



WELCOME!

Greetings.

We hope your garden has survived the summer! It has been a challenging time for plants.

Autumn is a perfect time to get back into your garden and replant. Pick up a plant list from Zanthorrea which has a code (H) for plants with low water requirements.

The Winners!

Have you heard that Zanthorrea Nursery was awarded "Best Garden Centre in Australia", Medium Size Category, at the recent Nursery Industry conference in Adelaide?



Judging took place early February and points were given for layout, quality and range of stock, staff, services, and general ambience. The judge praised Zanthorrea's enthusiastic and talented staff, and the overall excellence of service offered.

In February, Zanthorrea went through the annual process to renew our Garden Centre accreditation. Thank you to our customers who took the time to fill out the survey forms which were a compulsory part of accreditation. The surveys help to keep us on our toes.

Warmest wishes for a cool and wet winter ahead!

– Jackie and Alec

WHAT'S ON AT ZANTHORREA?

Welcome, Welcome

A warm welcome back to Vanessa, who left us three years ago to pursue other adventures. Vanessa is a horticulturist with many years experience in garden design. We are enjoying Vanessa's enthusiasm and sense of fun.

A warm welcome, also, to Diana who has joined us to further her interest in Australian plants. Diana, a horticulturist, has worked in a leading garden centre for eight years. We are delighted that Diana has chosen to join our team.

Bilby Club News

Bilby Club coordinator, Claire, will be overseas until mid May. Jackie will run a potting workshop for junior gardeners while Claire is away. Pop in and pick up the Bilby newsletter for further details.

Bring the children in over the Easter weekend to do the Easter egg Spotto. There is an easter egg for every child (both large and small!).



New Plants for Old

Saturday 20th April, 10am

Alec will demonstrate how to divide your kangaroo paws to make lots of healthy new plants. Morning tea provided.

Create a Frog Haven

Saturday 18th May, 10am

Learn about ways to encourage the frogs back into our gardens.

RSVP: (08) 9454 6260



Attention to all the e-gardeners!

Would you like to be the first to receive your Bush Telegraph, and receive it on-line instead of via "snail mail"?

Email jackie@zanthorrea.com.au and request to be added to the Bush Telegraph email list.

The Bush Telegraph is published four times a year, but for more gardening news with month by month gardening information, join our new Gardening email list.

Zanthorrea's website has moved to faster servers, found at:

<http://www.zanthorrea.com>

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





THE NATURAL GARDENER

The Lawn Pest Problem



Q: My lawn is infested with beetles. How can I get rid of them?

A: Simple. Apply doses of chemicals on the hour, every hour, sprayed over every square inch of turf, plus, for good measure, several applications of even stronger chemicals. Finally, purchase some bombs; regular lawn beetle bombs will blow the critters sky high!

But wait!

Have you thought how toxic lawn insecticides are to the local wildlife? Birds, bobtails and bandicoots brush across our lawns in bare feet and pick up a dose through their skin, or worse, eat the dying insects.

The other problem with strong pesticides is that the natural predators are gradually eliminated; if the beetles and grubs kill whatever eats them, more and more poison will need to be used to keep their numbers in check. You may also see an increase in other pests when their enemies are killed off.

A healthy lawn can be maintained without the use of chemical warfare. The best thing to remember is that keeping your lawn's condition high will prevent attacks of pests.

- Fertilise regularly with a low phosphate fertiliser. Use a seaweed extract once a year to condition the soil.

- Make sure the lawn is being watered evenly and that the water is penetrating. Apply a soil wetting agent up to twice a year to keep the water getting to the roots. We recommend using Grosorb, which will not hurt earthworms.

- Our Kathy suggests a soil drench of saturated sugar solution (try saying that three times fast!) such as molasses in water to kill lawn grubs. You can get hold of this at stock feed suppliers.

- Spray with pyrethrin if absolutely necessary. Remember, your cures will always work better if you are also improving the condition of the lawn itself.

And if your lawn continues to have problems, consider the advice of a great man, my esteemed father Alec, and pave it. Turn it into a basketball court, a barbeque area or a concrete statue gallery. Not attractive enough? We can suggest many beautiful ground covers or landscaping ideas to turn your yard into a lush haven for you, your family, and all the barefoot friends that visit!

– Claire Hooper

Plant Now, Enjoy Later

Everlastings may be planted soon from seed, usually after a good soaking rain.

Pick up an information sheet at the nursery.



FLORA FOR FAUNA

There are many ways to encourage native birds and animals into your garden. Our natural flora provides, not only food, but shelter and nesting materials.

Frog Features

To encourage frogs, provide a few grassy plants. We currently have in stock: Pithy sword-sedge, Knotted club rush, and Pale rush, which are local grasses favoured by frogs as habitat. Add a shallow pond and soon your evenings will be punctuated by noisy frog calls.

Shelter From Harm

Prickly plants provide barriers and shelter from predators such as cats and birds of prey, for frogs, birds and small marsupials.

Select from many pricklies such as Grevillea juniperina, Hakea trifurcata, Hovea pungens, Acacia pulchella.

Bring Back the Birds

The sound of small nectar feeding birds is delightful. Keep these birds happy by planting small melaleucas such as 'Cotton Candy' and *M. fulgens*, grevilleas, hakeas, banksia and lots of hybrid kangaroo paws.

Magical Movement

Butterflies, dragonflies and native bees bring the magic of movement and colour to our gardens. Welcome them by avoiding the use of pesticides.

For more ideas on attracting fauna, plants lists, and where to shop information, visit:



<http://www.floraforfauna.com.au>



AUTUMN: READY, SET, GROW!

