

PLANTS OF TASMANIA NURSERY

SPRING NEWSLETTER 1996

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OPEN 7 DAYS 9am - 5pm

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Hullo, and welcome to our first newsletter! Inaugural in fact. On September 21st, 1996 we celebrated our sixth birthday. Our gardens have been planted now for six and a half years - and getting very thick and bushy too. Our main task now is trimming them back. (Which I much prefer to weeding). Soon they will be bursting into bloom ; October and November are the most colourful months.

Through Spring and Autumn newsletters we hope to keep you in touch with new plants available and developments at the nursery, hints on happy and successful gardening and other more general news on Tassie plants.

The weather. As I write this, (27.9.96) its snowing! We've had more snow in September than in the whole of winter. Our summer was unbelievably wet but our winter was drier and seemed warmer down here in the S.E. of Tasmania. Consequently some plants that normally flower in November are flowering now.

However, whatever the weather, Spring is always a good time for planting. If your soil is soggy, gently mound up new gardens, or plant into low individual mounds to keep the roots from being waterlogged. This is the time of year when most plants start to grow- new shoots and roots. Planting now' means that by summer, most plants will be well established and need very little watering.

The catalogue. In an effort to save money I attempted to sort out the 1996 catalogue myself on our computer. I failed miserably and I'm now attending remedial classes learning how I drive it ! I suggest you look forward to the arrival of the 1997 catalogue early in the new year.

P.O.T.'N. An accidental but very relevant acronym of Plants of Tasmanian Nursery. We're Pot'n up lots of struck cuttings and shortly we'll be Pot'n the new seedlings. The bulk of these new baby plants will be growing into their 75mm round tubes and long square tubes to be ready in late summer and autumn- which of course is another nice time to be planting.

Upcoming Event

**Not to be missed !!! The Society for Growing Australian Plants biennial
Wildflower Spectacular at the Hobart City Hall,
October Fri 18th, Sat 19th & Sun 20th.**

Entry cost: Adults \$3, Children \$1, Family \$7, Concession \$2

There will be lots of displays, plants for sale, (a kiddies corner to keep them happy while you browse in peace) and the stage dressed up as an indoor version of Mt Wellington. Our nursery will be putting on an unusual display, a landscape in the Japanese tradition, but using only Tasmanian plants (of course).

BONSAI In a moment of weakness whilst on Holiday last year I bought a magazine on Bonsai. I'm not sure if this was a good idea or not, but it appears that we now have a Tasmanian Native Bonsai display up and running, complete with display plants (my Pets) and others for sale as well as pots to suit. We are also stocking two good Bonsai starter books. Working on the criteria of longevity and suitability for culture in small pots, such as having small leaves and flowers and being able to withstand trimming of both branches and roots, it appears that there may be 30-50 species of Tasmanian plants well suited to this art form. Two of our most notable trees, the Myrtle and the Huon Pine both seem very suitable for Bonsai.

Photo Albums We now have a lectern for photo albums, with an alphabetical listing of Tasmanian plants, showing them in flower and also a typical adult sized plant where possible. We are still working on this project but you are welcome to browse.

New Plants

We found this form of *Pelargonium australe* in late 1994 whilst wandering along **Constable Creek** near St Helens, Kris spotted an interesting looking Pelargonium halfway up a steep bank. This specimen was later washed out in a big flood. We grew cuttings and then new plants from seed, and the result is a very colourful plant with a strong purple underside to the leaves, and pink flowers in summer. As it looks great in a **hanging** basket it now answers to the name of *Pelargonium australe* - **Hanging Constable**.

At last! We've been able to buy in tiny fernlings of the lesser known tree fern *Cyathea australis* - **Rough Tree Fern**. This fern is not common in Tasmania. It will grow a trunk relatively quickly (compared with *Dicksonia*.) Fronds on mature plants can spread to 3.5m.

Triglochin procera - **Water Ribbons**, is a great plant for a pond or wet site. Long strap like leaves arch to 1m or float in the water, and a stout erect green flowering spike to 30cm provides an interesting display. We sourced this plant from a stream near Bothwell.

Feel like a challenge? We have some *Lotus australis* in stock. This is a prostrate form from a coastal site in the western Tasmania. The flower is a striking pink in summer. We haven't had a lot of luck in the garden as yet so suggest a moist well drained site or a pot.

Another coastal find is a prostrate form of *Melaleuca squarossa* found on the North West coast. We've named it, **Coastal Carpet**. We are expecting this to be hardy and spreading to about 1.5 m with creamy yellow flowers.

Other plants we have in stock (some in small numbers) :

Dichelachne crinita, *Ozothamnus lycopodioides*, *Monotoca glauca*, *Pultenaea hibertioides*, *Pultenaea gunnii* var *baeckeoides*, *Pentachondra ericifolia*, *Sambucus gaudichaudiana*, *Acacia stricta* (silver leaf), *Eleocarpus reticulatus*, *Acacia sicutiformis*, *Persoonia gunnii*, *Calocephalus lacteus*, *Leucopogon parviflorus* and *Allocasuarina crassa*.

Garden Consultations If you're having trouble with organising your outdoor spaces and require assistance, we can help you out. Kris and I (Will) are both trained in garden design and have years of experience behind us. (And ahead I hope !) We charge \$30 hr with a minimum of \$50 for a visit. Please enquire if you are interested.

T.A.F.E. course on Tasmanian native plants.

A first for Tasmania ! In response to the growing interest in our indigenous plants, Lindsay Campbell, a teacher of renown in the Horticulture Dept. of the Hobart Technical College, has organised a course to study our local flora and its horticultural use. There are four modules available, covering identification of up to 100 species, propagation, and use in the landscape.

Anyone interested can phone the Horticulture Dept.,
Hobart T.A.F.E. on (03) 6233 7424.

New Staff Member Lindy Campbell (no relation to the afore mentioned Lindsay Campbell) has joined our ranks to help with our growing business. Lindy has a Certificate in Horticulture, is taking further studies in Horticulture and has a strong interest in Tasmanian flora. Lindy also grows and sells herbs at Salamanca Market and is a keen gardener herself.

Well, all the best for spring and summer. We hope your gardens grow, flower and provide a peaceful and enjoyable environment. We'll do this again in Autumn 1997.

Best wishes from all the P.O.T.N. staff,
Will, Kris and Lindy.