RORAIMA NURSERY

Newsletter No 25 **Spring 2017**

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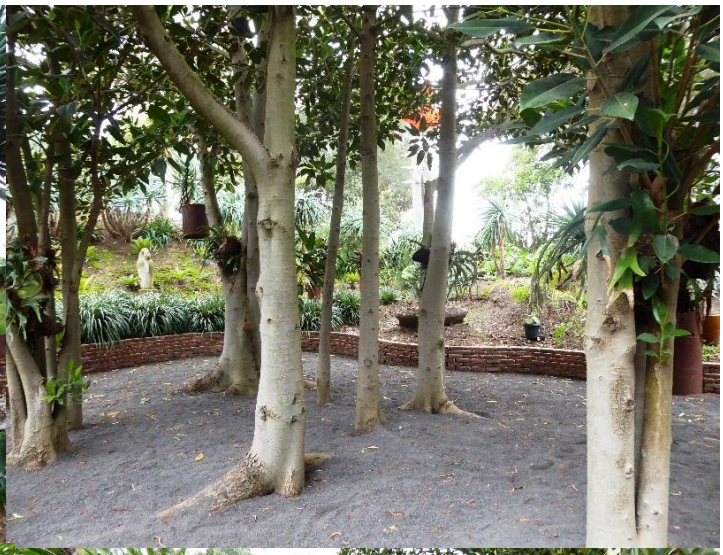
RORAIMA IS 16

COME AND CELEBRATE OUR 16TH BIRTHDAY WITH US.



Friday 1st September to Monday 4th September 9am to 5pm
Roraima Gardens open 9am to 4pm

20% Off All Plants*

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10% Off All Pots & Decorative Potted Plants

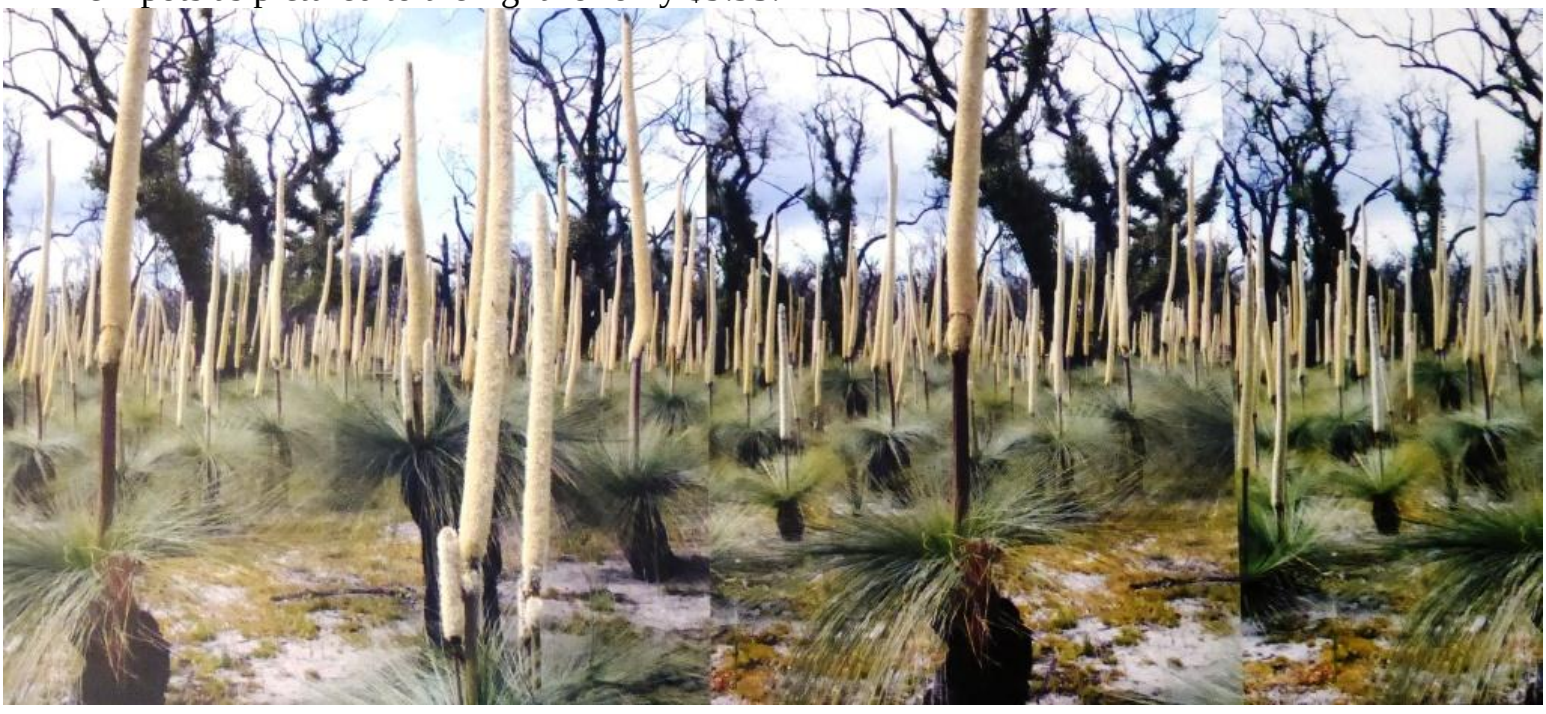
*Discount excludes online purchases and some advanced trees

