



## WELCOME!



Welcome to Zanthorrea's new-look newsletter, printed on 100% recycled paper. In this edition, we bring news about exciting new plants and products, and some old favorites. There are water saving tips for your garden and the latest news from Kanyana.

Moving with the times, we are now publishing lots of information online, in full colour of course. The Zanthorrea website is updated regularly and now hosts a wide variety of useful information about growing Australian native plants in the Perth region. Visit us online at:

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



We now have a great selection of new gifts and pots in stock, ready for Christmas giving – lots of locally crafted products and many Australian made gift ideas. Enjoy!

*-Jackie and Alec*

## WHAT'S ON AT ZANTHORREA?

### Garden Visit

*Saturday, October 13, 9.30am*

Establishing a spectacular native garden can be a challenging task.

Two gardens near the nursery are looking wonderful and you are invited to join us for a visit. Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Bockholt and David Wrigley who have agreed to show us their inspiring gardens.



We will meet at Zanthorrea at 9.30am in the gazebo, and travel by private cars, meeting back at Zanthorrea at 11.30am for a cuppa. There will be a small charge of a gold coin to visitors, and all proceeds will be donated to Kanyana.

*RSVP: 9454 6260 (Limit 20)*

### Tips on perfect potting

*Saturday, November 17, 10am*

Join Jackie for a demonstration on potting perfect pots and baskets: herbs, flowers and Australian plants. Potted gardens make beautiful gifts for friends and family.

*RSVP: 9454 6260*

### Christmas Celebration

*Sunday, December 16, 2-4:30pm*

Join Alec and Jackie in the gazebo for a Christmas Celebration, with all the usual fun: the bush band, balmy weather, cool refreshments and a welcome rest from hectic Christmas shopping. Put this date in your diary now!

### Bird-cam

Have you visited Zanthorrea recently? An infra red camera has been installed in a nesting box high up in a tree near the seedling benches by Joe Tonga. The television images of the inside of the box may be seen inside the shop near the book corner. We have had the privilege over the last few weeks of watching a pair of ringneck parrots establish their territory and make the nesting box their home. Four eggs were laid and now at time of writing two have hatched. Mother bird is feeding the babies and their cheeps may be heard in the shop.

So rush in and catch the action before the birds fly the coop!



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





## WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE AND NOT A DROP TO DRINK!

There is widespread alarm about water restrictions this summer, but the reality is most gardens can survive on twice weekly watering if they are well mulched. It may be that we all need to make permanent changes to the way we garden. (We'll save money too!)

### It's easy:

1. Always add organic material such as Groganic and a teaspoon of slow release fertiliser when planting to keep plants healthy.
2. Apply wetting agent to the garden beds and lawn area in spring to ensure water penetrates to the root zone.
3. Add a teaspoon of water storing crystals such as Rainsaver in hanging baskets and pots, and even when planting in summer.
4. Apply water appropriately during the cool of the day.
5. Apply mulch to reduce water loss by evaporation and insulate the soil against the heat. (See John Colwill's advice re: mulch.)

For more information on water restrictions and water saving ideas, visit the Zanthorrea website at

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



### Mulching

Mulching is a great way to save lots of water - and it's good for your garden in many other ways too.

### An organic mulch will...

- reduce evaporation loss from the surface
- improve the soil organic matter content as it breaks down
- break down further over time and feed the plants
- encourage earthworms and soil microbial activity
- restrict weed growth and make weeds which do germinate easier to remove
- prevent wind and water erosion
- protect plant roots from daily temperature fluctuations and
- improve the look of the garden.

### Mulching material

Raw materials like woodchips, chipped tree waste or similar, whether bought-in or home-made, are ideal mulching materials. Where a mulch is watered regularly it may be necessary to add some extra nitrogen in the form of animal manures, blood and bone etc, to prevent the natural breaking down process from drawing nitrogen away from the plants. Generally though, watering mulched, unplanted areas is not a good practice.

Gravel or stone are also good mulch materials providing most of the advantages and lasting much longer.

Materials such as lucerne hay, pea straw, seaweed, animal manures and compost are best used as a feeding layer underneath and within the drip zone of high performance plants such as fruit trees, or in the vegie patch.

Such 'soft' materials do not save water when used as a mulch. Lawn clippings do not make a good mulch, they are best composted.

Old newspapers can be used under a mulch as a weed control layer. However, thick overlapping layers of newspapers can prevent water penetration.



### Applying mulches

For general garden use mulches should be spread at 50-75 mm thick. Always leave a breathing space of 50 mm around stems and trunks of plants.

In garden areas mulches should be topped up as necessary; perhaps twice a year in autumn and spring.

Mulches should never be raked up, turned over, dug in or disturbed in any way. To do so will damage the fine feeder roots which plants develop in the zone between the mulch and the soil.

*-John Colwill*



## SPRING CAPERS

### What to do in the garden?

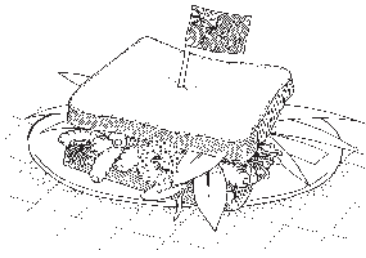
- Time to plant all those yummy veges - tomatoes, capsicums, eggplant, corn, rockmelon, beans, silverbeet. There are lots of healthy ones to choose from. Straw is a great addition to the garden.
- Herbs are easy to grow – parsley, basil, marjoram are perfect for tasty summer meals.
- Plant hardier flowers this year. Vincas, petunias, marigold and nicotiana add lots of colour in pots.
- Tip pruning will reduce water stress and keep plants looking good.
- Use slow release fertiliser, even on lawns - this ensures plants receive adequate nutrients.
- Reduce lawn areas where possible and replace with hardy native ground covers.
- Mulch, mulch, mulch!

