



Welcome



You can tell it's summer when the sun and the birds are up long before we are! Walking around the garden in the morning is very pleasant and a good chance to do some gentle gardening.

And you can tell it's Christmas when you walk into the Zanthorrea gift shop. Lisa has made and dressed a kangaroo who we like to call Santa Paws. Danielle and Lisa have decorated the whole shop in red and silver to highlight the beautiful giftware and cards.

The Bush Telegraph has plenty of ideas for cool summer gardening, from pool side plantings to strawberries and summer roo paws.

Wishing you and your families a safe and happy festive season!

Alec, Jackie, Ross and the team



WA Christmas Trees

(Nuytsia floribunda)

Lots of folks want to grow this local beauty with its wonderful gold flowers dazzling at Christmas time. But this tree is sometimes better enjoyed in the bush, as it can be a slow and difficult tree to get going!



Grown from fresh seed or cuttings, this semi-parasitic plant has a strange growth habit. Over a period of 8 years or so, several suckers grow up then die down, repeating this until one day, a trunk grows, and at last it starts to look like a tree! From cuttings, you may get flowers after 8 to 10 years, from seed it can take up to 10, maybe 15 years. This year around Christmas we will have a limited supply of seedling Nuytsias. *-Jackie*

Stop Press: We now have a new coffee machine! What makes the coffee taste even better is that it is made from fair trade and rainforest friendly coffee beans!

\$3 for a cappuccino

Closed Christmas Day

Summer Talks

Kaarakin Cockatoo talk

The guys at Kaarakin cockatoo rehabilitation centre are doing an amazing job! We are extremely fortunate to have one of their volunteers coming out to give a talk on the black cockatoos. If you want to learn more about these beautiful iconic birds, be sure to put this date in your calendar.



10am, Saturday 19th January.

RSVP essential on 9454 6260

Gold coin donation to Kaarakin.

Zanthorrea Calendar 2013

We have another fantastic Calendar, available from the 8th of December. Bring in your voucher for your free copy.

Congratulations!



Tanya of Embleton, winner of the Yates Vintage Bicycle!

Merry Christmas!

from all of us at Zanthorrea





Green Life News

Plant news from Diana:

* We have a limited number of the beautiful Eucalyptus macrocarpa. (Rose of the west)

* Arriving soon are a small number of grafted Eucalyptus ficifolia in red or orange. They have been grafted locally onto Eucalyptus maculata which has proved less prone to suckering.

* Due in any day now, latest release Alyogyne 'Blue Heeler'. This cultivar only grows 30cms high by around a metre wide. Growing in sun or light shade, 'Blue Heeler' is drought and frost hardy once established.



* New to Perth is Scaevola 'Suntastic', a yellow form of the popular fan flower. The two tone flowers are borne prolifically on trailing stems, ideal for hanging baskets. Hurry, numbers are limited.

Strawberries in Hanging Baskets

Planting strawberries in the vege patch can be challenging. Not only do we share them with the bobtails, but biting into them may result in consuming a slater, slug or Portuguese millipede. I don't want to put you off growing these succulent treats, so I suggest you plant them in a hanging basket.

Simply part fill an attractive hanging basket with a top potting mix, and place 3 strawberry plants neatly spaced around the edge. Top up the potting mix to 2cms of the top. Water in well with 2tbs Seasol in a 9l watering can. If you have any lupin mulch or straw, add it to

the top surface.

In fact, that sounds like a wonderful Christmas gift idea.



Exciting time in the vege garden.

There is so much choice in summer vegetables, and providing you can water daily, they will provide the family with plenty of produce. Remember to "crop rotate". This sounds trickier than it is. Basically, we need to change the crop in a bed each year, to avoid a build up of pests specific to that crop. Also each crop will deplete the soil of certain nutrients so crop rotation



ensures that the soil can catch up.

Try this simple crop rotation:

1. Legumes – Beans in summer or broad beans/peas in winter
2. Leafy crops that will enjoy the nitrogen that legumes fix into the soil - lettuce, rocket, spinach.
3. Tomato family – tomatoes, capsicum, eggplant, chilli in summer, potatoes in winter.
4. Then back to legumes again

PS Other veges to plant now include cucumbers, zucchini and squash if you have plenty of room, and corn if you've plenty of water.

A Splash of Salt

Pool Side Plantings

Around a pool it is important to plant trees and shrubs that don't push retaining walls with invasive roots or fill the pool with leaf drop. Also avoid the plants that attract bees through out summer. The plants themselves have to be hardy in a sunny warm position as well as being able to cope with a bit of salt water splashing on them.

For more information on pool side plantings call into the nursery or check our the info sheet online.

