?

Congratulations!

To June and Lloyd Butcher, from Kanyana, for receiving Queens Birthday Honours (AM) for services to wildlife conservation.

Don't miss "Return to Eden", the film about bilbies shot at Kanyana, scheduled on ABC TV at 10pm, Thursday 27th June. Alec has seen it and says it is not to be missed.

Attention to all e-gardeners

Would you like to receive your Bush Telegraph on line?

- It's good for the environment - we save precious paper
- We save on postage - thank you for helping us cut costs
- Receive your newsletter on the day it is published
- Your vouchers will be waiting for you at Zanthorrea when you visit.

To join the list, send a blank email jackie@zanthorrea.com with "subscribe BT" in the subject line.



Share Your Garden

In spring we plan to have another "Garden Visit". Would you like to show a small group of gardeners around your Australian native garden? Please contact Jackie as soon as possible.

"Fabulous frogs"

*Saturday 29th June 10am
-in the Zanthorrea gazebo-*

Eric McCrum will entertain and inform us about frogs in our backyard. What do they get up to with all that croaking, and how do we give them what they need to set up home in our backyard?

Eric's talks are always popular, so book now by phone on 94546260 or email, jackie@zanthorrea.com



"Planning makes perfect"

*Saturday 27th July 10am
-in the Zanthorrea gazebo-*

When planting a new garden or renovating an old one, it's wise to look at all aspects of planning from themes to design to planting.

Join Jackie for an overview of planning your garden.

RSVP as numbers are limited Please phone (94546260) or email jackie@zanthorrea.com





FABULOUS FLORA

WAX PLANTS

It's wax plant time - most styles are now flowering in the pots. I guess the waxes for gardens could be divided into 3 broad categories:

1) Selections of Geraldton Wax (*Chamelaucium uncinatum*).

Over the years there have been many selections of waxes made, the more enduring forms are white, 'CWA Pink' (thanks to Brian Jack), 'Purple Pride' and 'Burgundy Blush' (thanks to George Lullfitz). These are all fast and hardy in well drained soils with plenty of sunlight (4 hours plus per day!). All are subject to root rot so it is a gamble planting them in heavy or damp soil, or where you have been losing plants inexplicably.

White seems to be the best for picking and 'Purple Pride' makes the neatest bush. 'Burgundy Blush' is the darkest but perhaps too dark to show up well - I think 'CWA Pink' shows off the best.



2) Hybrids of *uncinatum*.

The hybrids of Geraldton wax usually have *Chamelaucium megalopetalum* as the other parent to capture the larger blooms and flowers that colour change with age from white to red. Ones like 'Madonna', 'Blondie' and 'Sweet Seventeen' can be very showy but do seem to be more subject to leaf

drop and root rot. Plant in more sun with plenty of air flow (not crowded).

3) Other species

The main other wax species available are Walpole Wax (*C. floriferum*), Stirling Wax (*C. ciliatum*), and sometimes Esperance wax (*C. axillare*). The Stirling Wax makes a dense shrub with small white and pink flowers, Walpole Wax (subject to root rot and leaf drop) makes a bright green shapely 1.2m shrub with small white flowers and the Esperance Wax a 1.5m open shrub with bigger white flowers that age red.

There are plenty available now at Zanthorrea starting at \$6.95, the hybrids are in bigger sizes only, priced accordingly.

Yellow Buttons - a great groundcover!

Helichrysum ramosissimum is a tenacious, low ground cover from Queensland that seems to thrive here, flowering all the year round with pots of bright yellow 5cm pom pom heads which stand out well against the grey/green foliage.

Each plant will grow about 80cm across but as it suckers it will tie soil together on slopes etc. It's good for pots and baskets - suckers will come through fibre liners to make a ball of foliage. If it gets a bit ratty from drought or something it can be whipper-snipped off to get new growth.

All in all a pretty versatile plant that could find a spot in most gardens.

- Alec

Australian Plants

in a Formal Setting

Some new ideas to check out this season - how to use our plants in a very formal garden.

Mark has designed and installed an outdoor 'room' up near the frog ponds and Jarrahjack the frog.

Plants chosen:

Variegated agonis, wedding bush (*Ricinocarpus tuberculatus*), *Callistemon 'Little John'*, *Scaevola Purple Fanfare*, variegated native rosemary (*Westringia fruticosa*), *Syzygium 'Bush Christmas'* standards, *Grevillea 'Gingin Gem'*, a compact hedge of *Syzygium 'Tiny Trev'*, variegated dianella and *Homoranthus flavescens* in the shady spots.



The formal garden has been enhanced with a large Paul Moro sculpture of several dragonflies. This beautiful piece is strategically placed in the existing stock garden.





