

## Greetings

As I write, we have had 17 weeks at Zanthorrea without a drop in our rain gauge. Hopefully by the time our newsletter reaches you, the season will have broken with some refreshing rains. With our record hot and dry summers, autumn is indeed the best time to plant.

It's an exciting time in the veggie garden, and Samara and Alix have planting suggestions for autumn veges. Samara maintains the display organic veggie garden at Zanthorrea, and is a keen gardener. We now stock Heirloom varieties of veges grown by team member Alix. Call in and check out the exciting range.

On page 3, Daniel has recommendations for successful planting in our dry climate and features some of his favourite easy care plants.

Welcome to our two new team members. Toby, who impressed us while on school work experience, now works 4 days in the growing area with Alec, and helps Chris in the gardens.

Fletch has joined Zanthorrea after many years experience in his family's garden centre Garden Affair. Fletch has had a few years break and is now looking forward to returning to horticulture.

There are plenty of new plants and products to discover at Zanthorrea. We do hope you come visit us soon. Happy Gardening!

– Jackie Alec and the team

## Garden Week

Don't miss the excitement and spectacle of Perth's own Garden Week, held this year at Perry Lakes, from 8th April to 13th April.

At Garden Week, Jackie will talk on "Australian plants for dry gardens".

Sunday 11th April, 2pm

## What's news?

### Best Medium Garden Centre WA

Congratulations to the team at Zanthorrea for winning Best Medium Garden Centre "WA finalist". The National winner will be announced at NGIA conference in Darwin in late April. Wish us luck.



Jackie and Alec with judge Sabrina Hahn and team members Lorretta and Dan

### Winner!

Judy Close was delighted to win the Zanthorrea Christmas garden hamper pictured below.



Team member Janine with Judy

### Free the Bear Fund Inc.

Pictured below, Claire Hooper and Mary Hutton with Jackie launch Grevillea 'Woolly Bear Mian' last December. Proceeds from this Grevillea go to the Free the Bear Fund Inc.



## Garden Talks

### Create a Wildlife Habitat

Discover how easy it is to create the habitat to bring wildlife back to your garden.

Saturday 17th April 10am

Morning tea & question time.

Gold coin donation to Kanyana.

RSVP 94546260

### Pests and Predators

Would you like to learn about what ails your plants. Join Jackie for a talk on pests, predators and disease and what to do about it.

Saturday 15th May 10am.

Morning tea & question time.

Gold coin donation to Kanyana.

RSVP 94546260

### Easter opening hours

Zanthorrea is open every day over the Easter long weekend. Danielle has prepared an Easter egg hunt for the kids. Hope you have time to pop in and check out the wonderful plants and giftware at the nursery.

### STOP PRESS!

Look out for the erection of our latest sculpture in the display gardens. A 5m totem is being carved by local hills artists Gordon Mitchell and Pieter Baarspul.



Gordon and Pieter work on the sculpture

During the construction of our new building, we were required to remove a large tree. The sculpture is our way of honouring our tree.



## Gardening Down Under

### Rejuvenating the vege patch



As the weather begins to cool we harvest the last of our summer crops and begin to consider replanting the patch with cool season veges. It's time to rejuvenate the vege patch.

Once the patch is cleared re-invigorate the soil with some organic matter and a dressing of fertiliser. A layer of sheep and cow manure or some compost and a generous sprinkling of blood and bone will replenish the soil ready for hungry winter greens.

We are now stocking the long awaited 'Rock Dust', an all natural source of mineral trace elements.

Try some rock dust in the vege patch to re-mineralise the soil and experience some of its many benefits.

Check out our new range of organically grown vegetable seedlings from Heirloom Farm.

Heirlooms are tried and true non-hybrid backyard varieties such as:

- Broccoli 'Di Cicco'
- Kale 'Red Russian'
- Kale 'Nero di toscana'
- Celery 'Pink stalked'
- Lettuce 'Australian Yellow Leaf'
- Brussel sprout 'Ruby'

For advice on getting a vege patch started or what to plant now, come and have a chat with us.

—Alix and Samara

### Potato time

It's also time to plant spuds. It's so easy and great fun.



Just dig a trench, place your seed potatoes in the bottom, and cover with soil and straw. As the stems and leaves peep through, add another layer, continuing until the trench is filled. This is called 'hilling' the potatoes and ensures masses of the stem tubers we call potatoes.

