

# N E W S L E T T E R



## PLANTS OF TASMANIA NURSERY AND GARDENS

NO.2 AUTUMN 1997

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OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

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**Hello**, fellow connoisseurs of **fine Tasmanian flora** ! Welcome to our second newsletter. Once again I find myself searching for time to do justice to this screed. Why am I so disorganised ? Why is the world round ? And what's more - where is the **blue Tasmanian Waratah** ?

And - what about the new catalogue ? Well, there is promising news on this front. Some of you won't believe this - oh ye of little faith - but

**THE NEW CATALOGUE WILL BE OUT BY THE END OF APRIL !!!**

I have sworn in front of a J.P. that this will be so ! ( Or was that a G.P. )

Speaking of guinea pigs, we now have definite proof that at least one **Eastern Barred Bandicoot** has moved into the nursery gardens. It seems to know when I open the gates.

Which reminds me: What do you get if you cross an elephant with a kangaroo ?

Answer : Great holes across Australia ! ( What ? You want a serious newsletter ? )

Well -- we've got great holes in the nursery gardens. This, I'm sure you will agree, is what one aims for in one's indigenous garden - this rounding off of the ecosystem - **Mega Fauna** !

As I type up the catalogue I am excited by the numbers of new species appearing on the pages. ( Bound to happen when you miss a year ) It seems most of the new species making an appearance this year at Plants of Tasmania are in the smaller sizes -- groundcovers and rockery sized plants. Also new forms of plants already in stock. Most of the plants propagated last winter and spring are just out for sale now.

### FERNS

We've built up a beaut range of **Tasmanian ferns** and at last count we could supply you with eighteen species - enough to fill all your moist shady spots, with some left over for indoors! **And have you seen Michael Garrett's new fern book** ? It is indeed a work of distinction. Beautifully presented, with lots of photos, easily read descriptions and distribution maps. Even a field key. One for the amateur and professional alike. ( **The Ferns of Tasmania** by **Michael Garrett**, at all good bookshops...about \$50)

The ferns we have in stock this autumn are as follows: ( Also suitable for indoors marked \* )

Adiantum aethiopicum	Maidenhair	To 20cm	\$3 - \$6 *
Allantodia australis	Astral Lady Fern	To 1.5m	\$6
Asplenium bulbiferum	Hen and Chicken Fern	To 60cm	\$6 *
" flabellifolium	Necklace Fern	To 30cm	\$6 *

Continued list of ferns in stock:

Blechnum fluviatile	Ray Water Fern	To 50cm	\$6 *
" nudum	Fishbone Water Fern	To 1m	\$6 - \$12 *
" penna-marina	Alpine Water Fern	To 10cm, spreading	\$6 *
" wattsi	Hard Water Fern	To 60cm	\$3 *
Cyathea australis	Rough Tree Fern	Will grow a trunk	\$3 - \$6 *
Dicksonia antarctica	Soft Tree Fern / Man Fern	" " " "	\$3 - \$6 *
Doodia caudata	Small Rasp Fern	To 30cm	\$6 *
" media	Rasp Fern	To 50cm	\$15
Histriopteris incisa	Bats Wing Fern	To 2m	\$6
Hypolepis glandulifera	Downy Ground Fern	To 1m	\$6
Pellaea falcata	Sickle Fern	To 60cm	\$6 *
Phymatosorus pustulatus			
(syn. Microsorium diversifolium) Kangaroo Fern		To 30cm, spreading	\$6
Polystichum proliferum	Mother Shield Fern	To 1m	\$3 - \$6 *
Rumohra adiantiformis	Leathery Shield Fern	To 40cm	\$3 - \$6 *

### SPECIALS

To clear space for new stock (a good sales line I just made up) we're selling a selection of shrubs and trees (mainly wattles) in the square tubes for **80 cents each**. The following species are available:

- Acacia genistifolia - low, spreading, hardy
- dealbata - Silver Wattle, fast
- mearnsii - Black Wattle, fast
- mucronata - to 5m, fast
- myrtifolia - to 1.5m, handsome foliage, temperamental
- riceana - to 5m, fast
- sophorae - Coast Wattle, to 3m by 5m wide, fast
- stricta - to 3m
- terminalis - Sunshine Wattle, autumn flowering, temperamental
- Leptospermum glaucescens - tea-tree to 3m
- Eucalyptus globulus - Blue Gum, fast, big

We expect to run these specials till the end of April. However if you would like some put aside, please phone, as some species may go quickly.

### BONSAI REPORT

The plants in our Tasmanian native bonsai shadehouse are looking **healthy and happy**. So far I've had almost 100% success rate on the range of plants I've tried. That's on their initial massive root prune and cut back - as for their continued good health - time will be a telling!

Many folks are intrigued by the bonsai, many are delighted, and many are peeved to find that the best ones are not for sale! For those of you with the later affliction, in the coming winter I'm expecting to personally handcraft many more **desirable specimens** which will be out for sale in spring.

### AUTUMN JOBS

It's a great time of year for garden **spring cleaning**! It's a time when I like to work my way through the garden - cutting back, trimming, weeding, extra planting or replanting, even culling some plants that have served their time, then tossing round some extra mulch. It's nice to go into winter with the garden looking neat.

