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Did you miss us?



Are you surprised to receive this newsletter? It's been a while, hasn't it? Well, we have finally put our fingers to the keyboard and are trying to get back to business as normal -- a hard thing in the age of Coronavirus, as business as usual is a thing of the past.

Many demands have been placed upon the nursery industry over the last year or so, as

people are staying at home more often and have been spending more time in their garden. Unfortunately, this has also resulted in a marked increase in the planting of environmental weeds throughout our Shire. We hope you read our words and take in our advice about environmental weeds which you can find further on in this newsletter. We also hope you will be inspired by the results of the good work that has been undertaken to bring back nature and provide recreational opportunities along the Wingecarribee River which has been a work in progress over the last 20 years.

Pleasant reading!

Re-Greening of the Wingecarribee River



From bare paddocks along the river to natural vegetation to protect and enhance our waterways along with providing lifestyle benefits for humans and native fauna.

Revegetation works of about 6km of the river along with the construction of a bicycle track have transformed the once barren landscape into a vibrant landscape enjoyed by nature lovers, birdwatchers, cyclists, walkers, fishers, etc. along with our local wildlife. Unfortunately, environmental weeds are starting to invade many of these areas, hence the following article on the impact of environmental weeds and why we should not be planting them in our gardens.



The grandchildren enjoyed practising their casting in the Wingecaribee River.

I recently took my grandchildren down to the Wingecaribee River near Oxley College to enjoy some fishing and time in nature with them. Whilst not a fish was to be caught, we did enjoy untangling a few lines together and appreciated the beautiful natural surrounds. What was once bare paddocks adjoining the river, is now a wonderful oasis described by many as their favourite place in Bowral/Burradoo. This oasis in a land of exotic vegetation is the result of 20 years of commitment and hard work by Oxley College, Landcare, Wariapendi Nursery and our Local Council.



Some very creative work to create habitat for micro-bats in a dead tree alongside the bike track.

Next time you have some spare time, take a walk or ride your bike and enjoy the scenery and the delights of nature.



Banksia marginata flowers

Plant of the Month

Banksia marginata

The Honeysuckle Banksia (*Banksia marginata*) is a very hardy small tree that grows to around 2 to 5 metres tall which can be pruned to create formal/informal hedges and screens or if left unpruned as a small specimen tree. Its bright yellow flowers and seeds attract many birds, including the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo along with Sugar Gliders and Pygmy-Possums.

It is also a great cut flower for floral arrangements in the home. It is extremely frost hardy and drought tolerant. Suitable for heavy loam soils along with granite and sandstone soils. For those who live in fire-prone areas, this plant is also classified as fire-retardant.

Plant one (or more!) in your garden to enjoy all this beautiful plant has to offer. Currently on special at the nursery!

This Month's Specials

Take advantage of this month's specials and save up to 68% off selected species as

detailed below.



Austromyrtus dulcis Copper Tops - a great bush tucker plant

Baeckea virgata dwarf - stunning low plant with white flowers that never needs pruning

Banksia marginata - as showcased above

Banksia robur - Swamp banksia with large foliage and showy flowers

Callistemon Little John - Compact bottlebrush with beautiful grey-green foliage and deep red flowers

Calothamnus quadrifidus grey - Silver grey foliage adds contrast

Carpobrotus Aussie Rambler - bright pink flowers, great bush tucker plant

Casuarina Cousin It - unique ground cover

Chrysocephalum Silver & Gold - great wildflower with silver foliage and bright yellow flowers

Correa Dusky Bells - a low growing native fuschia

Myoproum parvifolium Pink Form - quick growing carpeting plant

Rhodanthe anthemoides Star Shower - paper daisy flowers for an exceptionally long period. Great cottage garden plant

Westringia Jervis Gem - dwarf native rosemary suitable for low hedges, free flowering

SPECIALS

Save Up to 68%

Buy 1 Tray	\$8 ea*
Buy 2 Trays	\$7 ea*
Buy 3 Trays	\$6 ea*
Buy 4 Trays	\$5 ea*

***Selected species**
***Whole Trays only**

1 Tray contains 8 x 140mm plants

Mother's Day



Show your love and appreciation to your mother by giving a gift that last more than a week -- buy her a plant suitable for cut flowers to bring into her home to remind her of your love. Alternatively, gift vouchers are available to purchase from our nursery either by phone or at the nursery.