RORAIMA PLANT PROFILE

Xanthorrhoea sp.

Xanthorrhoea - commonly known as Grasstree is one of Australia's favorite plants. There are approximately 30 species of these architectural plants around Australia. A very slow growing plant supposedly only growing 1cm of trunk per year locally in their native habitat. The name Xanthorrhoea is from the Greek word xanthos meaning yellow, rheo meaning to flow (like the resin that comes from the plants).

Pictured below is the mass of Xathorrhoea australis in flower after the 2006 bushfire in the Brisbane Ranges. You would very rarely see this many Xanthorrhoea in flower at the same time. Thanks to a staff member for the image taken several months after that bushfire. Pictured left is the 15 year old Xanthorrhoea that produced the seed that our plants were grown from It currently has a trunk approximately 30cm high. Many thanks to Mr Frost for this image. Prefers well drained soil. Can tolerate poor soils providing there is minimal phosphorus present. An old myth which some say works is to sprinkle dark brown sugar around the base of the plant at the beginning of each season. This feeds the fungus that helps sustain the plant. This has been tried by a couple of staff members who have had success. Available in 14cm pots as pictured to the right for only $9.95.



SPRING SENSATIONS

Dacrycarpus dacrydioides

If you want a plant that most people have not seen, here it is. Rarely available in nurseries in Australia is this New Zealand native commonly known as Kahikatea.
Pictured to the left is an image of some branches of Roraima's Dacrycarpus dacrydioides which after 8 years growth in a pot is approximately 3.5m high. They are a very slow growing tree that in their native habitat can reach 55-65 metres and have 1m wide trunk. Here in Victoria you can expect them to reach approximately 9m height after 20 years. There are both male and female trees. The female trees bear bright red fruit in Autumn while the male trees have pollen bearing cones.
Juvenile trees display rusty foliage and drooping needles. As the tree ages, the foliage becomes greener like the mature tree image to the far left. Preferring part shade a rich damp soil or regularly watered and away from strong winds. Available in 20cm pots as pictured to the right for only $40each.
Come and have a look at Roraima's.

Iris - Assorted Miniature Bearded

A

B

C

D

E

Certainly a well-known flower to us all is the Bearded Iris. Roraima have a variety of small Bearded Iris available this year. Such a beautiful Spring flower to have in your garden. Preferring full sun/part shade and a rich free-draining soil. These 5 images show the varieties that we currently have in stock. They grow to approximately 15-20cm height and will multiply readily. These should flower extremely well this year after having such a cold Winter. Available in 14cm pots for only $9.95each.

G

Strelitzia nicolai

Commonly known as The Giant White Bird of Paradise/Wild Banana and native to South Africa is the Strelitzia nicolai. Very similar looking to a banana plant (Ensete –Abyssinian banana) but with tougher foliage which just adds to the positive points about this plant. An evergreen plant that has cream and black flowers close to the leaf base will provide all year round interest. Known to reach up to 6m height and 3.5m wide over time, it prefers full sun/part shade and a free-draining soil. Pictured to the right are the 20cm pots currently for sale at $27.50 each.

Strelitzia reginae

Native to South Africa and commonly known as Bird of Paradise/Crane Flower is this drought tolerant (once established) architectural plant. Providing year-round sculpture in the garden and then the orange/blue flowers for lengthy periods, this is an easy to maintain plant that we are all after. The only labor is cutting the dead flowers off. Pictured below is a group of these Strelitzias that receive extreme west Summer sun. The Strelitzia reginae can handle full sun/part shade and prefers a free-draining soil. Birds love the nectar that is produced. Available in 20cm pots as pictured to the right for $27.50 each.

