



## Welcome



### Hello again

It's been a busy spring and the weather has been kind to us. The garden centre is looking fantastic thanks to our enthusiastic team, so we hope you can make time to call in and say hi.

The Yummy Yards kids workshops held in the October school holidays filled quickly. We were sorry that some children missed out, so by popular demand, we will hold them again in January. It's so good to see the enthusiasm of children for growing food in the backyard.

This issue, we profile Sustainable Gardening Australia. SGA is a not for profit organisation promoting environmentally sound gardening practices.

Our annual sundowner is on very soon, so put the date in your diary. It's our chance to spoil you and say thanks for your support.

From all of us at Zanthorrea, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year.

*Best wishes from*

*Jackie, Alec and the team*

### Farewell to Shelley.

Shelley is moving to Canberra in December, so we say farewell. In the few years since Shelley joined us she has become a popular and valued team member. We'll miss you, Shell!

## What's news?

### Christmas Sundowner

*Wednesday 3rd December  
5.30pm to 7.30pm*

Join us for an evening sundowner to celebrate the Christmas season.

- Take time out from the hustle and bustle to enjoy a peaceful evening at Zanthorrea.
- Stay a while for a sausage sizzle, Christmas cake and other festive refreshments.
- Sample treats from Freddie and Jamie of Big Island fame. Delicious local food products for sale.
- Enjoy our 'Bush Christmas' displays and range of gorgeous local gifts, and fabulous native plants.

Let's Celebrate. Please RSVP to Zanthorrea on 94546260.

### Waterwise ways

Congratulations to our team for being awarded Watwise Garden Centre of the year at the recent Water Awards. Each member of our team is trained in waterwise garden practices and can help you help the environment by using less water this summer.



Professional waterwise advice.

### SGA Training

Congratulations too, go to our newest team members, Danielle, Andrea D, and Laura, who have recently completed SGA training and passed their assessment with flying colours.



## Walks & Talks

### Yummy Yards

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.

### Vege Gardening Made Easy

Join Jackie for a talk on growing veges in the backyard. Learn about the soil, site, seeds and seedlings, and the easy veges to grow in your backyard.

*Saturday 10th January, 9.30am  
RSVP 94546260*

### Yummy Yards for the Children

Let's inspire the children to grow food. Join us for a Yummy Yards workshop, and help the kids plant up a potted garden to take home. Kids, remember to bring your parents. Call now to book your place. \$5 per child.

Bookings essential. RSVP 94546260

*Wednesday 14th January, 9.30am  
Saturday 17th January, 9.30am*



### Zanthorrea Opening Hours

Yes, we are open all over the Christmas period, but will spend Christmas day with friends and family.

*Closed Christmas day*



## Garden News and Views

### Historical Ramble

Planting in the display gardens began in 1975, and although most of the small shrubs have been changed there are still many of the originals that my mother Jean, Jackie and I planted.

Most noticeable is the 35m high rose gum (*Eucalyptus grandis*) that gives a cooling shade over most of the nursery on a summer afternoon. It now has a girth of 3.5m and still has a lot to grow. The roots lift bits of our paving and so make work for us but it is well worth it having such a magnificent tree.



Not far away is the old chenille honey myrtle (*Melaleuca huegelii*), now grown into a 6m tree but pretty well on its last legs. In the wild, most *M. huegelii* will be less than 3m high, but given good conditions and lots of time, many plants will outgrow the sizes stated on our bed markers. (Bed marker sizes are for 5 to 10 years of average growth for shrubs, and 10 to 20 years for trees.)

The *Melaleuca 'Golden Gem'* in front of the gazebo is from 1975, but it is only 1.8m because of pruning over the years. Most melaleucas and callistemons can be pruned

very harshly - down to old wood, but don't expect the buds below the bark to shoot off for a couple of months if you haven't left any foliage on!

Our Christmas tree (*Nuytsia floribunda*) that is flowering now near the bird feeder is from 1989 and didn't have its first flowers until 2002. It has only grown to 3m over that time and has trouble growing bigger as parrots nip bits off in frustration while waiting for their turn at the feed table. There is another *Nuytsia* near the playground, of the same vintage that only started flowering in 2007. It is one that had a big setback when we removed a *Spyridium globulosum* from near it that the *Nuytsia* was partly living on.

There is a 20m gum tree near the playground with large light green crinkly leaves. This is the Queensland Cadega (*Eucalyptus torelliana*) that we probably shouldn't encourage too much as it can be weedy in wet areas of the eastern states. Of interest here is that it still has its crinkly foliage after 20+ years, even though it has had many flowerings. The black bird box in it has some 'twenty eight' parrots nesting this year.

Come and have a look at some history when you have time.

- Alec

### 'Tis the season to mulch

'Tis the season to ensure your garden is well mulched before the real summer heat hits. We recommend using coarse, chunky bark or tree prunings type mulch. We sell pine bark in easy to handle 30 litre bags but if you need lots, you may need to visit a soil yard. Look for coarse pine bark, shredded tree prunings or 'tree chip' and avoid black 'jungle' type mulches

that fade, blow away and pack down to form a waterproof layer - not what you want! A good mulch should contain rough particles of varying sizes and should be applied approximately 5cm thick. This will serve to keep the soil cool, reduce evaporation and suppress weeds, not to mention look great. Find inside this edition your voucher for a free bag of waterwise mulch when you spend \$40 at the nursery.

