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Newsletter #12 August 2009 Edition

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### **Spring is just around the corner!**

Winter days are starting to get longer and there are some beautiful warm days just perfect for getting your garden ready for spring.

Looking spectacular in the nursery at the moment are: Hardenbergias - Happy Wanderer, Free and Easy and Snow White. Grevilleas - Lady O, Deua Flame, Winter Delight - all the smaller spider flowering Grevilleas, Thryptomene, Geraldton Wax in full bloom, and Boronias are budding heavily waiting to burst! Wine Barrels are also back in stock - perfect for bigger containerised plants.

We have been busy making some exciting new changes to the nursery - come in and have a look!

We are also proud to announce that we have been awarded National Accreditation through the AGCAS program - Australian Garden Centre Accreditation Scheme.

We hope to see you in the nursery soon,

Dave, Kath, Narelle & Paul.

### **Hakeas...flowering now and through spring!**

Hakeas are members of the Protea family (Proteaceae) and close relatives include Banksia, Grevillea, Dryandra, Isopogon and Telopea. There are about 130 named species and all species of Hakea are endemic to Australia.

#### **Characteristics**

The flowers of *Hakea* species are quite small but they occur in clusters (an inflorescence) which, in some species, may consist of perhaps 100 or more individuals. Two commonly recognised types of flowers are the "spider" flower arrangement and the "pincushion" shape. Another arrangement is a "brush" shape where the flowers are clustered into cylindrical racemes at the ends of branches.

Many hakeas have stiff leaves with sharp points. This feature does make hakeas excellent plants for boundaries or places where gardeners would like access restricted. It also makes them ideal plants to offer protection to birds from predators such as cats.

Hakeas generally flower in winter and spring. The flowers are followed by hard, woody seed pods each containing two seeds and, in the majority of species, these pods remain tightly closed unless stimulated to open by heat, such as following a bushfire. The seeds themselves have a papery wing which allows them to be distributed by wind.

Most hakeas are small to medium shrubs but some can reach small tree proportions

One of the great features of hakeas in gardens is that many attract honey-eating birds. Hakeas are generally at their best in open, sunny positions although the plants will tolerate some shade but probably with reduced flowering.

Hakeas respond well to regular, annual pruning where about one-third of the plant is removed. This promotes branching and produces a plant with a bushy shape.

## What's On in August!

### Illawarra Region

#### **Wombarra Sculpture Garden!**

57 Morrison Avenue,  
Wombarra.

Ph: 4268 2695

Open 10am till 4pm  
Entry \$6 Adults

### Mount Annan Botanical Garden

#### **Wattle Lottle Fun! Family Day**

The wattle is an extremely versatile plant. Find out exactly what our national floral emblem is used for. Walks, talks, cooking demos and activities for the kids.

**When:** Sunday 16  
August, 11 am - 2 pm  
**Where:** Mount Annan  
Botanic Garden  
**Cost:** Free after Garden  
entry  
**Enquiries:** 4634 7935

### Get in early for Spring!

Don't forget to come in and check out our extensive tube stock.

**\$6 each or  
6 tubes for \$30**

## Hakeas cntd.

### **Diseases**

Some of the *Hakea* species are susceptible to the root rot fungus, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Improvement of soil drainage minimises the problem in areas where *Phytophthora* is known to exist.

### **Pests**

There are few serious pests that attack hakeas. Borers may occasionally be a problem but will usually be noticed by the sawdust around the entrance to their tunnels. Inserting a piece of wire into the hole will often remove the pest. A variety of other pests such as caterpillars, sooty mould and scale may appear but they are no more of a problem on hakeas than on any other plant and allowing natural control methods such as birds will help control the problem.

### Hakeas available in the nursery:

Hakea salicifolia, sericea & decurrens

Grafted Hakeas – Hakea coriacea, bucculenta & francissiana



**Hakea bucculenta**



**Hakea coriacea**

### Also flowering in the Nursery:



**Chamelaucium spp. -Geraldton Wax**



**Thryptomene spp.**



**Grevillea rhyolitica – Deua Flame**