

Welcome



It's such a joy to wake to crisp mornings and cool breezes. It feels like autumn and we can't wait to get back into our gardens.

Low rainfall and record high temperatures around Australia have resulted in an increased interest in Australian native plants. Not only are they easy to grow and usually drought hardy, they encourage native birds and animals into our gardens. At Zanthorrea, we are committed to promoting native plants.

In March this year, all the team have undertaken training with SGA (Sustainable Gardening Australia). This is just one of the requirements for Zanthorrea becoming a SGA certified nursery (see page 3).

In Autumn the nursery is chock full of exciting plants, new releases and old favourites.

We look forward to welcoming you to the nursery very soon.

Best wishes,

– Jackie Alec and the team

PS: Find out more about SGA at:
www.sgaonline.org.au



What's On

Easter, 6th to 9th April

Yes, we are open all weekend.

We celebrate the end of summer with a free starter plant per family all weekend, and of course Easter eggs for the children.

ABC Gardening Australia Expo

April 12th to 15th April

Enjoy inspiring displays and talks from the Gardening Australia team. Don't miss the new Garden Week, on this year at Perry Lakes.

Mother's Day, 13th May

Bring Mum and Grandma to the nursery and we will treat them to a free cuppa and biscuit in the atrium. Stumped for a Mother's day present? A gift voucher for mum is such a welcome gift.

Congratulations Zanthorrea

State winner, Australian Garden Industry Awards.

...again....

Well done to the fabulous team!



Judges comments: *"This is a nursery that shows the wonders, adaptability and ornamental value of Australian native plants. The promotion and sales of these native plants is underpinned by a beautifully landscaped nursery, exceptional care, maintenance and management, and attention to detail by committed and passionate staff."* – Paul Cooling, Cooling's Nursery, UK

Garden Talks

Sustainable gardening

with Paul, Zanthorrea gardener.

Saturday March 31st 10am

Learn how to create beautiful gardens that won't turn Kalamunda into a beach side suburb, or turn Maida Vale into a marina.

RSVP 9454 6260

Natural Pest Control

Saturday 28th April 10am

When the garden is in balance there is little need for intervention. Learn how to deal with pests and disease naturally.

RSVP 9454 6260

Wildlife Gardening

Saturday 26th May 10am

Do you have animal attraction?

Wildlife adds much to a garden. The sights and sounds of birds, insects and frogs are a wonderful addition to the visual aspect of your garden.

RSVP 9454 6260

Congratulations

To Laurel and Rene on the birth of Charlie on 6th December. Laurel is taking a well deserved break from Zanthorrea.



And welcome to horticulturist Georgia who joined us earlier this year.



Autumn gardening - Time to plant

Autumn - Think Roo Paws



Now is the ideal time to play with any Anigozanthos that needs attention - pruning, feeding, dividing and planting.

Pruning: If you are using a low water regime, your paws can look very tired in autumn, but they are ready to grow! If you want to you can now prune off all the diseased or dead foliage, old flower spikes ready for winter growth.

Feeding: Most clumps that are getting a bit old (perhaps three plus years) will benefit from 2 teaspoons of slow release fertiliser or a handful of blood and bone at the start of their growing cycle.

Dividing: Only do this now if you can guarantee care and attention to the divided suckers through until winter, or else wait until May. If you can give them care, divisions now will give bigger stronger clumps by spring.

Planting: The ideal time to get lots of blooms this year. Plant with slow release fertiliser and some soil improver and water in well, then twice a week until the rain takes over.

Varieties: Most are available at this time of year including our beautiful emblem *Anigozanthos manglesii*.

Really tough are the tall 'Big Red' 1.5m, 'Yellow Gem' 1.5m, and 'Orange Cross' 1.5m

The middle sized red 'Bush Sunset' 1m tall and 'Bush Gold' 90cm

yellow and the small 'Bush Ochre' 40cm orange and 'Bush Pearl' 30cm with dusky pink flowers.

