



Welcome

Hello

It's good to be back in the west enjoying spring and the best wildflowers in Australia. Our trip around Australia gave us a much needed break before returning to the busy spring season.

Daughter Claire insisted she write about our trip as she didn't trust me to keep it brief. Some younger gardeners may remember Claire from the Bilby Club.

Growing food with the children is good for the family in many ways. They may even eat their veges raw straight from the garden! Don't miss our Yummy Yards workshops for the kids in the school holidays.

This Bush Telegraph has news from the team about new plants and products in stock, plus some tips on improving your soil to make gardening in our harsh climate easier. Hope you enjoy it!

Best wishes,

– Jackie Alec and the team

Kathy says farewell

Some of you may be aware that Kathy has been planning a move to the country for some time. Alas, that time has finally come.



Kathy leaves Zanthorrea this spring for a six month trial in the country to see if she and Matt cope with the heat and the flies.

Watch out for news from Kathy next Bush Telegraph.

What's the news?



Mum & dad's holiday news

Mum assured me that she was capable of writing about her own holiday, however, she seemed relieved when I insisted I write it for her. You should be relieved too; you may have things to get done today.

So here's the short story:

Jackie and Alec went around Australia in their brand new, whiz-bang, 'it's even got a toilet' caravan, going up the West Coast first, across the top, and then cheating quite badly by cutting through the middle. (I don't blame them; Sydney and Melbourne are no place for a caravan. They are simply not practiced enough at the hook turns and rude hand gestures required for big city driving.)

I flew up and met them in Queensland and only just recognised the mostly stress-free Mum and clothing-free Dad, who cycled around the caravan park in bare feet and shorts.

They saw some wonderful sights; mountains and lakes and rare flowers and sent a few pictures by email to their children, showing great restraint, but the whole collection of photos, is available for viewing, along with the long version of the story, for those who dare..

– Claire Hooper

Walks and Talks

Wildflower wander

Spring has sprung in the hills and the local flora is blooming spectacular.

Join Jackie for a wildflower walk

*Saturday 27 September, 9.30am
followed by tea and biscuits.*

Gold coin donation for Kanyana Wildlife Centre. RSVP 94546260

Yummy Yards Workshop

What's good for you and fun too? Growing veges is growing in popularity as families seek to reduce their food bill and eat healthy pesticide free foods.



Come and join us for a Yummy Yards workshop. Kids, remember to bring your parents. \$5 per child.

Wed 1st October 9.30am

Monday 6th October 1.30pm

Bookings essential. Call 94546260



Kings Park Wildflower Festival

On all through September!

Join Jackie in the speaker's tent Sunday 28 September as she talks about "Bring in the Birds". 3.15pm.

For more details:

<http://www.bgpa.wa.gov.au>



Healthy soil, healthy plants



We ask Kathy about Sand Remedy

What is Sand Remedy?

Sand Remedy contains bentonite clay, zeolite and gypsum, all naturally occurring minerals.

What does Sand Remedy do?

The clay particles in sand remedy absorb water and hold nutrients. They help sandy soils by forming a crumb structure that in turn aids water penetration. This reduces runoff and in turn slows leaching into the ground water.

How does it help the soil?

The soil becomes easier to work and more fertile. An added bonus is sand remedy helps reduce water repellency in our sandy soils.

Do you recommend sand remedy for all soils?

Sand remedy is recommended for coastal and grey sandy soils and is useful for improving the water holding and penetration of landscape mixes, especially in vege gardens.

We have well drained gravelly clay soils - do we need to use sand remedy?

No. It is of little benefit to clay soils. To improve these, just add plenty of organic material and perhaps some beneficial micro-organisms. (Sold as Vermi-humus.)

How much do we need to use?

A generous handful per square metre must be dug in to a depth of at least 10cms, before planting. It must be mixed in thoroughly. Some soils may require a more heavy application.

How often is sand remedy applied?

Sand remedy is a permanent and natural part of the soil structure and does not usually require subsequent treatments.

My soil is very water repellent - is Sand Remedy enough to fix the problem?

Sand Remedy assists with water repellency problems. A product such as Eco-wet may be required to deal with the problem more quickly.

Kathy's tip: Before potting, Kathy mixes in a handful of sand remedy to each bag of potting mix.



Healthy Banksia coccinea

Tree trials

Some trees around the metropolitan area have been slowly dying due to stress from falling ground water levels, root disturbance and disease such as dieback.

Studies conducted at Murdoch University have shown that tree health can be restored by supplementing nutrients in the form of a pellet injected into the trunk.

Ross and Alec are trialling Medicap tree plugs on this unthrifty Persoonia. For more information, call in and have a chat to them.



Yummy Yards:

With the high cost of fresh food and the desire for pesticide free produce, edible gardening has become very popular. Engaging the children in growing food is rewarding as they learn about planting, caring for the plants and preparing healthy foods to eat.

Sustainable Gardening Australia (SGA) has a wonderful website where you can find ideas for growing food that is healthy and pesticide free.

www.sgaonline.org.au

Recipe for a Yummy Yard

Mediterranean potted garden.

Select a super large pot or wine barrel and fill it with delicious healthy potting mix.

Place a bay tree in the centre. Use the leaves of this to flavour soups and casseroles.

Surround the tree with one each of the following mediterranean herbs - marjoram, thyme and rosemary. They will require pruning so make sure you cut them regularly for use in your Mediterranean style cooking.

Just inside the rim go the annual herbs such as basil and Italian parsley, essential for tomato salads.