There's so much to do in the garden after a long hot summer, it's easy to be discouraged. Let's take it step by step:

"The Garden Make-over"

1. Weed

First, remove those pesky weeds. A hoe or sharp knife will make quick work of the weeds. When you have the time and energy, spread a layer of 5 to 10cms of mulch across the garden bed to prevent further germination of weed seed.

2. Prune

Tip prune foliage to encourage new growth and dead-head old flowers. Remove dead or diseased plants to make way for fresh new ones. The garden looks better already.

3. Water

Keep watering your plants until we have had substantial winter rains. If your soil appears non-wettable, apply a wetting agent such as Grosorb or Wettasoil.

4. Fertilise

Apply a little fertiliser to everything and water in well. A slow release fertiliser such as Osmocote is easy to apply, will not burn and is only required twice a year. Seasol is a great tonic for tired plants.

5. Plant

Choose from the colourful plants at your nursery, and pop some in while the ground is still warm. Plants grow brilliantly in the autumn.

Stand back and be amazed. Your garden looks fantastic.

- Jackie

Grevillea Update

Grevilleas are the most popular genus in the nursery, and rightly so, with their growth speed, drought tolerance, low fertiliser needs and fauna attraction. There are currently over sixty types to choose from and three I would like to mention are:

Grevillea "Sylvia"

Our current "Plant of the month" is looking big and strong, and with many in flower, are proving very popular. (from \$7.95)

Sylvia grows to 2.5m high by 2.5m wide, a little more if left unchecked. Easy to keep small though with judicious pruning they can be shapely and flowering all year round! Sylvia is a second generation descendant of *G. banksii* and *G. whiteana*.



Grevillea "Sandra Gordon"

Back in stock after a six month absence, Sandra Gordon is a fast growing tall hybrid to 4m plus. The long bright yellow flowers occur from April to November, and are nectar full attracting birds and insects. The parents of *Sandra Gordon* are *G. pteridifolia* and *G. sessilis*.

Grevillea "Gilt Dragon"

Gilt Dragon is a low mounding shrub of 60cm x 1.5m with bright red flowers which contrast with the grey foliage.

For those who want to plant this gorgeous ground cover, ensure good drainage and plenty of sun. This is a coastal sandplain plant, so to all the hill's dwellers, we take a gamble when planting this one in clay.

The origin of this grevillea is a bit confusing, once lumped with *G. thelemanniana*, it now comes under *G. preissii*. We call it "Gilt Dragon" as it occurs on the coast near where the Dutch sailing ship "Gilt Dragon" was wrecked.

We have some growing and flowering in an old chest, so check them out next time you visit.

- Alec

Time to plant

Autumn is a great time to plant just about anything. There's a huge range of starter plants at Zanthorrea and you can plant them or pot them up ready for planting later. Improve the soil before planting with Groganic. They will be sturdier and grow faster.





NEWS FROM KANYANA

A richer life for Bill the Burrowing Bettong.

Bill is indeed a rare animal. Not only is his species on the endangered list but Bill is one-of-a-kind. His friendly personality delights many school children and adults as he helps the Kanyana Education team raise awareness of the plight of our native animals. Bill is also a regular visitor to Zanthorrea's "Bilby Club".



At Kanyana, Bill has his own enclosure and although he can not burrow out, he enjoys digging and foraging among the native plants, rocks and tree hollows. Providing fresh browse and a stimulating environment is very important for a captive animal's quality of life and is called "environmental enrichment". Studies have shown that animals too suffer from depression if they are unable to behave naturally with physical and mental experiences that, as close as possible, mimic life in the wild. Environmental enrichment reduces stress and the animals have a healthier and happier life.

Volunteers at Kanyana are constantly refurbishing enclosures with native greenery that the animals love to eat, chew and destroy sometimes in a matter of minutes.

Johanna and Tom, volunteer carers, decided to plant a native *Crocea 'Festival'* in Bill's enclosure, because of its attractive little flowers and dense foliage. They purchased it from Zanthorrea where \$1 from the sale of "Kanyana plants" goes to the care and rehabilitation of wildlife.

Bill literally loved this plant to bits! He chewed and played with the bush, stretching up to get to the little star shaped flowers. After two days there were only 3 flowers left and by the end of the week Johanna had to rescue it and nurse it back to health. As you can see, it's hard keeping up with the demand for fresh juicy leaves.

So when you prune your native plants, instead of burning or carting great heaps off to the tip, why not ring and see if Kanyana (92931416) or a wildlife carer near you could use some of these fun treats for the animals. (No pesticides or insecticides please!) This way you can ensure that Bill and his friends will definitely have a richer, happier life.

– Ruth,
Kanyana Wildlife Centre

Kanyana Plant of the Month

This autumn, *Correa 'Dusky Bells'* is the plant supporting Kanyana Wildlife Centre.

Correa 'Dusky Bells' is a hybrid between *Correa reflexa* and *Correa pulchella* and has been cultivated for over 50 years.

The small plant is very reliable across a wide variety of soils and can grow to 70cms x 1.5m. Foliage is dense to the ground which stops weeds and is a good refuge for bobtails. It may be shaped into an effective low hedge as can be seen in our display garden on the way to the toilets. Hedging plants must be very reliable (gaps really stand out!) and Dusky Bells fits the bill.



Flowers are dusky pink bells up to 4cm x 1cm. With a long flowering period from March to September, this highly bird attracting shrub deserves a place in your garden.

This fresh batch is priced from \$6.45, one dollar of which we pass on to support Kanyana Wildlife Centre.
– Alec



Zanthorrea Nursery is a member of the Plants Plus group.

Zanthorrea
nursery

155 Watsonia Road, Maida Vale
Western Australia, 6057
Phone: (08) 9454 6260
Fax: (08) 9454 4540
enquiries@zanthorrea.com.au