If you do work on your paws in any of these ways - give them a good soak, and keep some moisture in the ground until the rains come, you will get the extra growth that autumn can bring. - Alec

Time to Plant

Autumn is time to plant pansies and violas, daffodil and tulip bulbs, potatoes and peas, but more importantly to native plant enthusiasts, it's time to sow everlasting seeds.

In early spring the pink and white everlastings on the verges and in our gardens look sensational, but alas in all but the most watered gardens by spring it is too late to plant.



Rhodanthe chlorocephala Rosea

It's easy to plant everlasting seed. Either wait for the first good winter shower of rain, or set a sprinkler to soak the ground.

Remove weeds that pop up by cultivating, spraying or hand pulling. Rake the ground lightly to create furrows.

Mix seed with some soil improver in a wheel barrow or bucket to ensure seed is not planted too thickly.

Spread seed mixture over the furrows and gently water in.

If snails live in your area, use an environmentally safe snail bait.

Wollemi Pines and Phytophthora

We have had enquiries about how susceptible the popular wollemi pine is to jarrah dieback. Unfortunately, along with half the native plants of the south west, *Wollemi nobilis* appears susceptible to root rots and if you have the jarrah dieback fungus in your area, it is probably best to keep your wollemi in a pot. (A 40cm pot will be okay for approx 10 years using good potting mix.)



For control of dieback in your garden you can contact Dieback Treatment services, phone 1300 785311 or email:

info@diebacktreatments.com

What's Flowering Now?

Autumn flowering beauties include:

- *Correa glabra*
- *Correa 'Dusky Bells'*
- *Grevillea 'Ellendale'*
- *Grevillea 'Gilt Dragon'*
- *Grevillea 'Frosty Pink'*
- *Banksia prionotes*
- *Beaufortia sparsa*
- *Eucalyptus leucoxydon 'Rosea'*
- *Eucalyptus erythrocorys*



Eucalyptus erythrocorys



Sustainable gardening

Reducing Pests and Disease Naturally

Creating a healthy, thriving garden is about working with nature. Appropriate plant selection for climate and soil types increases your chances of success. If plants are growing strongly then they are less likely to succumb to pests and disease.

Diversity of plant life also mucks it up for the bugs - it's a bit trickier for them to find their target plant and they can't breed up to plague proportions. Making use of bird attracting and beneficial insect attracting plants ensures a ready host of natural pest controllers.

If things do get out of balance and you need to introduce chemical controls - try some of the 'environmentally friendly' low impact products - such as the new 'eco' range which includes treatments for mites, insects, powdery mildew, black spot and a new fruit fly bait concentrate that is proving very effective.

Other safe controls are wettable sulphur as a fungicide / miticide, Yates 'Success' for caterpillars and Multiguard snail pellets. Neem oil and Seasol are helpful for boosting plant growth and strengthening cell walls, making plants less susceptible to pests and disease.



Vigorous plants are better able to resist disease than weak ones, so select sturdy, healthy looking plants.

At Zanthorrea we have strict quality control practices and only put the best of our stock up for sale.

Often it is better to prune off damaged foliage, removing the disease / insects with it rather than try and treat the whole plant once the damage is done. The plants can then get on with growing new healthy leaves.

Many pests are seasonal and may disfigure plants slightly, but don't harm their overall health.

So don't panic . If you are not sure what is damaging your plant, you can bring a piece in a bag to the nursery for diagnosis and we can recommend the best, low intervention solutions.

– Sue Torlach, 'Wild about gardens' garden design

Sustainable Gardening Australia

Sustainable Gardening Australia was established in Victoria by a small passionate group of gardeners with the aim to educate and encourage gardeners to make small changes to the way they garden. An offshoot to the SGA programme for gardeners was a plan to certify garden centres through staff training and audits so that they could in turn inspire and lead by example.

There are a number of aspects to SGA certification:

Water: Preserving and using wisely this precious resource.

Weeds: Ensuring garden plants do not become environmental weeds.

