

Welcome



Autumn is the best time to plant. The soil is still warm, there is a hint of the chill of winter and with luck we have our first rain showers. After a long hot summer, we welcome the chance to potter in the garden.

Food gardening is increasingly popular with a surge in the numbers of vege seedlings and herbs sold at Zanthorrea. It is possible to have a vege garden that is pretty too by adding flowering annual plants such as violas and pansies to your food garden.

We have had fun over summer changing the nursery around. All the baby plants are now together near the children's play area, with the exotic plants nearby. Alec with help from new team member Samara has constructed an Education centre near the frog pond, complete with working organic vege garden and our bantam chooks, feathered recyclers, Polly and Molly.



Come and explore! Hope to see you in the nursery very soon.

Best wishes,

– Jackie Alec and the team

What's The News?

Welcome to the beautiful Maali

Daughter of team member Bri and partner Alrick, born February 18th. (Maali is noongah for black swan.)

Sustainable vege gardening workshop

Saturday 5th April, 9.30 – 11.30am
Learn about the soil and composting, straw and no-dig gardens, gardening in containers. Winter herbs and veges for planting now, growing from seeds or seedlings.

Cost \$5. All proceeds to Kanyana.
Morning tea included.

Easter (21st to 24th March)

Easter comes early this year and it is a good time to make a start on your autumn planting.

Easter egg hunt for the children while you browse the selection of starter plants.

Congratulations to Zanthorrea!



Once again Zanthorrea was judged state winner of the Australian Garden Industry Awards. The National winner will be announced in Adelaide at the gala dinner on 28th March. We won National in 1995, 2002, 2003 and 2005. Can we win again, or are the Eastern state's garden centres just too good? Congratulations too, to Ross Hooper who was awarded WA winner AGIA Young Leader of the Year. Ross will compete with other finalists around Australia for the National title.

Congratulations Kathy

Ten years at Zanthorrea!



As of February this year, Kathy has been at Zanthorrea for 10 years! Kathy started work at Zanthorrea Nursery as a trainee horticulturist in 1998 and from the start was passionate about Australian plants and the environment.

Diving into books and asking questions at every opportunity, Kathy's knowledge has grown such that she is now a wonderful resource for new team members.

Kathy's own Australian plant garden was so stunning it was selected as part of the Australian Open Garden Scheme. This beautifully designed garden was developed with very little water and followed organic principles.

Kathy's plant knowledge and creative design skills have played a very important part in our successes during Kathy's time with us. Thanks Kathy!

Congratulations to our Christmas hamper winners, Heather & Frank Mussell of Kalamunda





Autumn Gardening

Autumn: Time to plant!

- **Everlastings:** The fabulous shows of pink and white everlastings in the bush, on city verges and at the King's Park Wildflower Festival send us rushing to the garden centre for seed. But by spring time, it's too late!!!



Start now in autumn and sow the seeds for your very own wildflower show next spring.

Here's an easy method:

Simply mix a small pack of seed with a bucket of compost or soil improver. (Or a large packet with a large bag in a wheel barrow!)

Remove any weeds and rake over the area with a hard rake to make furrows, and spread the mixture evenly across.

Water well, or better still, wait for the winter rains before sowing.

Watch out for snails and slugs and protect the area with Enviroguard or similar safe snail control.

- **Red & green kangaroo paws** are now available in tubes and small pots. Plant these in with your everlastings for a fabulous effect.

- **Correas - Autumn charmers**

Correas are all out winners to charm in autumn. Budding up during the last heat of summer, these native fuchsias burst into flowers of red, pink, lemon, orange, white and colours in between.

For a cool look especially in coastal gardens, choose *Correa alba*. This hardy 1m bush produces masses of white flowers in autumn and will grow just as happily in hills gardens.

