

Welcome

What's on at Zanthorrea?



Greetings!

The environment has been shown to be a number one concern of Perth residents: the health of our rivers; the vexing problem of plastic bags; the conservation of rare species of wildflowers.

At Zanthorrea, we care for our environment, and endeavour to encourage responsible garden practices. Growing Australian native plants is a great start as we are helping to preserve our floral heritage. An added bonus is that there is no need to use phosphorous laden fertilisers. Flora which is native to our region will encourage birds and other animals to our garden.

This issue of Bush Telegraph features Sue's magnificent garden created from a patch of poor sand - to the delight of the local birds! Enjoy finding out more about banksias and how to grow them in your garden for the birds. Claire is mad about plants in pots - her article and talk will inspire you to use our unique flora on your patio.

See you in the nursery very soon.

- Alec, Jackie and the team

Congratulations to our Sloggers competition winners!

Nature's Work by Sally Smeeton

*I'm sitting in my bedroom
My ankle's in a cast
The plaster keeps me rigid
What more can a girl ask?
A girl can ask for sunny days
To watch her garden grow
Glimpses through her window
Of what she's come to know
For though I can't walk round it
I realise in time
My garden isn't out there
My garden's in my mind
I walk there along pathways
I consider all the plants
The robust and the delicate
The beetles and the ants
For while I've got my leg up
I can not interfere
I can't fret about the seedlings
Or fertilise in fear
As nature takes her course with me
Forging back my bones
She works around the garden
Silent and all know'n
By the time I get back out there
New clogs upon my feet!
She will have worked two wonders
I look forward to this treat.*

Recycled by Bruce Thorpe

*Old Bill has just worn out his boots
Along with the last of his suits
He's stuffed 'em with straw
So he can be sure
That the birds won't consume
all his shoots.*



What's on at Zanthorrea



Join us in the gazebo for our monthly garden talks. We are always happy to help solve your gardening queries over a cuppa.

Please RSVP to ensure we have enough seats and cups.

Australian plants in pots

Saturday July 12th, 10am

Watch Claire combine beautiful Australian native plants in pots to create a stunning effect.

We will supply potting mix and encouragement if you would like to purchase pots and plants, and pot them up on the day.

RSVP 9454 6260

Animals in your backyard.

Saturday August 16th, 10am

Join Eric McCrum for an entertaining look at the animals who live in our gardens.

RSVP essential on 9454 6260

Welcome spring bushwalk

Saturday September 13th, 10am

It's time for a spring bushwalk to view the spectacular wildflowers of the Darling Scarp. Meet at the gazebo at 9.50am.

RSVP 9454 6260



Fabulous Flora

Growing Banksia

We all admire the floral show of a blooming banksia and most people would like the fauna that they attract, so why not put more in your garden, or at least start with one! There are no excuses - banksias can fit in small pockets like *Banksia repens*, or make big shade trees like *Banksia littoralis*. Some can grow in clay such as *Banksia robur* and some like *Banksia 'Birthday Candles'* grow well in pots.



Most banksias are reliable if you keep a few things in mind.

1. Select a site with more than four hours of sun per day. Banksias can grow in shadier spots but may have fewer flowers.
2. Make sure there is good drainage - our coastal plain is perfect. The *Banksia robur* mentioned before is one of a few banksias which can tolerate 'wet feet'.
3. Mix some soil improver into the top layer before planting. Banksias have a fine network of 'proteoid' roots that search for phosphorous in the top soil. A teaspoon of native plant Osmocote will help at planting time, and a mulch layer around the drip line will keep the soil flora and the banksia happy.
4. There is rarely a need to add fertiliser again - in fact the proteoid roots and plant can be killed with phosphorous based fertilisers.

5. Summer watering should not be essential, but fortnightly good soaks will make a more vigorous plant.

6. Pruning is not necessary except to shape to your convenience or when you get enough flowers to cut some for inside as they last for ages. They also last for ages on the bush - the 'Birthday Candle' blooms in the photo have been on the bush for over 3 months.

A few of my favourites to grow:

Banksia prionotes - a local tree to 5m with large orange acorn flowers autumn and winter.

Banksia ashbyi - from the Shark Bay area, requires good drainage and low water to produce large orange flowers through winter on a 2.5m bush.



Banksia media - a good reliable 2m shrub from the south coast with big spikes of yellow flowers autumn and winter.

Banksia menziesii - in either dwarf form to 2m or tree form to 5m this local plant, although slow, is well worth growing. Red acorn flowers from summer to winter.



Banksia attenuata - another local available in shrub or tree form. With yellow spikes in spring and summer. Use this one with *B. menziesii* and *B. prionotes* to have bird food available all year.

Banksia attenuata
(Slender banksia)



Banksia blechnifolia is my favourite prostrate banksia. Growing to 30cm high by 1m plus wide, it has creeping horizontal stems with red spike flowers popping out of the ground in spring. We have a 25 year old one on the north side of the plant area, with *B. repens* mixed in!

