



## Welcome



With perfect gardening weather, it has been our busiest spring ever. The Open Gardens in August were very well attended despite inclement weather. We had a great time and good attendance, raising funds for Kanyana Wildlife Centre and the Kalamunda and Districts Volunteer Bushfire Brigade.

Summer is enjoyable for the relaxed outdoor meals shared with family and friends. It's a time for prettying up the patio and other outdoor areas with pots of colour. We have ideas on page 2 for Australian plants in pots.

The warm weather brings with it the worry of bushfires. There is help for householders wishing to reduce the dangers on the FESA website. We feature some ideas on page 2.

Alec is a huge 'roo paw fan, and it's easy to see why. Find out why and how to grow these gems on page 3.

As Christmas draws near, please join us to celebrate at our annual Sundowner. See you there.

Best wishes,

*– Jackie Alec and the team*

### Welcome to new team members

We extend a warm welcome to new team members: Tim, who will maintain the gardens and assist Ross in production; Samara and Muriel helping out as part time garden centre assistants.

## Christmas Sundowner

Thursday 6th December from 5.30pm until sunset



Christmas comes but once a year. It is a wonderful time to share with friends and family. We hope you can make time to join Alec, Jackie, Ross and the team for this after hours event.

Enjoy a sausage sizzle, food and wine tasting, music and the chance

to browse in the cool late evening.

Hope to see you there.

Please RSVP to 94546260 if possible to ensure an ample supply of sausages and refreshments.



*We wish you a Happy Christmas and a safe enjoyable holiday season.*



*Anigozanthos "en masse" – see page 3*

### Kanyana Relocation

After many years based in Gooseberry Hill at the home of June and Lloyd Butcher, Kanyana Wildlife Centre is to be relocated to a beautiful setting at Paxwold. The hard working team of volunteers have exciting plans for this site and there will be room for an expanded education centre as well as an animal hospital and an endangered animal breeding programme.

We wish the Kanyana team a smooth relocation to Paxwold.

### Kanyana Plant

We continue to support Kanyana with our "Plant of the Month".

This month's POM is the beautiful, bird attracting *Anigozanthos 'Big Red'*. This hardy, easy to grow 'roo paw flowers all summer with blooms reaching as high as 2 metres. Plant on mass for a dramatic effect.



*Anigozanthos 'Big Red'*

One dollar from each sale of the Plant of the Month goes to Kanyana to assist with expenses.





## Summer Gardening

### Fire Retardant Plants

The hot and windy conditions of summer add to the risk of bushfires. Home owners can do much to reduce the fire danger. Maintaining wide fire breaks, removing overhanging branches, growing suitable plants near the house and installing roof sprinklers are just some of the strategies. FESA has an excellent website with information and brochures on 'Be Prepared' in case of bushfire:

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

In the garden centre, we are asked for plants that will retard the progression of a bushfire.

Many plants that are considered fire retardant are also potential environmental weeds, so choosing plants to help protect the home can involve some compromise.

Lawns are an excellent choice where there is enough water, as are leafy plants such as lillypilly and large wattles. Box trees, native frangipani, silky oak and other more lush plants can help block embers. Ground cover such as Myoporum and Eremophila can help slow the fire's progress.



*Hymenosporum flavum*

We have collated a list that you can download at our website:

[http://www.zanthorrea.com/info/Fire\\_Retardant.pdf](http://www.zanthorrea.com/info/Fire_Retardant.pdf)

Or send a SAE to Jackie to receive an info sheet.

May all our homes be safe from

### Aussie Plants on the Patio

It's easy to pretty up the patio this summer using beautiful Australian plants. In place of petunias and miniature roses, consider using rock daisies or kangaroo paws. Not only are Australian plants hardy with few if any pests and diseases, they are unique and add an Aussie look to your outdoor entertaining area.



*Potted garden, Australian style*

It's easy!

Just select a hanging basket, pot or other container. Ensure it has good drainage. Fill your container with a premium potting mix.

Add a selection of your favourite small native plants to suit the pot size, water in well, stand back and admire. Aus plants in pots still require summer water, but less than you would give petunias and roses. (I do mine every 2nd or 3rd day in summer, and rarely in winter.)



*Kathy's potted lechenaultias*

Seasol and liquid native plant food are perfect for occasional pampering, and a tip prune now and then will keep your Aussie pot plant looking fabulous.

### Choose from these stunners

#### Pink:

- *Scaevola 'Pink Perfection'*
- *Brachyscome 'Candy Pink'*
- *Anigozanthos 'Bush Pearl'*
- *Grevillea 'Pink Midget'*
- *Crowea 'Festival'*

#### Mauve / blue:

- *Brachyscome 'Mauve Delight'*
- *Scaevola 'Purple Fanfare'*



*Scaevola 'Purple Fanfare'*

- *Scaevola 'Mauve Clusters'*
- *Lechenaultia biloba*
- *Dampiera diversifolia 'Blue Eyes'*

#### Red / orange:

- *Lechenaultia formosa Red*
- *Lechenaultia 'El Dorado'*
- *Anigozanthos 'Big Red'*
- *Anigozanthos 'Bush Dance'*
- *Callistemon 'Little John'*

#### Yellow / gold:

- *Hibbertia obtusifolia*
- *Helichrysum 'Yellow Buttons'*
- *Helichrysum 'Silver and Gold'*
- *Conostylis candicans*
- *Banksia 'Birthday Candles'*

#### White:

- *Brachyscome White*
- *Baekkea virgata 'Miniature'*
- *Philothea 'Cascade of Stars'*
- *Anigozanthos 'Bush Diamond'* when available.

