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Newsletter #19 March 2010 Edition

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### **Autumn – the ‘Best’ time of year to plant!**

Heading into autumn is a great time in the garden, with the weather cooling off enough to make gardening a pleasure and plants still putting on new growth.

Lots of plants are flowering or having a second flowering so there is lots of colour about.

Croweas and Scaevolias spp. are looking great at the moment and will flower right up and into early winter.

Autumn is also a great time to improve soil and mulch gardens. Soil conditioner and Cypress and Pine Bark mulch are available in the nursery. It is also a good time for pruning and dividing plants and replacing plants that didn't quite make it through the summer. See you in the nursery soon.

Dave, Kath, Paul & Narelle.

## **New – Native Seeds**

‘Native seeds are now in stock in the nursery.’

### **Propagation of Native Seeds**

Plants propagated from seed are not genetically the same as the parent plant. Therefore they can vary in appearance. For example, the plants can vary in overall size and shape and the leaves and flowers can vary in size, shape and colour from plant to plant. Pre-treat the seed if necessary. For example, with *Acacia* species, pour near-boiling water over the seed and allow the water to cool. They can also be scarified which basically means scratching the surface of the seed to help with germination. This can be done with a piece of sandpaper. The seeds are then ready for sowing. Discard any floating seeds.

Using a seed raising mix, also available in the nursery, sow seeds in a seed tray and cover lightly with a layer of mix to a depth about equal to the seeds thickness. Water the tray carefully and put in a warm place such as a green house or create a green house environment by placing a plastic bag or cover over them to increase heat and humidity.

Prick out the seedlings, once germination has occurred, into small pots containing a suitable potting mix.



## **Open Gardens in March**

### **Permaculturally Perfect!**

Our Suburban Sanctuary, Port Kembla

Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 March  
(No bookings required)  
Address: 28 & 30 Third Ave, Port Kembla

Open: 10am-4.30pm.  
\$6.00 (entry to both gardens), no charge for children under 18

### **Dry Spell Gardening with Brendan Moar Hall**

Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 March  
(No bookings required)  
Address: 760 Nanima Rd, Spring Range (near Hall).

Open: 10am-4.30pm.  
\$6.00, no charge for children under 18



Crowea spp.



Scaevola spp.

## **Non Grafted Dwarf Eucalypts in Stock now!**

### **Euky Dwarf**

This slender little tree grows up to 6 metres high x 3 - 5 metres wide. It has a light open canopy of fine foliage, and bears masses of deep pink, red or occasionally cream blossom from late autumn to early summer. A perfect selection for small gardens and is a haven for honeyeaters.



### **Eucalyptus eximia nana**

Is typified by patchy, grey and brown bark, frequently on a crooked trunk. It is spring flowering, normally from August to October and has a mass of creamy blooms. It grows to about 8m.



### **Eucalyptus victrix**

It is a small to medium sized, slow growing tree with an open habit and attractive stark white trunk. The small white flowers occur over summer with growth halting at about 2-3 metres for many years. Its white trunk makes for a striking specimen plant.



### **Eucalyptus albopurpurea -**

It has partly rough-barked stems and glossy green adult leaves. Flowers vary in colour from white to pale pink and shades of mauve. An attractive small tree to 5m, usually with mauve/purple blossoms.



**Plant of the  
Month!!  
Acacia cognata  
spp.**

**'Lime Magik'**



Stunning feature tree with a striking, lime green, weeping habit. Yellow flowers are abundant during late winter and spring. 'Lime Magik' prefers dappled shade but will tolerate full sun. An excellent screen when used as a hedge. Bird attracting. Frost/drought tolerant. Fragrant flowers. Height: 4-5m. Width: 3-4m.

**Also,  
'Copper Tips'**

Featuring coppery new growth. Height: 2-5m. Width: 1.2 – 2m

**Dwarf Acacia  
cognata:**

**Mini Cog  
Limelight  
Green Mist  
Bower Beauty**

**'IN STOCK  
NOW!'**

**Staff Pick for this Month!**

**Acacias on a 1.2m standard.**

Acacia baileyana 'Goldilocks'  
Acacia dealbata 'Silver Falls'



**Agonis Burgundy**

Small tree growing to: Height 3m x Width 1.5m. New growth is burgundy and matures to a deep green. Makes a great ornamental screen, feature tree or container plant. It does require well drained soil but is frost hardy and will tolerate dry conditions once established.



**Lomandra 'Lime Tuff'**

Compact form of Lomandra with bright green foliage. Yellow scented flowers occur in summer. Grows in full sun to dappled shade and can even take heavy/wet soils. Very hardy, needing little maintenance. Excellent border plant and looks great mass planted. Height and width to 50cm.

**Grevillea 'Molly'**

Shrub growing to almost a metre tall by 1.5m wide and bears large reddish/pink flowers in autumn, winter & spring. Best in full sun, and produces more flowers with a light prune after flowering.