WINTER: TIME FOR SOME ACTION

What to do in the winter garden?

To ensure a waterwise garden next summer, it is essential to get planting within the next few weeks. Gardens established in autumn and winter are much more likely to survive our hot dry summers.

Successful planting:

Mix soil improver or other well rotted organic material into the soil before planting. Water well. Add a tree tablets or a teaspoon of native plant Osmocote.

We have a great range of starter plants. At nine for \$20, the garden is off to a great start.



Mulch, mulch, mulch:

Mulch is still important, but in winter take care that the mulch is not in contact with the trunk or stem area.

In the vege garden:

Time to plant potatoes, spinach and other leafy crops, parsley and other herbs, peas and snow peas, spring onions, beetroot, parsley and baby carrots.

Everlastings:

There is still time to plant everlastings for a great show in early spring.



Winter pruning:

The general rule for pruning native plants is to prune after flowering. Take care in frost zones to wait until early spring when below zero temperatures are unlikely.

To fertilise or not to fertilise?

There is always the question about whether native plants require fertiliser. Most local and south west WA species are accustomed to poor soils, so one could argue they do not need feeding. Our view is that by growing plants in pots we change their ability to extract nutrients from the soil by curbing root growth. In addition, not many gardeners will tolerate the woodiness of many plants in the wild.

PLANET ARK's

National Tree Day is coming up on Sunday 28th July.

Australians are encouraged to plant trees and shrubs that are native to their local area. Use your June voucher to pick up a pack of local seeds to grow for your garden.



Simply place the seed in a pot of seed raising mix and keep moist until germination. Some seeds such as wattles require hot water treatment before planting, others germinate best with smoked water applied after sowing. Have fun!

FLORA FOR FAUNA

Update

Have you discovered the Flora for Fauna website

www.floraforfauna.com.au

The news is: there have been over 2 million 'hits' in just 6 months.

There is a comprehensive plant list to assist you when selecting plants to attract wildlife. Not all are available in the west but we can show you a great range at Zanthorrea.



FLORA NOT FOR FAUNA

We are compiling a list of "kangaroo proof" plants. Kathy had the great idea of asking you for help.

Many hills gardeners are frustrated by kangaroos eating their garden. Do you know of any species which kangaroos do not like to eat?

Perhaps you have had success with barriers or repellents. Please let us know and we will share your knowledge with other gardeners.





WINTER: READY, SET, GROW!

KANYANA PLANT



Grevillea "Frosty Pink"

Before you say "wow! another new grevillea!", we must mention Frosty Pink has been sold for years as *Grevillea brachystachya*. Whether you know the plant or not, it is still a great garden addition with soft grey foliage on a 1m x 2m bush. It is fast growing and is not fussy as to soil type. We see them growing reliably from the coastal sands through to heavy

hills soils. With heavy soils watch out for waterlogging - unhealthy conditions for this plant.

The flowers are dusky pink/mauve and form round bunches about 2cms across. Flowering starts in May and peaks in July with some carrying on until October. As with most grevilleas, the birds find them attractive.

Actual parentage of 'Frosty Pink' is unknown, but it is considered to come from *Grevillea pinaster* - a very tough plant found near Kalbarri - and *Grevillea commutata*, another spreading, much branched shrub from Geraldton and the wheatbelt.

Grevillea "Frosty Pink" is our Kanyana Plant for winter, and \$1 from the sale of each plant goes to assist with their expenses.

– Alec

What's Flowering Now?

Many of these lovely plants which flower in winter will also tolerate shady areas:

- *Correa pulchella*
(native fuchsia)
- *Crowea 'Festival'*
- *Grevillea 'Frosty Pink'*
- *Grevillea 'Ellendale'*
- *Hypocalymma angustifolia*
(coconut ice)
- *Chorizema cordatum*
(heart leaf flame pea)

Also flowering now, but requiring a sunny spot for best growth is the lovely orange flowered form of *Lechenaultia formosa*.

Limerick Competition

When showing his wisteria,
A gardener got hysteria,
For he was told
That a marigold
Was very much superior.

You can do better than that, so send in your garden limerick. The limerick voted best by our experienced limerick judges wins a \$50 gift voucher. (Don't forget your name and phone number!)

'Spam' Alert!

To ensure that we are not sending unsolicited emails, please confirm your interest in receiving our monthly e-newsletter, the "Garden Rambler" by emailing jackie@zanthorrea.com with "subscribe Garden Rambler" in the subject line.

(You may choose to subscribe to Garden Rambler and still have the Bush Telegraph delivered by snail mail.)



Zanthorrea founder, Jean Hooper, with orange lechenaultia



Zanthorrea Nursery is proud to be accredited under the new national AGCAS scheme.

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