— Jackie

### Gardening Survey

With April just around the corner, people's thoughts will turn once again to the garden. In fact, a recent survey commissioned by the Nursery Garden Industry of Australia (NGIA) indicated that a staggering 72% of Australians plan on purchasing plants for their garden this autumn. But the way we garden can have a significant impact on the environment, both locally, and beyond, and, with 40% of Australians associating their garden with doing their bit for the environment, the decisions we make in the backyard have never been more important.

"Gardeners play a serious role in the long-term health of the planet, and gardening sustainably is a great way to go about it"

### Great gardening tip

When hand watering during dry times, carry a squeeze bottle of diluted Eco-wet. If the water pools and won't soak in, hit it with a little soil wetter.

### Time to Plant Everlastings

Early spring each year there are carpets of pink and white everlastings throughout Kings Park and at Zanthorrea. By the time we are admiring them, it is a bit late to plant.



So once we have had a good soaking rain, it's time to prepare the soil and plant seed. Weeds can reduce their growth, so hoe them out. Mix your seed in a bucket or wheelbarrow with some soil improver or compost to hold moisture for germination and to provide some nutrient for the new seedlings. Water in well if possible, or sow seed on a rainy day!

### Kanyana's Plant of the Month

#### Peaches & Cream

(*Eremophila racemosa*) This 1m bright green bush gives yellow and white buds and flowers from winter to summer.

\$1 from each plant will go to Kanyana to help support the wonderful work done by the volunteers. For more information about Kanyana, go to:

[www.kanyanawildlife.org.au](http://www.kanyanawildlife.org.au)



*Eremophila racemosa*





## Autumn Planting

### Time to plant

After WA's hottest, driest summer since record keeping began, we are all looking forward to doing some serious planting. Don't be too despondent if your garden is looking tired and dry as autumn and winter rains will soon give it a boost-hopefully! Autumn is a great time to plant- the weather is cooler and plants establish much better than they would in summer. At the same time, the soil is still warm enough to encourage strong root growth. The nursery is always looking great in autumn too, with lots of new plants coming in so we look forward to seeing you soon.

As always, Grevilleas have a strong presence at Zanthorrea in the autumn. Excellent performers available include 'Superb', which flowers almost all year; 'Red Hooks', which is an excellent tall screening shrub with bold toothbrush type flowers and 'Frosty Pink', which is an Alec favourite that is low growing, hardy and floriferous. Old reliables *G. crithmifolia* and 'Winpara Gold' are in good numbers and are great for verge planting and screening/hedging respectively.



*Grevillea 'Frosty Pink'*

Eucalypts are another plant that is best planted in the cooler, wetter autumn and winter months. We are well stocked with usual favourites like *E. torquata* and *victrix*, and will also have some very cool species like *tetragona*, *kruseana*,

*pachyphylla* and 'Gungurru'. The summer flowering *E. erythrocorys* are still in stock too- they have flowered brilliantly in Perth this summer.



*Eucalyptus erythrocorys*

We have a fine batch of *Austromyrtus dulcis* (Midyim Berry) available at the moment. It is one of the best bush tucker plants around with small white berries that are sweet and yummy. It fruits prolifically in autumn and is a lovely low shrub that is hardy and will grow in full sun or part shade.



*Austromyrtus dulcis*

We also have an excellent batch of the very popular *Acacia howittii* 'Green Wave'. This low, spreading form can be seen growing beautifully in the raised garden near the new staff room. It is dense, hardy and ideal as a groundcover for slopes, rockeries and embankments.

This year we will have a very good range of Banksias available. They are among my favourite group of plants and late autumn/winter is the best time to plant them. As well as the usual favourites, we will have a



*Acacia howittii 'Green Wave'*

limited number of unusual species available too. The ever popular *Banksia 'Birthday Candles'* is also in stock and is a great addition to the garden.



*Banksia 'Birthday Candles'*

Other plants worth checking out in the nursery include *Eremophila 'Peaches & Cream'* and *Eremophila 'Minnie Pink'*, *Leptospermum sericeum* (Esperance Tea Tree), *Ricinocarpus tuberculatus* (Wedding Bush), several rare and unusual *Verticordias* and loads of *Callistemons* and *Melaleucas*.



*Verticordia nitens*

These planting ideas are just the tip of the iceberg at Zanthorrea so we hope you can come in and see the variety for yourself. Autumn is a great time to be a gardener!

- Dan





## From the production team

### News from the growing area

There are lots of good plants coming on this time of the year- the heat makes them grow fast and healthy as long as they are kept moist.

Its time to plant:

**Kangaroo Paws**, the West Aussie emblem red and green one is now ready for sale. Even the small starter plants will flower this year if planted now.