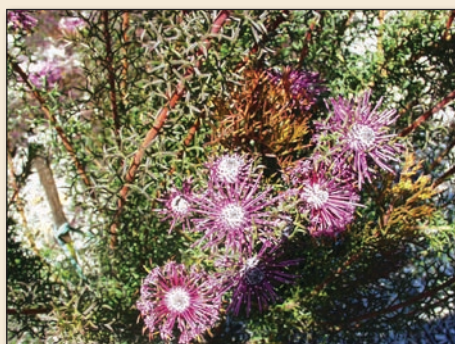


Correa alba

Correas are sensational in pots and hanging gardens. My favourites are 'Dusky Bells' 'Marion's Marvel' and 'Sky Bells'.
- Jackie

Plant of the month

Kanyana Wildlife Centre can always use a bit of help in its quest to improve the lot of our native animals. We select a group of plants to carry the blue wren token - \$1 from the sale of each goes to Kanyana. At the moment we have selected a beaut batch of rosy cone flower (*Isopogon formosus*) to carry the flag. This is an attractive WA bush that should find a spot in most gardens big and small.



Isopogon formosus

Size: Usually about 1m after 5 yrs
Flowers: 5cm rosy pink flower heads between June and December.

Soils: Wide range of sands and gravels. A spade full of soil improver well stirred in at planting gives a good start.

Fertiliser: As a member of the banksia family it needs very little, a teaspoon of slow release at planting.

Pruning: Makes a good bush by itself so only prune if it gets a bit big or in your way.

Price: \$9.95 in 140mm pots.

One sided bottlebrush

Many gardeners will know *Calothamnus quadrifidus* - a very hardy local and widespread tough WA species that really brings in the birds in late winter and spring with its bright red half brush flowers. Well, this year we have several more species that could find spots in your garden:

Silky leaved bloodflower (*Calothamnus sanguineus*) another local - but with grey foliage, lower growing at about 1m and earlier flowering, from autumn.

Grey calothamnus (*C. hirsutus*) again to 1m with lovely soft grey dense foliage and red flowers from spring into summer.

Granite calothamnus

(*C. graniticus*) with long bright green soft leaves and large winter flowers. Grows to 1.8m high.

- Alec



Calothamnus quadrifidus



Spuds, chooks and a greener earth

Vegetables and Herbs..

Alec's latest rave

I am diverging from my usual rave about Australian plants. With all that's going on in the world today, growing and eating some of your own food is gaining importance. You can have fresh, organically healthy, tasty produce with no "carbon miles" to bring it to you. It's fun...enthusiase your children and grandchildren.

We often hear that the soil is too rocky or that there is too much root competition. Raised bins are the answer and can be placed anywhere there is four or more hours of sun.



Place them preferably near the back door where you can harvest every day and check on the crop often. Confucious say: "The best fertiliser on any farm is the footsteps of the farmer". Near the home means you can use those litres of rinse water or buckets collected in the shower while you wait for the hot water. (PS Grey water is not recommended for use on food crops.)

Composting goes hand in hand, and hopefully alongside, as kitchen scraps, weeds, old foliage can get recycled into the type of fertiliser that makes healthier more disease resistant plants. Sure, an Aerobin costs \$379, but you are doing the world a favour by reducing landfill and it can be in a convenient spot as it doesn't smell or get dirty. (For units and small blocks, a smaller Aerobin is nearly with us!

Grow your own

It's easy to start. Half fill your raised bin with soil, dirt, gravel etc, then incorporate 2 or 3 bags of soil improver and 1 bag of multi mix manure into the top 10cms. (Manure is even better if composted first, but we can be in a hurry!) Alternatively use a scoop of vege mix (less than \$30) from Greenlife Soil Co in Midvale (92504575). Add a 10cm layer of straw on top. I buy my straw from Norrings in Hazelmere at around \$7 per bale. (92746422) Baby plants tucked in amongst the straw are well protected and nothing encourages the earthworms more than straw and hay.