Bon Apettite!!!



Fabulous Flora

Isolepis nodosa

One of the most reliable and rewarding plants we sell is *Isolepis nodosa*- the Knobby Club Rush. It can be used in many different situations, from a nutrient filter in a frog pond or wetland, to an exposed, hot and dry verge on the coastal plain. *Isolepis nodosa* combines a structural form with a natural, informal look, making it suitable in so many gardens. It provides a wildlife refuge especially for frogs and bobtail lizards and also attracts butterflies and other native insects. For low maintenance gardens it looks great planted with fellow toughies *Eremophila* 'Kalbarri Carpet' and *Grevillea* 'Gilt Dragon' or 'Green Gem', providing a complimentary clumping habit to their prostrate tendencies. But wherever you choose to grow it, Knobby Club Rush will look great and won't let you down.

- Daniel



Spring Arrivals:

Spring arrivals at Zanthorrea include the rare and endangered black kangaroo paw, three species of stunning everlastings, the delicate but hardy pygmy thomasia and many other gems. New release wax flowers and blue lechenaultia, heart leaf flame pea and many varieties of grevillea are just some of the fabulous Australian plants to tempt you.

What's new at Zanthorrea

Great grafted grevilleas!



Grafted grevilleas in standard form are back at Zanthorrea and we have many different types, but be quick because stocks are very limited! A few of my favourites are *Grevillea nana nana*, *Grevillea bipinnatifida* and the very rare *Grevillea dryandroides*.

Roo paw gems

Now is also a great time to get those Roo Paws in for a splash of colour in summer. A couple of new ones are *Anigozanthos* 'Bush Diamond' for a prolific flowering dwarf white and 'Rampaging Roy Slaven' which is a tough, long lived tall red flowering paw with part of every sale going to Autism Spectrum charity.

Old Favourites

Anigozanthos 'Big Red' make an impressive show of tall red flowers that will flower through summer. They look best in clumps of 3-5 or mixed in with *Anigozanthos* 'Yellow Gem' for a mass of colour.

Rose cone - *Isopogon formosus*. With bright pink flowers, this low growing bush is a real gem.

Banksia baxteri - Great for long lasting cut flowers fresh or dried. This *Banksia* has one of my favourite leaf shapes and makes a terrific medium shrub for well drained soils.

- Ross

Perfumed plants

Look out for these wonderful fragrant Australian beauties:

Native mint bushes. Crush the leaf of *Prostanthera* species and smell the wonderful minty aroma.

Prostanthera ovalifolia is a soft foliaged medium shrub with masses of purple flowers and aromatic foliage, also available in attractive variegated foliage. Hardy in tree shade but preferring some summer water in sunny spots.

Prostanthera seiberi 'Minty' is a small shrub with interesting curly fragrant foliage and mauve flowers in spring.

Philotheca myoporoides is a hardy small shrub with masses of white flowers in spring. Perfect for shade but suits sunny spots with extra summer water.

Philotheca 'Cascade of Stars' grows to 30cms or so and has pink tinged white flowers. Great in pots.



Boronia: With its powerful fragrance, boronia is truly the perfume of the Australian bush. *Boronia megastigma* or brown boronia has the most intense perfume, but is tricky to grow. It requires a sheltered position with moist humus rich soil. Grow this fussy plant in a pot or enjoy it as a living bunch of flowers.

- Jackie



What's new?

New from Mt Romance

Nut 'n Chips \$4.95

Mt Romance, near Albany, is said to be the world's largest producer of sandalwood oil.



Nut 'n Chips comes in an organza bag containing sandalwood chips and seed, releasing the beautiful aromatic scent of sandalwood. Place among household linen to help repel moths and silverfish.

Simply Lavender



Lavender sachets, three in a gift box with satin ribbon tie, perfect for cupboards and drawers \$17.45

Aromatherapy for the body

Facial moisturiser with natural ingredients of apricot kernel, macadamia and almond oils.

Classic sleep pillows in pretty floral designs. Handmade on the farm in Bullsbrook, WA. \$19.95

Thurlby Herb Farm

Closet Queen, and **Bra & Undies** are two unique products from Thurlby Herb Farm in Walpole. Using natural ingredients and featuring a new design, these popular aromatic sachets are perfect for protecting and freshening clothing. \$7.95 each



New to Zanthorrea

Bold & bright Aussie animals, designed by Barbara Sansoni, creator of the Barefoot Textile company.

The hand woven, hand made, hand dyed, pure cotton toys support young Sri Lankan women.

Designs include geckoes, echidnas, kangaroos and other wonderfully colourful creatures,

Prices from \$18.95 to \$43.95



Solar Lanterns

These granite lanterns are a wonderful feature in any garden.



How do they work? During the day, the solar panel converts sunlight into electricity, which charges the battery within the ornament. As night falls the light turns on automatically using stored electricity.

From \$70, instructions included.

Yummy Yards

New products for the edible garden include:

Tomato cage, an easy to erect support for your heavily bearing tomato bush.

Tomato Growbag makes it easy to grow herbs and small veges, even in small spaces.



Growhouse provides shelter from the cold winds so that summer crops are ready sooner. A mini glasshouse for around \$40!

Fabulous Felcos

We are now stockists for Felco secateurs. Felcos make great lasting gifts for keen gardeners.



Zanthorrea nursery

155 Watsonia Road, Maida Vale
Western Australia, 6057

Phone: (08) 9454 6260

Fax: (08) 9454 4540

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