*Anigozanthos manglesii*

**Peaches and Cream (*Eremophila racemosa*)**, this 1m bright green bush gives yellow and white buds and flowers from winter to summer.



*Eremophila 'Peaches and Cream'*

**Lobelia elata**, for bright blue flowers in the lightly shaded garden 20cm x 50cm.

**Acacia Green Wave**, a ground covering form of the hardy Acacia howittii, check out the new garden near the trolley bay. Grows 40cm high by up to 2m wide with deep green foliage and yellow flowers in spring.

**Grevillea Red Hooks**, a long time favorite (often sold as *G. hookeriana*) that screens quickly to 2.5m with bright red toothbrush flowers to keep the birds happy winter to autumn. Lifespan under 15 years so just use as a quick windbreak.

**Orange Morrison**, brilliant orange flowers in autumn if you have an open, airy spot for *Verticordia nitens*, not too good in the humid garden- but who has a humid garden now?

**Eucalyptus caesia**, we have a nice batch of the small form. These can be multi planted even in small gardens- make a great grove at 1m to 2m centers. Weeping foliage and pink red flowers in winter.



*Chief potter Toby with the small form of Eucalyptus caesia*

Autumn is also a great time to tidy the garden and prune. Chris has been busy in our display gardens.



*Chris making a single tree out of an old Acacia fimbriata dwarf*

### Shade sails

Our seedlings and herbs are even happier and healthier under the new shade sails.



*Diana and Alix under the new seedling shade sails*

### Danielle's Grandma's Autumn soup

- 1 large onion chopped
- 3 cloves garlic crushed
- 500g pumpkin
- 4 large capsicums
- 500g tomatoes
- thyme, fresh herbs
- Tamari or soy sauce
- Pepper to taste.

Chop pumpkin into small pieces, seed capsicums and cut down to small pieces. Put onion garlic, pumpkin and capsicum in a pot, cover with water and bring to the boil.

Turn down heat and add chopped tomatoes, thyme and other fresh herbs of choice. Simmer for 20 minutes. Season to taste.

Add tamari or soy sauce for extra flavour.



# Zanthorrea nursery

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## The Gift Shop

### Mother's Day –11th May

Look no further for ideas for a special gift for the mum, nan and grandma in your life.

### Gardener's Gloves Hand Cream

from Thurlby Herb Farm, Walpole

A soothing and protective cream made from organic plant oils.

100% natural and certified organic. A wonderful gift or a treat for you after some serious autumn gardening. \$29.95



### Core Preserves

from High Vale biodynamic farm in Pickering Brook.



These wonderful biodynamic preserves are delicious and are prepared with love right here in the hills. Try Cabernet Merlot Jelly with your favourite cheese, Spiced fruit chutney with some free range chicken breast or a little Blood Plum on your morning toast. Yum!

A great gift. \$11.45.

### Shades of Green



We are now stocking this range of plant nutrient that is specifically formulated to address nutrient deficiencies in Perth soils. It is river safe, organic and waterwise.

Grow Potion is a liquid foliar plant food providing extra nutrients through the plant's leaves. \$18.95

### Blue Wren Candle Holder,

From the art of Jeremy Boot.

Delicate looking bone china candle holder finely decorated in Australia with a blue wren motif. Boxed, complete with complementary gift card and tea candles to float. A fabulous gift. \$19.95



### Flavours of Australia

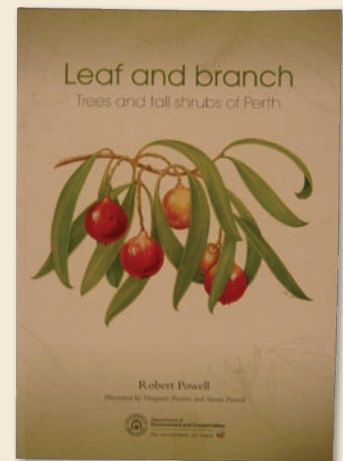
from Screaming Seeds

Completely natural with wonderful Australian herbs and spices! These spices are proudly hand made in Australia and come with tasty recipes to try. Look for: Outback Blend, Desert Cajun Rub, Rainforest Season and Moonlight Dreaming.



Eco-packs \$7.95

### Book Review



### "Leaf & Branch"

Trees and tall shrubs of Perth.

By Robert Powell. \$29.95

Perth's trees and tall shrubs give us a sense of place and support an abundance of life. This new edition has been updated and revised, with more beautiful line drawings.