Wildlife: Planting indigenous and other native plants to provide food and shelter for wildlife.

Resource use: Demonstrating recycling and wise use of resources in the workplace.

Fertilisers: Using fertilisers wisely to avoid damage to waterways.

Chemicals: Recommending plant care products that are safe alternatives to more conventional chemicals.



Wildlife Gardens

One of the cornerstones for joining Sustainable Gardening Australia is that we must promote wildlife gardens, which fits our philosophy perfectly! Not only do we advocate the gardens, but we donate to keeping wildlife alive and well by sponsoring Kanyana Wildlife Centre. Right now we are contributing \$1 from the sale of each Grevillea 'Ellendale'. There is a bird label in each pot which goes into the Kanyana donation box as they are sold.



Grevillea Ellendale, a form of the local *G. thelemanniana*, grows 1m tall by 2m wide in five years and has soft green foliage and red pendulous flower bunches from now to late winter. Lots of bird tucker here! Pick up a couple and benefit yourselves and Kanyana. – Alec

For a wealth of information about attracting wildlife to your garden, visit www.floraforfauna.com.au



Gifts for you and your garden

Food for Thought

In the gift shop are delicious treats made here in Australia. They make fabulous gifts for friends and special treats to take home.

Look out for gourmet foods from Stefano de Pieri, Food Symphony, Peter Watson, Masons Barnyard and award winning bush tucker range from Australian Outback Treats.



Food Symphony
"Bushfire smoked chilli sauce with eucalyptus" \$11.95

A versatile sauce perfect for barbeque meats and charred vegetables. Mix it with sour cream or mashed avocado to make a tasty dip, or add to a vinaigrette to give a unique flavour.

Screaming seeds eco packs \$7.95

Add a little Australian themed zing to your cooking! Choose from Rainforest Blend, Desert Cajun, Outback Blend, and the new Moonlight Dreaming.

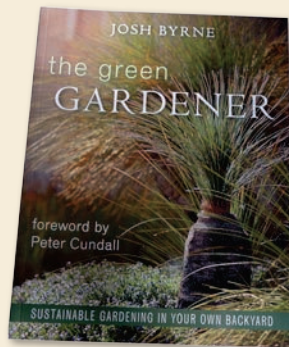
(Alec recommends Desert Cajun)



HOT OFF THE PRESS

Josh Byrne's new book **"The Green Gardener"** is a great resource for anyone interested in environmentally sustainable gardening. Josh takes the reader through such topics as: natural pest control; the benefits of growing natives; growing organic veges; conserving water; and my favourite section...keeping chooks! So go green with some help from this highly readable book. – Dan S

RRP \$29.95



Easter Treats

Looking for a low calorie Easter present?

Gondwana Quick Card Kit makes three beautiful handmade cards with envelopes. **\$6.95**



Other wonderful low calorie treats include Pocket puppets, Funny feet lambs, Yiyanga Kakadu plum and Macadamia nut hand cream and wonderfully fragrant candles.

Environmentally friendly products

Our SGA trained team can help you make good choices.

Kathy uses Sand Remedy to improve her sandy soil:

Sandplain gardeners are well aware of the challenge of creating a gorgeous waterwise garden in poor water repellent soils. There is now help at hand!

To improve the soil structure and reduce water repellance in sandy soils, mix Sand Remedy into the top 10cms of soil, water in well and recultivate. Sand Remedy is a mixture of naturally occurring clay and minerals, and works by binding with sand particles to create "crumb structure" to hold water air and nutrients. As it reduces run-off, it helps to keep our rivers healthy. – Kathy



Andrea recommends Neem oil

Neem is a natural insecticide extracted from the seeds of the neem tree which is closely related to the Cape Lilac.

It discourages a wide range of hungry beasties, from aphids to mealy bugs, by interrupting their growth cycle, as well as making our precious plants unpalatable.

With minimum harm to beneficial insects, this biodegradable alternative to chemical nasties is a good choice for the conscious gardener. – Andrea



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