- Alec

Kanyana Plant Of The Month

Banksia 'Birthday Candles' - a cutting grown low form of *Banksia spinulosa* that can flower in the first year for you. It has a fine foliage and grows knee high by two steps across. Flowers are golden spikes that age rusty, starting in winter and lasting through summer.

Check them out at the information hut. 140mm pots at \$10.95 each.

For every *Banksia 'Birthday Candles'* sold, \$1 will go to the Kanyana Wildlife Centre in Gooseberry Hill to help our injured birds and animals.



Winter Wildflower Wonders

Sue's Sandpit Transformed



My garden is now two years old, apart from a gorgeous 'King's Park Special' bottlebrush. The garden was previously an oversized sandpit - so a combination of plenty of soil improver in the planting hole and very deep mulch (obtained cheaply from a tree lopper) was essential. I'm a water miser, so the garden has to survive with a touch of hand watering when I remember. It got a lot to get it started, but once those roots were down, they were on their own!

A gravel path leads to a small pond, which is the central feature of the garden - the edges are softened by grassy lomandras, isolepsis and conostylis species. Three



small trees will add shade as they grow - Eucalyptus microtheca, E. erythricorys and E. woodwardii. Several banksias have done well and flowered at a young age, especially the Banksia ashbyi.



The standout colour is from the 'Big Red' and 'Yellow Gem' kangaroo paws and the ground cover Scaevola 'Purple Fanfare'. The paws are amazing, I give many of them away as cut flowers.



Other plants used include: Olearia axillaris for its grey foliage, Helichrysum ramossissimum 'Yellow Buttons', Westringia 'Wynabbie Gem', Acacia lasiocarpa, Hibbertia racemosa, Calothamnus quadrifidus, Melaleuca 'Little Nessie'. All very adaptable plants for coastal or hills planting.

– Sue

Sue is one of several Zanthorrea horticulturists available for garden consultation and design. Call the nursery for a Landscaper contact sheet.

Pretty Plants in Pots



I am always delighted at people's surprise when they discover the attractive possibilities of Australian plants in pots and hanging baskets.

In fact, there are lots of bright little native plants who will thrive in dappled shade and restricted root space!

Here are some plants to try:

- Anigozanthos 'Bush Pearl' *
- Boronia megastigma
- Brachyscombe multifida
- Correa 'Dusky Bells'
- Dianella revoluta
- Grevillea 'Gilt Dragon' *
- Scaevola 'Purple Fanfare'
- Syzygium 'Bush Christmas'
- Viola hederacea
- Xanthorrhoea johnsonii *

** prefers a sunny spot*

A basket of brachyscombe grows beautifully on a bright patio.



A stylish pot and a simple plant - so hot right now!

– Claire



What's New?

Scully's Green Tea Body Products

Lots of people are already hooked on New Zealand company Scully's luxurious lavender range!



Their new temptation is 'Green Tea': Lime Green Tea His & Hers Body Cream \$19.95, Green Tea Bath Soap \$8.45 and Green Tea Bath Fizz \$17.95.

Australian Fine China Precious Things

Sweet trinket boxes and bud vases from Perth's own china company. In two designs from Philippa Nikulinsky's exquisite botanical illustrations. The trinket boxes also come in a Blue Wren and a Willie Wagtail design. A beautiful gift! Trinket boxes \$17.95 and bud vases \$23.95 and \$15.95.



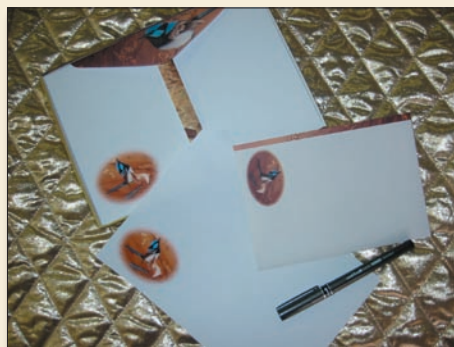
Earth Products Bath Mitt



These refillable soap mitts are gorgeous – filled with hand milled soap, essential oils, herbs and botanicals. And because they're refillable, no need to throw out those little bits of leftover soap, just tuck them into the mitt!

Rose and Vanilla, Citrus and (my favourite) Lavender, Bergamot and Sandalwood, \$6.95.

Pettis Studio Collection



New to Zanthorrea are these placemats, coasters, gift tags and writing paper sets. The writing paper sets have already proven popular. 100% recycled paper, \$12.95.

– Claire

Fertilising Native Plants

There are some plants that respond well to a bit more fertiliser than just the 10g of slow release at planting – e.g most layering or suckering ground covers, Kangaroo Paws and, to a lesser extent, callistemons and melaleucas.

So what to give them? Richgro have developed Native Plant Grower, similar to Blood & Bone but with modifications for Australian plants. It is a pelleted organic fertiliser that is pH balanced, contains trace elements, low phosphorus, boosted nitrogen and potassium.



We have trialled it extensively on our gardens between our giant bobtail and our frog ponds a few months ago and the result is impressive growth. 7kg costs \$12.45 and will go a long way. Give your roo paws and ground covers a pleasant surprise!

And now is the time to fertilise!

– Alec



Zanthorrea Nursery is proud to be AGCAS accredited.

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