



Greetings



Welcome to this, our 60th edition of the Bush Telegraph.

Although gardening may take a back seat during the hectic pre-Christmas rush, we hope you will spare some time to visit us at Zanthorrea. The nursery is looking fantastic thanks to our talented team, and the shop is full of surprises with its range of local and Australian gifts.

With the heat of summer already upon us, now is the time to reflect on a few waterwise principles. Page three has a few tips for successful summer gardening.

Fortunately our Australian plants are tough enough to survive heatwave conditions. We have enclosed a list of summer flowering beauties for the summer garden.

If you are reluctant to plant in summer, give your autumn planting a head start by potting up starter plants into larger pots. Find out how easy it is on the next page.

May your Christmas be merry and filled with love, laughter and friends.

See you very soon.

– Jackie, Alec and the team

PS: Visit our website for inspirational garden ideas and information.

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

What's on at Zanthorrea?

Christmas Celebration!

Sunday 21st December, 3pm to 5pm

Come and listen to the festive music of the Numguts bush band, and share a Christmas drink with the team at Zanthorrea!



Bird Cam 2003

The ring neck parrots had a large clutch of six eggs this spring. The babies hatched on September 10th, and left the nest a few weeks ago.



To our surprise, there are now four more eggs in the box, which should hatch in late November. Call in and see the action live on the Birdcam monitor in the nursery shop.



Formal Display Gardens

Night tour of Kanyana

Wednesday, 21st January 2004

6:45–8:15pm

This is a great opportunity to visit Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in the evening to see the nocturnal creatures, and learn more about the work of Kanyana. Numbers are limited, so phone now to book on 94546260.

\$5 per person – all proceeds to Kanyana.



Blue wrens

At the time of writing, the blue wrens who have made their home in our gardens are starting a family! We are watching closely for the appearance of the babies.

Display Gardens

The display gardens, maintained by Mark Barrett, are looking fantastic this year. Pictured left is the formal garden section, one year after planting.



Fabulous Flora

What's Flowering Now?

Although most Australian natives are at their best in winter and spring, there are still many beauties which blossom in summer, and don't the birds love 'em! Look for...

• Little John bottlebrush (red)



• Rock daisies (mauve pink white)



• Fanflowers (blue white purple)



- Lemon scented darwinia (orange)
- Emus bushes in many colours (red purple cream orange yellow)
- Snake bush (white and mauve)
- Buttercups (yellow)
- Native hibiscus (purple)

• Summer flowered kangaroo paws (yellow red gold pink green)

• Tropical grevilleas (red orange pink yellow cream)

and many more...

Pick up a free Zanthorrea Plant List to find the flowering times of hundreds of plants, or grab a copy straight from our website at:

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

What's New

• There are many varieties of kangaroo paws in stock now including the 1m yellow 'Cross of Gold' and the 1m deep red 'Bush Ruby'.

• Among our selection of local plants, we're happy to see a few of the local *Chorizema dicksonii*. This showy red pea plant flowers in late spring throughout the Darling Range. A small number of fuchsia grevilleas (*Grevillea bipinnatifida*) are also available. This prickly local with large red flowers is difficult to propagate and it is some years since we had this one in stock.

• An old and reliable favourite is *Grevillea 'Alyn Glory'*. This bird attracting shrub is not flowering now but is looking vigorous in pots, ready to plant out.

• The large flowered grevilleas flower prolifically over summer. Look for old favourites 'Sandra Gordon', 'Sylvia', 'Misty Pink', 'Honey Gem', and a few new releases including *Grevillea 'Tango'* – a low spreading beauty with tangerine coloured flowers.



Grevillea
'Misty Pink'

Kanyana Plant of the Month

The current Kanyana plant is our latest variety of Kangaroo Paw *Anigozanthos 'Cross of Gold'*.



'Cross of Gold' is summer flowering with yellow flowers on reddish stems to about 1m. Plants purchased now will continue to produce new flowers right through December and January if you keep them happy.

Use half a shovel full of soil improver at planting, plus 10 grams of slow release fertiliser. Water in well, water daily for a couple of weeks if it's hot, and then go on to twice weekly waterings. This will keep your new plants looking good. As with other paws, annual feeding in autumn will be a benefit.