More information on these plants is available on the Zanthorrea website ([www.zanthorrea.com](http://www.zanthorrea.com)), or pick up a free Plant List at the nursery.

– Jackie





## Paws for News

### Paws for News

Pictures in garden magazines have caused a lot of interest in Anigozanthos 'Bush Diamond' from the Bush Gem range.

This year's allocation of Anigozanthos 'Bush Diamond' from the grower to us was only 20 plants - all pre-booked. Our own tube allocation won't arrived in WA until late autumn for spring sales. 'Bush Diamond' is not a bright flower, just different being almost white on the head with a slight pinkish tinge. We hope it follows the beautiful 'Bush Pearl' in being fairly hardy.



Anigozanthos 'Bush Pearl'

### Short lived!

We must mention that many of the small hybrids are hard to keep alive for long. They should probably be used for spot colour for a couple of months effect. This seems to include the Joey Paw range, although our Diana has them looking good well into their second year!

We are now placing short lived paws behind a "Tricky Paws" label to help avoid disappointment. The best cultivation technique is to have improved soil, plenty of air flow, at least four hours sun, a tsp of slow release fertiliser and a good soaking twice a week.

### Long Lived Paws

These are the ones to use for long term satisfaction! Anigozanthos 'Big Red', 'Yellow Gem', 'Cross of Gold', 'Bush Gold' are reliable in most gardens.



Anigozanthos 'Bush Gold'

We have a few 'Stripe'. a variegated pinkish orange flowered one, growing to 2m tall, that is extremely tough. Unfortunately 'Stripe' is not under tissue culture, so is grown by division, making plants fairly big, straggly and expensive at \$18.95. 'Stripe' is guaranteed to make a beautiful foliated clump by autumn.

These long lived paws will perform best given the same good treatment as the tricky paws, but will survive neglect better.

### Unknown but Look Promising!

Our first batch of Anigozanthos 'Bush Dance' is now selling. They have proved reliable for us and we cross our fingers and hope they will be for you. Bright red and green flowers to 30cms, flowering now and supposed to flower off and on



all year. Try some in a pot!



Anigozanthos manglesii

### NEW! Pink Dryandra (Dryandra carlinoides)

I was so pleased to have some of these available. This bushy 1m shrub has a pink tinged flower head in spring. A couple of our stock plants look like having a late flower so you may be able to see what they look like without looking up the books. \$10.95 each.

### STOP PRESS! Grevillea standards



Grevillea bipinnatifida standard

A few are becoming available by mid December, grown locally by accredited wholesale grower Domus Nursery. Varieties include Grevillea bipinnatifida and G. Royal Mantle' and will sell at \$175.



Grevillea 'Royal Mantle' standard

- Alec





## Green Ideas Naturally

### Wollemi Pines More Affordable!

We hoped it would happen, and at last Wollemis have become more affordable. Wollemi Australia have agreed to share freight costs with WA nurseries, a substantial saving, and in addition have offered a price reduction across the range.

Prices are now:

- 100mm pots \$34.50
- 150mm pots \$57.50
- 200mm pots \$89.50

Wollemis still come gift wrapped with a care booklet and certificate of authenticity.



### How to look after your wollemi

We are finding in Perth that the wollemis, naturally occurring in a sheltered valley of the Blue Mountains, require more watering than is stated on the care booklet. The wollemi planted in the nursery gardens in August 2006 is doing well on once or twice a week water. This tree was planted by Josh Byrne using sand remedy, plenty of organic soil improver and is well mulched, with some natural tree shade.

Wollemis in pots require almost daily water in very hot weather. They are fairly hardy plants but repond to drought with scorched leaf edges, not life threatening but not pretty. Use a quality potting mix and a large pot.



### Organic Seedlings

The Greenhouse is a new Perth company specialising in growing seedlings with no artificial fertilisers or pesticides. Seedlings are more expensive as they require more intensive care than factory grown seedlings, but you can feel confident that they are fully organic. **\$4.45**

### Plant 'Water Well'

This new innovative product converts pots and baskets into a self watering container. Water Well is made from recycled material and holds 1 litre of water in a unique reservoir. It fits hanging baskets and pots larger than 300mm. **\$4.45**



### Eco Wet

This product not only breaks water repellence instantly but holds water and fertiliser like a sponge. This allows Eco Wet to re-wet repeatedly even from dry conditions.

### Water is the Key!

Water is the answer to every gardening question in summer. If planting during the hotter months, ensuring sufficient water will help plants survive.

To conserve water in the summer garden:

- Always plant with 2 litres of soil improver stirred into the planting hole.
- Water well at planting. I like to have the hose gently running into the hole as I plant.
- Use 5 to 10cm of coarse wood chip mulch around the plant, avoiding the area immediately around the stem or trunk.
- If the water is not soaking in, your soil may be non wettable, a common problem in Perth sands. Use a wetting agent such as Grosorb or Eco Wet to ensure water applied is reaching the plant's roots.
- Check your reticulation regularly. Plant death may be the first sign that something is wrong with the retic. Find some "catch cups", available from the Water Corporation, to check coverage.
- If hand watering, check with your finger how deeply the water is penetrating. You may need to water longer to reach the roots.



Zanthorrea Nursery is a certified Sustainable Gardening Australia Garden Centre  
<http://www.sgaonline.org.au>



# Zanthorrea nursery

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