

Botanical Traditions: autumn newsletter

As we leave Summer behind us we enter a relatively quiet period in the garden. This is the time to think about and plan any changes you want to make in the garden.

It also corresponds to Botanical Traditions 10th year of business. We would like to take this time to thank all of our clients. Many of whom have been with us since those early years.

Over the last 10 years the focus of the business has changed from one of general garden maintenance to garden design. However, this has meant that in the last few years people struggled to find contractors to maintain their new gardens.

As a result we will again be able to maintain gardens that are designed by Botanical Traditions, this should ensure that the full potential of these garden is realised. It takes many years for a garden to reach maturity and it is important that regular maintenance occurs during this period. If you would like to book in for a maintenance visit please give us a call.

We are also happy to announce that we are working on a webpage. Eventually this will showcase our past work, newsletters and other resources. If you have any photographs of your garden please do not hesitate to send it to us so we can place it on our webpage. The webpage should be up and running by the end of June.

Ruth Czermak

The Water Issue

Many of us have reduced the water we use in the last few years, however this has made a very small impact on the total water consumed. Individuals could make more of an impact by utilising rainwater and greywater.

On average each household in Melbourne uses 945L/day of drinking water, which places us amongst the largest consumers of water per

capita in the world. Less than 5% of this is used for drinking.

In Melbourne, nearly all used water except that used on the garden is removed from the property and termed wastewater implying that it has no value. Greywater forms a large

portion of wastewater (430L - 567L /day for an average household). Legally, recycled and reused greywater can be used for different purposes ranging from landscape or agricultural irrigation, to industrial and domestic use.

Greywater 'reuse' systems collect and then use non-treated greywater for acceptable purposes, such as irrigation. Greywater 'recycling' systems collect water and then treat it to a standard fit for its intended use. The individual cost of installing a system depends on the type and size of the system installed. As a rough guide greywater irrigation systems that do not treat the water cost around \$1200 more than the equivalent system that uses only mains water.

Despite the benefits of using greywater the adoption of its use has been low. In Victoria the total number of rebates given for greywater systems has been 356 since 2003, in the same period over 10,242 rebates have been given for rainwater tanks.

I recently finished a pilot study into the barriers of using greywater at the domestic scale. If you would like an electronic copy you can email me at ruth@sustainableplumbing.com.au

PRELIMINARY STUDY



Out of The Grey

Barriers and Benefits of Small Scale Greywater Reuse and Recycling for Irrigation



Ruth Czermak

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Featured Native Plants

On the whole the use of Australian native and indigenous plants in the garden is very limited. If a plant is indigenous it means that it comes from the local area. In Australia there can be a large variation in the genetic material of a species from one geographical area to the next.

Many people mistakenly believe that just by planting natives they are helping to conserve our remnant vegetation communities. I have come across numerous cases where people have planted Australian plants because they live next to native bushland. On the surface this seems like the correct thing to do. However, unless the plants used are grown from seeds collected locally or the species used doesn't occur in the reserve and can't cross breed with those in the reserve the opposite is actually true. Also is the concern that the natives chosen may out compete the indigenous plants.

I have chosen a number of plants to highlight in this newsletter that are readily available from specialist nurseries as true indigenous forms.

Indigofera australia (Australian indigo)

A very graceful open shrub growing to 2m high. The shrub produces a huge number of purple pea like flowers in Spring. The plant can be planted in a range of soils including heavy clay and tolerates periods of dry. It is especially useful planted under existing trees.



Indigenous Plant Suppliers
Bushland Flora 9736 4364
Kuranga Native Plant Nursery 9879 4076
VINC 9482 1710 CRISP Nursery 9879 3911

Kennedia prostrata (Running postman)

An open groundcover with trailing stems. Small leaves with red pea like flowers during winter. Prefers to be planted in a sunny spot in well drained soil. Can tolerate dry periods and can be used in rock gardens and between pavers.



Correa reflexa (Common correa)

An upright shrub to 2m high and wide. The flowers are either red and green or green (more common in Melb area) in Autumn and Winter. The plant prefers a sunny site with free draining soil but will also perform well in shade.



Viola hederacea (Native violet)

A fantastic low growing groundcover ideal for shady, moist positions. It flowers the whole year round.



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Native Gardens

The use of native gardens and plants has come a long way in the last 60 years under the influence of many designers and conservationists including Edna Walling, Ellis Stones, Gordon Ford, Glen Wilson, Bruce Mackenzie, Harry Howard, Allen Correy and George Seddon.

Today there is an increase in the use of Australian and Indigenous plants in Melbourne. If you are considering using or have an interest in Native plants there are a number of gardens that are worth a visit

The new Australian Garden was opened last weekend. This amazing new garden features a gallery of exhibition gardens, sculpture and displays which highlighting the



beauty and diversity of our Australian landscape. Although young the garden features 100,000 plants in 15 different displays and is well worth the visit for the landscape and architecture. The visitors centre has been designed incredibly well to blend into the surrounding landscape.

The Australian Garden located at 1000 Ballarto Road, Cranbourne is open every day except Christmas Day, from 9am to 5pm. There is a entry fee of \$9 for adults and \$6 for children.



Karwarra Australian Plant Garden is a garden located in the Dandenongs and showcases around 1300 shade tolerant natives many of which can

be purchased in the associated nursery. The garden was established in 1960 and many of the plants have reached their mature size.

Karwarra garden is full of correas, thomasias, prostantheras, boronias, philothecas, and grevilleas. Due to Karwarra's altitude in the Dandenong Ranges and the surrounding forest, our flowering season is generally one month behind the city.

The gardens are located off Mt. Dandenong Tourist Rd in Kalorama. Their opening hours are Tuesday to Friday from 10am-4pm and from 1-4pm on weekends and public holidays, except

Maranoa Gardens has been influenced by many forces since its creation and today it serves as a display garden for native vegetation.

Mr J Watson created Maranoa Gardens in 1904 when he purchased 3.5 acres of land to develop a private garden, catering to his interest in Australian and New Zealand plants. The land was

purchased by the old Camberwell council in 1922 and opened to the public in 1926. In 1962 the garden was expanded and



extensive replanting occurred in the late 1980's.

The garden provides visual and written information on Australian plants in varying habitats for students, botanists and enthusiasts alike.

Entry to the gardens is free and they are located near to public transport at 40 Yarrbat Avenue, Balwyn. The gardens are open Monday to Friday 7.30 am to 4.00 pm; Saturday, Sunday and public holidays 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm.

For further information on Native Plants:
[Http://home.vicnet.net.au/~sgapvic/index.htm](http://home.vicnet.net.au/~sgapvic/index.htm)