## COLOUR

Autumn and winter are not big on flowering in the Tasmanian flora. I personally feel (bias acknowledged) that this is quite appropriate and that **a sense of season is there to be enjoyed**. However I'm quite happy to enhance the garden with species that do add a dash of colour in the quieter months. One shrub flowering amongst ten or twenty is often quite noticeable, especially if it is in the foreground. Tasmanian plants such as *Epacris impressa*, *Leptospermum grandiflorum*, *Acacia sauveolens* and the winter flowering form of *Eriostemon verrucosus* are some that come to mind.

Another good way to add some **winter zest** to the garden is to plant some suitable species into terracotta pots. The colour and form of the pots alone catches the eye and becomes a focal point even if the plant, or plants, in it are not flowering. Small groups of pots can be placed in key positions ( often looking especially good with garden foliage in the background) and provide an eye catching feature.

## NEW PLANTS

To whet your appetite, here are some of the new plants to feature in the forthcoming catalogue.

Whilst collecting seed for a job in the Kingston area I came across a very small, fine-foliaged *Poa* grass. It appears to be a dwarf form of *Poa sieberiana*. It's an absolute gem in the pot. We haven't tried it in the garden yet, but it looks like having leaves to 10 or 15cm, flower spikes to 40cm, and like other *Poas* I would expect it to grow almost anywhere. I couldn't help it....I've called it ***Poa sieberiana*, Tiny Tuft !**

***Epacris petrophila*, Alpine Rock Heath** is another attractive plant of small proportions now in stock. Characterised by tiny leaves and small white flowers, it's almost a waste to plant it in the garden.....it looks so nice in the pot ! *rare (lover of rocks)*

Another mountain plant up and running, is ***Neopaxia australasica*, Mountain Purslane**. This alpine form grows as a tight prostrate mat of green to reddish foliage with small white flowers in late spring.

Back down to the hills. Our friend Les found this little number in dry frosty Buckland. ***Goodenia elongata*, Creeping Goodenia** is a low spreading plant with shiny green leaves. In summer it displays flowers of deep rich yellow, on stems to 10cm.

And then there's a new new plant ***Allocasuarina duncanii*, Duncan's Sheoak**. New to the nursery and new to the world, Fred Duncan collected specimens from the Snug Tiers. *Duncanii* grows 5-8m in a pyramidal form, with bunches of needles held erect on the branches.

I think my equal favourite new plant for foliage ( along with *Poa sieberiana*, Tiny Tuft ) is ***Pomaderris elachaphylla*, Small Leaf Pomaderris**. I haven't seen this plant in the wild, but it harks from the north-east and my collecting friend tells me it grows to a couple of metres. The leaves are tiny, rounded and pale green. As a plant in the pot, it looks very charming.

Not so new, but back in stock after running out last year - ***Restio tetraphyllus*, Tassel Cordrush**. It is such an attractive plant with it's intense pale green cascading foliage. For those of you who don't know it, it grows to about 1m, and loves a wet spot. Also very handsome in a pot.

## STOP PRESS

Just released ! Another book ! It's a great season for new Tassy plant books.

**ALPINE TASMANIA** by **Jamie Kirkpatrick** is a beauty! It has masses and masses of beautiful illustrations by Georgina Davis and Jo Eberhard and some evocative photos by Peter Dombrovskis. The illustrations will make identification of our alpine gems so much easier, and it's fascinating to see just how much alpine flora is endemic to the island.

Out now at all good bookshops (about \$25).

## WIND

There's been a lot of it about lately. Some of you might have lost plants completely with others just being wobbly. (Plants, I mean) My preferred course of action for a wobbly plant is to cut it back hard (certainly for shrubs - trees are a bit trickier). A severe prune will "reduce the sail area" so the plant can't blow around so much, and will encourage further root growth. It will also make the plant much bushier. Also note: the thicker the planting, the more shelter there is provided for each plant.

## POSTING PLANTS

For those of you on the north island, we can send plants to your door via Wards / Skyroad. We have freight stickers for up to 5kg which allow us to pack up to about 20 plants in the 75mm or square tube size. Packaging and freight is \$24. (W.A. is extra, requiring a pest certificate). To Melbourne we can send plants in open boxes. In Tassy we can forward by bus to your nearest depot.

## NEXT

In future newsletters we would like to feature certain aspects of the Tasmanian flora. Kris is our "Bush Tucker" devotee, so we'll look into that one. Other avenues of interest could be scented plants, alpine plants, coastal plants, water plants and also rare plants. And if we're really organised, we may consider the occasional workshop/excursion to explore some of these topics.

## BITS AND PIECES

# We're always short of plastic shopping bags. If you find they multiply exponentially in your pantry we would be delighted to take them off your hands.

# Kris and I offer a design service. Between us we've logged about 40 years experience (sounds impressive when you add it up) so if you need some help, nab us before we start to forget it.

Best wishes for autumn and winter. May it be **crisp** in the mornings and **mellow** during the day. Especially on weekends!

Horticulturally yours,

**Will Fletcher** (and honourable staff) **Kris and Lindy.**