Grasses and strappy leafed plants



- Dianella 'Forte'
- Lomandra 'Wingara'
- Conostylis candicans
- Kangaroo Paws

Groundcovers

- Rhagodia spinescens
- Hemiantra pungens
- Eremophila 'Kalbarri Carpet'

Small shrubs

- Westringia 'Jervis Gem'
- Maireana oppositifolia
- Ozothamnus 'Radiance'

Large shrubs and small trees

- Hakea laurina
- Hakea petiolaris
- Grevillea olivacea

- Ross



The Summer Garden

Unwetterable Soils

Talk to any of our staff about problem soils and they are likely to advise you to use a wetting agent. Our soils are renowned for becoming hydrophobic (non-wetterable). When this happens the water pools on the surface and runs away or channels past the root zone without “wetting” the soil.



Typical unwetterable soil

To amend this we use a wetting agent in either a liquid (Eco-Wet) or granular (Grosorb) form to break down the waxy coating, allowing the water to penetrate the soil. To hold this water around the root zone we recommend the addition of organic matter such as compost (Soil Improver) mixed into the soil at planting time.



In sandy soils it is also beneficial to add products such as Sand Remedy. This contains crushed minerals including clay and microbes which bond with the sand particles to instantly improve the structure of the soil. This enables it to retain moisture and nutrients for plant growth and survival.

- Muriel and Samara

Summer Roo Paws

You can have a good show of Kangaroo Paw flowers well past Christmas!



A few tips for long flowering Paws:

Selection is important- there is very little chance of getting a Red & Green (*A. manglesii*), Black & Green (*Macropidia*) or Catspaw (*A. humilus*) to flower on now- so just let them rest for summer. The three main big hybrids Yellow Gem, Big Red and Orange Cross are great. Any of the dwarfs- if purchased in early flower- will continue for months, with treatment, before needing a bit or a rest. Try Bonanza, Fling, Volcano, Ballad and Pearl.



Fertilise to enhance flowering. With new plantings, add a heaped teaspoon of Macracote. Gaby did this with the Yellow Gems in the photo and look what happened!



Gaby also dug in a few litres of soil improver for each plant. Existing clumps can have a teaspoon of Macracote pushed 50mm into the soil on either side. For maximum effect give a Seasol or Powerfeed boost every couple of weeks during flowering.

Watering will be needed to keep them flowering, so to save water concentrate on an important area-around the pool or patio. Fresh plantings will need twice a week soaks to keep some soil moisture in the 20cm soil profile. Established plants may work on as little as once a fortnight if your soil has good water holding ability and tree competition is low.

Prune off spent flowers. Mostly to stop the scruffy look, but even a dying flower is taking some energy, and it is good to keep maximum air circulation.

Concentrate on a few this summer and see how long you can keep the colour!
-Alec



Life in the Garden on Facebook

While gardening you will find many weird and wonderful creatures, some of them are pests and some are good guys with a benefit to your garden! Scan this QR code with your smart phone to see a growing photo album of garden creatures on the Zanthorrea facebook page.





Christmas is almost here!



*Deck the halls with birds and owls.....
falalalalaaa lalalalaaa*

Christmas Ornaments

We have a great range of new and old Christmas ornaments to decorate the home and tree! There's a huge selection of the ever popular birds and owls! Why not use them to decorate the table at Christmas lunch, or even as small gifts and stocking fillers. Don't stop there, because we have bright and cheerful placemats, coasters and table runners to match the occasion!



Organic Oil Beauty Products

Beautifully packaged Australian made, owned and designed body products in Organic Macadamia (a new favourite of mine) and Wild Eucalyptus containing certified organic oils. Available in french milled soap, hand and nail cream, body wash, body butter and more. Come try them out! Prices start at \$12.95.



Emma Blyth

Cheerful, bright artwork capturing the Aussie character of our native animals. Prints, coasters, stubbie holders, calendars and magnets all made right here in WA. Perfect Aussie gifts for friends and family overseas. Pick your own set of coasters from many designs or a birthday calendar that you can keep each year! Coasters \$7 each, Calendars \$14.95.



We also have a large assortment of Australian themed Christmas cards!



The popular Ee-i-ee-i-O range of metal ornaments are both quirky and fun. Each with its own character and made out of recycled 44 Gallon drums!

Customworks

Christmas shopping is easy with these cute Australian made notepads, magnetic shoppers and mini magnet sets. They make great stocking fillers for under \$15!



Christmas Gift Wrapping Ideas

Try something different this year with your Christmas wrapping.



Decorate your gifts with a Christmas tree ornament such as a felt snowflake or a sequin animal instead of a Christmas tag. Your friends can keep it for next year's decorations and it will be a little reminder of you. We also have plenty of Australian made wrapping paper in unique designs such as Kunzea and Red Flowering Gum prints! Prices from \$4.45. Be even more adventurous and wrap your gifts with a tea towel at \$16.95.

Happy Christmas Shopping!

- Danielle



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Zanthorrea Nursery