Healthy 14cm pot plants are \$9.45 of which \$1 goes to Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre.

Like to know more about Kanyana? Join us for a special night time visit. More information on page one.

Long flowering

Talking of kangaroo paws, with all the new hybrids we can have flowering paws for most of the year. At the moment we have in bloom the big 'Yellow Gem' and 'Gold Fever' ('Big Red' should be available by Christmas), the medium 'Bush Ruby' and 'Bush Gold', and the small 'Bush Pearl' and 'Bush Devil'. There are many to choose from, starting at \$7.95. – Alec



Summer Gardening

Waterwise Wisdom

It is often said that Perth has two seasons – winter and summer – and it seems that we have jumped into summer within a few short weeks. Our climate can be tough on plants, and that is why local and other WA native plants are so perfect for planting in gardens.

Here are a few tips to prepare for hot weather ahead:

1. Check all sprinkler outlets for blockages and ensure coverage is adequate but not watering paths and paved areas.
2. Mulch garden beds and gardens with a coarse mulch which will allow water applied to percolate through to the plant's roots.
3. Apply wetting agent to areas which appear water repellent. Grosorb is recommended as being environmentally friendly.
4. Repot potplants from old 'spent' potting mix to fresh premium potting mix. This contains water saving granules and wetting agents along with slow release fertiliser to keep plant strong and well watered over summer.
5. Tip prune lush spring growth to avoid the foliage wilting.



6. Fertilise with slow release food in areas of the garden which are watered in summer. Occasional applications of Seasol (seaweed extract) is a great tonic to stressed plants.

Starter Plants

Pot up starter plants for autumn planting now. Just follow these six easy steps:

1. Choose a quality potting mix. Premium is designed for optimum plant growth.
2. Ensure pots are clean. If re-using pots, sterilise with boiling water and disinfectant, or a dilute chlorine solution to kill fungal spores and insect eggs.
3. Select healthy starter plants, and pot up carefully. Water well.
4. Apply a weak solution of Seasol to help minimise transplant shock.
5. Place on raised beds out of reach of snails and other pests.
6. Water daily over summer, to encourage healthy vigorous growth.

Are bobtail skinks disappearing?



Over recent years, the number of bobtails seen about, or even road killed bodies, is much lower than locals can remember.

Kanyana wildlife experts are working with biologists from Curtin University to help save our local bobtail skinks. Funds have been sourced for a research project to investigate diseases such as 'bobtail flu' and the impact on the bobtail population.

To help the wildlife experts with their research, pick up an information sheet from Zanthorrea and fill in the mini survey about bobtail sightings in your area.

Watch out for holes in your pots!

When choosing from the great assortment of gorgeous pots available, check that the pot has drainage holes. If purchasing a pot without a hole it is possible to use a masonry drill to make a drainage hole.



Cache pots

Cache, a french word, refers to something which is hidden from view, or put away. Use pots without a drainage hole to hold a treasured plant still in its plastic pot. Stones in the base of the pot will prevent waterlogging, and stones or bark chips on the surface of the potting mix will hide the fact that the plant is simply resting here a while.



Xanthorrhoea johnsonii in Cache Pot



These people are horticulturists so we can't show you their faces...

...but we can show you what they're buying for Christmas!



Australian Fine China
Cup \$15.95 Coaster \$8.95



Gift boxed
flowers from
\$8.95



Landscape
Calendars
\$16.95



A sweet, Secret
Santa sized gift!

Quandong
Jam - \$8.95



Screaming Seeds Pack \$28.95



Wash your mouth out!
Soap Kebabs \$9.95



Squeeze his
tummy to hear
him sing!

The one on the
right, that is.
Birds of Australia \$12.45



Handmade
koala &
gumnut hats
\$21.95



Lavender, Spice
and Rose Soothing
Bath Balm \$12.45



Zanthorrea Nursery
is proud to be AGCAS
accredited.

Zanthorrea nursery

155 Watsonia Road, Maida Vale
Western Australia, 6057

Phone: (08) 9454 6260

Fax: (08) 9454 4540

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