Weed of the Month



Cherry Laurel planted along the boundary of the nature reserve of the Wingecaribee River bike track.

Cherry Laurel is widely used as a hedging plant throughout the Southern Highlands. However, it is highly invasive and spreads quickly throughout native forests, supressing native species which reduces habitat for native fauna. All parts of the tree, including the leaves, fruit and seeds are highly toxic to humans. It produces hydrocyanic acid or prussic acid, which can cause serious illness or death within hours of ingestion, or by merely touching it, it can cause irritation to the skin and eyes. This plant grows to around 12-15m tall with a spread of around 12-20m when mature. It is also good habitat if you wish to attract Indian Mynas and Starlings to your garden!

Long lived alternative native plants suitable for hedging include Callistemons (Bottlebrush), Hakeas, Lilly Pilly, Leptospermum (Tea Trees), Blueberry Ash, NSW Christmas Bush, Banksias, Tristaniopsis (Water Gum), Waratahs... the list is almost endless!

If your property is close to bushland or revegetation projects, it is best to either remove Cherry Laurel or prune prior to seed set which is rapidly spread by birds. Any fruit or seeds should be bagged and disposed of. Take care to protect yourself when handling, due to its toxic nature.

Why do People Plant Environmental Weeds?



Honeysuckle and Periwinkle invading the revegetation works alongside the Wingecarribee River bike track.

When I see our natural bush and old established exotic gardens being dominated by environmental weeds such as Honeysuckle, Privet, Periwinkle, Buddleia (Butterfly Bush), Hawthorn, Cotoneaster, Cherry Laurel, Agapanthus and many others, I ask myself the question, “Why do people plant environmental weeds in their gardens?” When you consider the enormous cost to landcare/bushcare groups, government departments who manage enormous tracts of land, such as railways, roads, waterboard, national parks, let alone the degradation of our local environment, we all should be asking this question.

Some answers that come to mind are

- they are recommended by many garden centres as being hardy, fool-proof plants that grow quickly.
- They have pretty flowers.
- They give that exotic, “English Garden” look.
- They have a prejudice against, or lack of concern about our natural environment.
- They inherited an exotic garden and mistakenly believe that native plants do not mix with exotic plants.
- They follow the advice of friends and unethical horticulturalists.

None of these answers give a good enough reason to continue planting environmental weeds. We have a responsibility to future generations to ensure we protect and enhance our natural environment rather than creating a burden for them.

Southern Highlands Koala Conservation Project



Our Koalas need your help in preserving existing koala habitat and creating more to ensure their continued existence. Here is a link to the Facebook page [Southern Highlands Koala Conservation Project](https://www.facebook.com/SouthernHighlandsKoalas/) to find out more.

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthernHighlandsKoalas/>

We also have koala feed trees available. For every tree you buy from us, you will be donating over \$1.50 to support wildlife carers in our Shire.

So, if you could **bear** enjoying these iconic animals in your garden, pop down to the nursery for some **koala**-ty feed trees today!

Outside Team Project

Last month was a busy month for the outside team at Wariapendi. We've been flat out catching up on projects after the heavy rains we all experienced earlier this year.

Our project property we would like to feature for this month is the amazing Seidler House that overlooks the Wingecaribee River in Joadja.

We did the original landscaping works when the house was completed over 20 years ago. Over the years we have received many compliments as to how the house blends

beautifully into the landscape and how stunning the bush is around this amazing house. For those who knew we enacted the works it was often referred to as “designer bush”!