- Dan

### Waterwise wisdom

Our Perth climate is tough on gardens, and water is in short supply. Here are a few tips to prepare for the warm weather ahead:

1. Mulch mulch and mulch!
2. Remedy water repellent soils by applying environmentally friendly products such as Grosorb and Eco-wet. In sandy soil, Sand Remedy can make a huge difference to water penetration and retention. (See last Bush Tele article.)
3. Check all sprinkler outlets for blockages and ensure coverage does not overwater paths and other paved areas.
4. Tip prune lush spring growth to avoid wilting when it is hot and dry.
5. Apply a weak solution of Seasol as a tonic to irrigated garden areas. Australian native plants do not usually require fertiliser in summer.
6. When planting in summer, always always always improve the soil in the planting hole with around 2 litres of organic material. (We prefer Baileys Soil Improver as it is said to be fully composted.) And water daily for the first few weeks.

Check out the Water Corporation website for more information including an excellent waterwise plant database:

[www.watercorporation.com.au](http://www.watercorporation.com.au)



## Fabulous Flora

### Eremophilas: Funny name, serious plant!

Heading into summer, it is a good idea to plant species that can tolerate high temperatures and little rainfall. Eremophilas fit the bill, especially when you consider that their Latin name translates to 'desert loving'. They are among the toughest, most drought tolerant of all Australian plants.

We have a good range at the moment, headlined by the beautiful *Eremophila nivea*, which has soft silver foliage that contrasts with its delicate mauve flowers. It enjoys a full sun position and will grow in most soils provided they are well drained.



*Eremophila nivea*

Other hardy species in stock include 'Summertime Blue', a hybrid of *E. polyclada* and *E. divaricata* that has bright mauve/blue flowers in spring and summer. It is our Kanyana donation plant at the moment. *Eremophila 'Lime Gold'* is one of my favourites- a compact shrub to about 80cm, it has light grey foliage and lime coloured flowers that attract honeyeaters and other native birds.

If you need a hardy groundcover, *Eremophila 'Roseworthy'* could be your plant. It is a real ground hugger with bright green foliage and lots of orange spring/summer flowers. For a taller plant as a feature, consider *Eremophila bignoniflora* x

*polyclada*. It grows to about 4m with elegant fine foliage and huge cream coloured flowers. There are several other species for you to check out too. Eremophilas are diverse in their growth habit and flower colour, but all share excellent drought tolerance once established and are lovely additions to any garden.

- Dan

### Grafted Plants



We have plenty of 'Summer Red' grafted Eucalypts at the moment, which are ideal as a small specimen tree to 4-5m. Grafted plants are produced to flower boldly and be excellent growers in a range of soils.

Keep an eye out for some exciting grafted Eucalypts and Grevileas coming to the nursery soon.

- Dan

### What's flowering now?

Summer beauties include:

- Dwarf bottlebrush (*Callistemon 'Little John'*)



*Callistemon 'Little John'*

- Purple fanflower (*Scaevola 'Purple Fanfare'*)



*Scaevola 'Purple Fanfare'*

- Rock daisies (*Brachyscome spp*)
- Kangaroo paw hybrids (*Anigozanthos 'Bush Pearl'* and 'Bush Diamond' and others.)
- Straw flowers (*Bracteantha hybrids*)
- Native hibiscus (*Alyogyne hueglijii*)
- Silver emu bush (*Eremophila nivea*)
- *Baeckea 'Miniature'*

### Plant of the Month



*Eremophila 'Summertime Blue'* is a hybrid of *E. polyclada* and *E. divaricata* and has bright mauve-blue flowers in spring and summer.

A small shrub, 'Summertime Blue' grows happily in sunny gardens with very little water.

\$1 from the sale of this hardy habitat plant goes to Kanyana Wildlife Centre to help care for native wildlife.



## What's new?

### Grow Your Economy

*With prodigal daughter, Claire.*

An idea for entrepreneur gardeners looking to supplement their finances.

A new record has been set in Japan for paying irresponsible sums for everyday foods, with a black watermelon selling for \$6500. Reporters say it was most likely bought as a gift. It is worth mentioning that the outside is only a slightly blackish dark-green, and the flesh is normal coloured, a bit disappointing, so I hope they wrote something very nice on the card.

What would you do if given a melon that cost more than your car (speaking for myself here) and more than you'd spend to save the life of your pet (myself again)? Find an overpriced onion and make a watermelon salad? Gold-leaf it and put it in the wall safe? Dress it like your mother and sit down to an awkward candlelit dinner with it?

No! You'd sell it back to the person crazy enough to buy it for you in the first place, of course. And you'd ask them if they could use a few more at the same price. You'll need about two months, a packet of watermelon seeds and a pot of black paint.



There are still a few weeks left to get your watermelons planted. We dare you to paint them black and give them to friends and family this summer. Assure them earnestly they're worth a fortune in Japan.

### Sustainable Gardening Australia



What is SGA? Sustainable Gardening Australia is a not-for-profit organisation based in Victoria that was established in June 2003. The aim of SGA is to encourage and empower every Australian gardener to develop and adopt environmentally sustainable gardening practices that are appropriate to their local environment.

In short:

- Healthy gardens
- Healthy people
- Healthy environment

We can make a difference!

At Zanthorrea our team are united in caring for our local environment and thanks to the extensive SGA training program, we are well equipped to help Perth gardeners to make a difference.

To find out more, go to:

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



### Disruption and Chaos

We are hoping the building of our new staff room / office / store will have commenced by Christmas. Some may have noticed the large area behind the trolley bay cleared of plants and shade house.



Last year we built the atrium for customer comfort, now it is the turn of the team to get better facilities. It will enable an increase in carparking, convenience, a bigger garden and better frontage.



It has taken longer than expected with all the regulations and reports needed with today's administration (whinge, whinge!).

As all work will be done out the back, it shouldn't interfere too much with the garden centre. We will put up the plans in the information bay for those who are interested.

- Alec

### A Frog for a Box

Help the frogs and the world in general by bringing a box to carry your seedlings and plants home.

A free Freddo Frog when you bring a box for your purchase.



# Zanthorrea nursery

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