"...a fascinating and very readable book which is a must for anyone who wants to know more of his natural surrounds. This book is destined to become a classic." – John Colwill

### Blue Wren range

from Banks & Noble

This range is proudly made in Australia and guarantees to be free from animal testing. A very popular product and a fine gift.

Perfumed sachet \$4.45, Triple milled hand soap \$4.95, Hand & Nail cream \$7.45, Hand & Body Lotion \$9.95



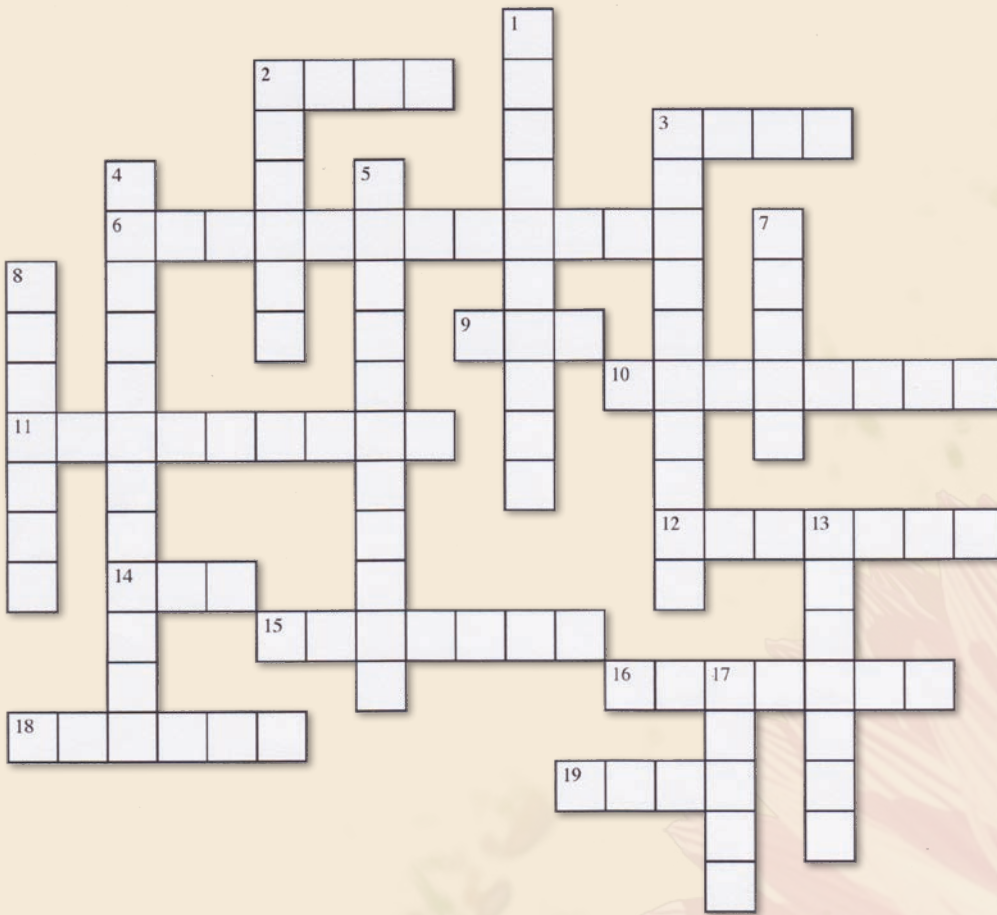
### Ee-i-ee-i-o



Farmyard animals styled from recycled materials. From \$174



## Wordgarden



### Across

- 2) I hold up the plant
- 3) Tree with a swollen trunk
- 6) Papery annual flowers
- 9) Put the shovel to work
- 10) Small red bush tucker fruit
- 11) Perth's major nature garden (5,4)
- 12) A desert-loving plant
- 14) Koala home
- 15) Common name for leptospermum
- 16) Turn garden waste into ...
- 18) Yellow in the bush
- 19) Lumpy growth caused by insects

### Down

- 1) Food for plants
- 2) ... desert pea
- 3) Edible Aussies (4,6)
- 4) Apply this if your soil is hydrophobic
- 5) State floral emblem
- 7) Haircut for plants
- 8) Which bank?
- 13) Fragrant West Australian
- 17) To reduce evaporation

Bush Telegraph, Autumn 2010

### Easter Voucher



Happy Easter!

Free starter plant (tube)

Valid Easter weekend

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Bush Telegraph, Autumn 2010

### Crossword Voucher



Complete the crossword to receive a **free small pack of Natseeds everlasting**s

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### May Voucher



Free bag of soil improver with your purchase over \$40 (value \$8.95)

Valid May 2010

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