


Newsletter #9 May 2009 Edition

9 Venno St, Heathcote. Ph: 9548 2818 Open 7 days

Autumn – a great time to do jobs in the garden!

With some warmth still in the soil, May is a great time to plant in preparation for spring growth as plants still have time to establish before the cold of winter. It is also a good time to tidy up in the garden. The soil is still moist from recent rain which makes weeding a lot easier. A great way to use fallen autumn leaves is to run them over with your lawn mower and then use them as mulch on your garden. Pruning can also be done now and any clippings, mulched or added to your compost. Look out for the first signs of Wattles in bloom. Come and see the huge variety we have in stock. See you in the nursery,

Dave, Paul, Kath & Narelle.

Waratahs

The nursery has a wide variety of Waratahs in stock. The **Shady Lady** range includes **Red, Crimson, Pink, Yellow and White**. Another popular cultivar is **Telopea Braidwood Brilliant** which is suitable for cooler climates. This hardy waratah was the result of a deliberate attempt to hybridize *Telopea speciosissima* and *Telopea mungaensis* in 1962. The breeding work was done at the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) but the name was not registered by the Australian Cultivar Registration Authority (ACRA) until 1974. It is "an upright and compact glabrous shrub" with an inflorescence that "is slightly less conical and less dense than *T. speciosissima* but vastly superior to *T. mungaensis* in this regard with a flower diameter of 6-8 cm". The flowers are cherry red. It will grow to 2-3 metres tall and spread to about 4 metres. It is frost tolerant, and will certainly grow beyond the range of *T. speciosissima*.

All waratahs prefer well drained sandy soils. However they will grow in raised beds (30 cm) over heavy soils. Care should be taken with phosphorous levels, complete fertilisers should therefore be avoided unless they have been especially formulated for natives.



Telopea Braidwood Brilliant



Shady Lady White

Two other varieties available in the nursery are:
'Fire and Brimstone' – *Telopea speciosissima* (to 2m Spring flowering)
'Corroboree' - *Telopea mungaensis* x *speciosissima* (to 3m deep red blooms with a hint of pink)

Sharpening your secateurs.

Blunt secateurs are not only hard to cut with but also damage your plants and leave them vulnerable to disease. A sharpening stone and some oil, like sewing machine oil, are cheap and easy tools to use. Sharpening your secateurs, if used regularly, about once a month will have your secateurs cutting as sharply as new.

The first step is to scrub the secateurs with warm, soapy water to remove any sap build up. Prepare the sharpening stone with a few drops of general-purpose lubricating oil. Push the blade forwards and to the side, exerting a little downward pressure. Then turn the blade over and, holding the blade almost flat against the stone, brush it across the surface to take off any rough edges. Lubricate the blades with oil to prevent them from rusting.

* If pruning diseased material it is a good idea to sterilise your secateurs by dipping them in bleach or methylated spirits before moving to other areas in the garden.



Question & Answer

What is the difference between Eucalypts and Angophoras?

There are two main differences that distinguish Eucalypts and Angophoras. Angophoras have opposite leaves rather than alternate leaves and don't have a bud cap or operculum. Angophoras also have seed capsules with sharp ribs while Eucalypts have smooth capsules.



Angophora costata – Sydney Red Gum



Eucalyptus haemastoma – Scribbly Gum

Some years ago it was proposed that the genus *Eucalyptus* should be divided into several sub groups by raising the seven sub-genera developed by Pryor and Johnson in 1971 to generic level. The new generic names included *Symphiomirtus*, *Corymbia*, *Eudesmia* and *Monocalyptus*.

Supporters of the proposed changes pointed to the genus *Angophora*, a close relative of *Eucalyptus* and which has greater similarity to some *Eucalyptus* groups than do some other *Eucalyptus* species. Opponents of the changes countered by suggesting that a logical course of action would be to reclassify *Angophora* as another sub-genus within *Eucalyptus* (ie removing *Angophora* as a distinct genus).

The sub group *Corymbia*, of which the well known *Corymbia ficifolia* is a member, is made up of the bloodwoods. The grafted varieties such as Summer Red, Summer Beauty, Dwarf Orange and Dwarf Crimson are all available at the nursery now.



Corymbia 'Summer Red'