What to Plant

Samara looks after our herb and vege demonstration garden at the nursery and has suggested the following seedlings for autumn planting:

- Cos lettuce
- Beetroot
- Rocket
- Parsley
- Broccoli
- Snow peas when the weather cools.



Samara tends to our vege garden

PS Andrea's broccoli tip...

As the head begin to form enclose them in the foot of an old stocking. This should keep out grey aphids and cabbage white caterpillars.

2008: Welcome to the "International Year of the potato"!

No, we do not jest, it is indeed the year to celebrate and appreciate the humble spud, our hidden treasure! And just in time, we now have seed potatoes back in stock. Last year saw a shortage for home gardeners so let's hope supplies are more reliable in 2008.

Currently, as I write, there are two varieties in stock. Ruby Lou, a red skinned potato, is ideal for potato salad (don't forget the chopped mint), mashed, chips and perfect roast potatoes. The other variety Delaware is another versatile spud. Use this pale skinned potato for firm roast potatoes and in the microwave, and anything else you can think of.

For some great potato recipes, go to www.feelgoodfood.com.au

2008: "International Year of Planet Earth"

On a more serious note, the United Nations general assembly has proclaimed 2008 "International Year of Planet Earth".

It is a year to consider how we as individuals can make a difference to the health of the planet. Among the many things we can do are:

- Composting our green waste in stead of adding to land fill.
- Choosing drought hardy plants to save water in the garden.
- Using plant care products labelled "Low environmental impact".
- Encouraging healthy soils by adding organic material.
- Using re-usable carrier bags or boxes when shopping.

Visit www.sgaonline.org.au to find out more about sustainable and earth friendly gardening.





Green Ideas Naturally

New products

The Aerobin makes it easy to clean up garden and kitchen waste and help the environment at the same time. This home organic waste containment and composter is on trial at Zanthorrea. (See it in action near Polly and Molly's cage.) \$379



Look out for the new compact Aerobin, coming soon.

Eco-neem

Commonly recommended to control insects, neem is also useful as a soil conditioner and to enhance fertiliser applications.



Eco-neem is designed to stick and spread on the leaf, and is 100% UV stabilised with a non-toxic residue. BFA registered, it promotes healthy and clean plant growth. \$19.95

Doggies Waterhole

.. from Didgidoonas

Didga know: It's a portable water bowl for your pet and it holds 2 litres of water. Rolled up & secured, it clips to your dog's collar when not in use.

RRP
24.95



Farewell 'Rivergums and Roses'

After many years trading, this Australia company has closed its doors. A great product that is ideal for gifts, the embroidered linen has been very popular.



Our gift buyer Lorretta has made a final large purchase so call in to see the range before it has all sold out.

Featured - embroidered guest hand towels, \$13.95.

Original Sloggers

The new premium sloggers have been so popular that we are left with a small quantity of the Original sloggers. Sloggers are perfect for leaving at the back door for slipping on when rushing to pick parsley or to hang the washing. They are so comfortable that gardeners have been seen wearing them while shopping. Rush in!

Original sloggers were \$44.95, now clearing at \$29.

Premium sloggers @ \$54.99.



Gift vouchers are a thoughtful gift. All vouchers are recorded so that lost vouchers may be re-issued.

Easter gift ideas

For the young and young at heart, give an Australian Fine China egg cup, mug or plate from the Buglets range. Featured Bee buglet eggcup \$9.95. Also in ladybird design.



Plants make fabulous gifts for Easter, and we will gift wrap them for free.



Lorretta with wrapped cyclamen

Essential oils

Essential oils are commonly used as an aid to enhancing health and wellbeing. Gumleaf Essential Aromatherapy oils claim to be the finest quality available and have been stringently tested and certified as 100% pure and natural.

BABY CALM is a blend of essential oils that have a gentle soothing and calming influence on the mind and body. Use 3 drops in a bath or vaporiser, or mix with a carrier for massage or to moisturise and nourish dry skin. \$13.75



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