The new owners have now re-engaged Wariapendi to revamp the gardens and surrounding bushland after the effects of the drought. We still have various stages of work to complete on this property, but we were lucky enough to start work on both the main house and courtyard entrance, and the gardens that link the skywalk bridge to the suspended pool with its surrounding garden and gorgeous natural habitat.



You too can experience some luxury and peace of mind at this piece of Australian architectural history. To find out more, use the link below.

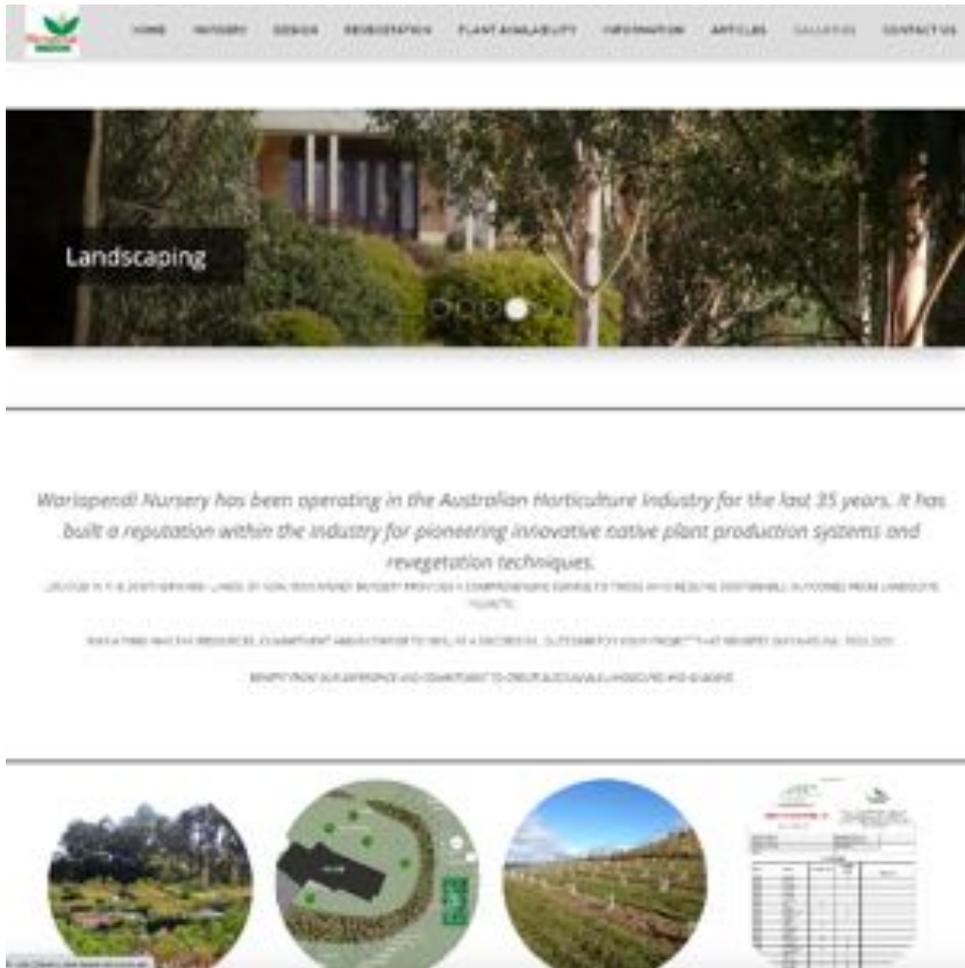
<https://contemporaryhotels.com.au/accommodation/southern-highlands/the-seidler-house/>

Website Update

We have also been working on updating our website lately. It is still a bit of a work in progress but a big improvement on the old. If you have any suggestions for content we would like to hear from you. Your suggestions can be sent to sales@wariapendi.com.au

You can order your plants online (pick up from nursery only) at www.wariapendi-native-nursery.myshopify.com

You can also see our most recent availability list here:



We want your feedback

To help us provide content that is relevant and helpful, if you have any topics you would like us to provide you with more information on, we are taking suggestions now via [email](#) or our [Facebook page](#)



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