### Bush Tucker:

Early settlers in their attempt to recreate the English landscape were not only blind to the beauty of our native flora, but failed to consider its nutritional value as well.

It has taken almost two hundred years for attitudes to change, and there is now much interest in the unique flavours and potential medicinal value of indigenous plants.

### Three easy-to-grow bush tucker plants:



#### Midyum

(*Austromyrtus dulcis*)

This small spreading shrub is found naturally in coastal NSW and southern Queensland. Pretty white flowers are followed by mauve and white speckled berries which have a sweet aniseedy flavour. Children love them, and so do we!

#### Lemon scented myrtle

(*Backhousia citriodora*)

A small rainforest tree which grows easily in Perth gardens or in pots. It yields delightful fresh lemon scented leaves which may be used in Asian cooking or to make a pleasant tasting tea which is reputed to have a calming effect.

#### Riberry, or small leaf

#### lilly-pilly

(*Syzygium luemannii*)

The attractive reddish fruit of the riberry is a popular ingredient of many wildfood dishes, and is harvested commercially. You can grow riberry in a pot.

### Five top colourful hardy plants, from Zanthorrea

#### White:

*Ricinocarpus tuberculatus*, a deep green WA plant that grows to 3m+ - nice and bushy with white star flowers in late spring, from \$6.95.

#### Red:

*Grevillea pinaster*, one of the best bird food sources, grows to 2m+ and flowers most of the year, from \$6.95.

*Callistemon phoeniceous*, a WA bottlebrush which even grows locally, with big red vivid brushflowers in spring. 140mm pots @ \$7.95.

#### Yellow:

*Grevillea olivaceae*, this tough West Australian comes in yellow, orange or red. With spring flowers on a bushy 3m shrub.

#### Purple:

*Eremophila maculata*, another plant with varying flower colours, we have a great batch of purple ones now at \$7.95. Grows to 1m x 2m in any sunny spot.

**TIP:** To add spot colour to your waterwise garden, plant brachyscome, correa, scaevola, helichrysum and kangaroo paws. (For more details, ask for your free Plant List from the nursery)

### Is your mailing address correct?

If your mailing address has changed, or you know someone who would like to subscribe to the Bush Telegraph, simply complete this form and return it to Zanthorrea.

Please add me to the mailing list  My address has changed:

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....



## NEWS FROM KANYANA

### Bobtail Flu

With the lovely, warm spring days, everyone is moving around in the garden. Bobtails (shingleback lizards) are becoming active after the cold winter and you can see them soaking up the sun or moving in the leaf litter where they can find their food.



“Yorn”, Zanthorrea’s wooden sculpture, is a good example of a healthy, wild bobtail, which should gape and hiss when you approach and its tail should be thick and plump.

These shinglebacks are large skinks and store excess food as fat in their tail. Sadly, a lot of lizards have been struck down by a very nasty upper respiratory tract infection - the bobtail flu. This makes them so lethargic and sick that they can’t eat.

Clear fluid bubbles from their eyes and nose, they snuffle and sneeze and their tail becomes thin and flat as they use up their fat reserves. Also they show little or no response when approached, making them vulnerable to dog attacks. Without treatment they may die.

At Kanyana, the volunteers will place the sick lizard in a hot box (25 deg C) in the intensive care area of the hospital. It will have a daily nebuliser, antibiotic injections for 6–8 weeks and will be tube fed with a reptile supplement mixture until it starts to feed by itself.

When the flu symptoms abate and the body weight is back to normal, the lizard will be released back into its original territory to live out its long life – around 40 years with some reports of up to 70 years. Bobtails mate for life .

If you find a bobtail in this condition - wrap it carefully in a towel, place it in a shoebox and either bring it in to Kanyana or call the WILDLIFE HELPLINE on 94749055 to locate a wildlife carer in your area.

This disease is contagious to other bobtails and has spread in the last 4 -5 years resulting in quite a drop in numbers in the Perth metro and hills areas. The head veterinarian at Perth Zoo and CALM wildlife scientists, are currently investigating this disease which they suspect is caused by a virus.

So keep an eye on your backyard bobtails and please take care when cutting grass and digging in overgrown areas - their favourite hiding places.

-Ruth,

Kanyana Wildlife Centre

### Kanyana Plant of the Month



As our ongoing sponsorship of Kanyana, Zanthorrea will donate \$1 from the sale of each *Grevillea* ‘Bronze Rambler’. ‘Bronze Rambler’ was selected because it is drought hardy, very useful in the garden and bird attracting.

This lovely grevillea will grow easily in both Perth sands and the heavy soil of the hills. Planted with a spadeful of Groganic and a teaspoon of Osmocote, it will survive with weekly waterings over summer.

Useful for covering big areas, each plant grows about 30cms high by 3m wide. Planted at 2m centres they make a good weed smotherer.

Attractive in a couple of ways: Firstly the finely divided leaves are a bronze/red colour when the new growth comes out. The flowers are reddish mauve toothbrushes and occur from August to March.

Ready for sale are lots of 125mm pots @ \$6.95 each and some larger ones. Plant a couple and help the native birds and animals at Kanyana and in your garden.

-Alec

Zanthorrea Nursery is a member of the Plants Plus group.

Zanthorrea nursery

155 Watsonia Road, Maida Vale  
Western Australia, 6057  
Phone: (08) 9454 6291  
Fax: (08) 9454 6260  
enquiries@zanthorrea.com.au