Senecio serpens

Native to South Africa and one of the many blue chalksticks available is this succulent groundcover that forms a dense mat that assists in reducing the weeds. Not only a reduction in weeds, it provides a strong contrast that enhances the colors of other plants. Pictured to the left with the Strelitzia reginae, you can see how tightly clustered it is. Drought tolerant once established it prefers full sun/part shade and a free draining soil. Available in 14cm pots as pictured to the right for $5.95 each.

Aloe ‘Kelly Blue’

Another spectacular Aloe cultivar currently available is ‘Kelly Blue’. It flowers late Winter/Early Spring with its vibrant orange flower. The foliage of the ‘Kelly Blue’ is extraordinary year round, displaying red teethed edges and spotted rough leaves on both upper and lower sides. Preferring full sun/part shade, free draining soil and frost-free area this Aloe will multiply over time making its attractions larger in your pots and/or garden beds. Pictured to the left are Noelene Tomlinson’s Aloe ‘Kelly Blue’ the largest having a diameter of 30cms. Many thanks to Noelene for these images. Great colorful plant for the front of a garden bed. Available in 14cm pots as pictured to the right for only $14.95 each.

Castanospermum australe

Commonly known as Black Bean or Moreton Bay Chestnut and native to the east coast of Australia in upper New South Wales and Queensland is this tree that you may have seen as a bonsai in some nurseries where there are multiples of the tree in a small pot with the seeds on ground level. It is the only plant in the Castanospermum genus. When planted in the ground, the Castanospermum is known to reach 40 metres in upper New South Wales and Queensland, but here in cooler Victoria because of the cooler weather, it is more likely to only reach 8-12 metres height. Pictured to the left is a mature Castanospermum austral at the Geelong Botanic Gardens. Sprays of red and yellow flowers appear October/November then turn into large seed pods as pictured to the right. These plants were on our benches during the bad frosts we had in Lara this year and they survived! Very little damage to their foliage as you can see in the image to the right. This could be the tree you have been looking for. Still has leaves in Winter allowing you to have frost tender plants under the canopy. Preferring a well-drained soil and full sun/part shade. Available in 14cm pots for $9.95 or $20cm pots for $18.95each as pictured to the right.

Babiana sp

Babiana, native to South Africa and naturalized in Australia is part of the Iris family with approximately 80 different species. This is just one of those elegant bulbs. This Babiana has striking purple flowers that are long lasting and great as a cut flower. Preferring full sun-part shade and a rich free draining soil, they are available in 10cm pots as pictured to the right for only $9.95each.

Lychnis coronaris 'Alba'

Native to southeast Europe is this silver-grey foliage plant great for filling those spots around the garden. Bearing a white flower late Spring/Summer the Rose Campion as it is commonly known suits all soil types. It is a low maintenance drought tolerant plant once established. Prefers full sun/part shade and will grow 30cm height with the flower stems reaching approximately 80-100cm height. Available in 20 cm pots as pictured to the right for only $19.95 each.

Spring jobs to do

Now that the weather is warming up you, need to prepare your garden for the approaching Summer. **Weeding**, **Feeding** and **Mulching** are the maintenance jobs to be done. Spring is also a good time of the year for planting. The soil is warmer and gives the plant a couple of months prior to the warmer weather to try and establish roots lower in the ground. Always remember to pay attention to newly planted plants over Summer, even if they have been in the ground for a few months. Their first Summer is the most critical time for them as if those roots are not established enough, you may lose a plant that has been planted for 6 months. Make sure enough mulch is applied around the plants to try and keep some of the moisture in the ground.

NOTE: At the time of publication of this newsletter, the plants listed are either currently for sale or ready to take orders for plants expected to be available soon. If you are reading an older newsletter, please understand we may not have all of these featured plants in stock.

Look us up on Instagram. Lots of images for you to peruse through. Join us. Please understand we are using Instagram to show you images and not answer questions. Questions will be answered via email or facebook.

Don't forget to have a look at us on Facebook. Keep your eyes open for new plants and **special offers**.

We hope you enjoy your Spring gardening and should you have any queries, do not hesitate to contact us at Roraima Nursery. Be it in person, online or by phone, we will do our very best to look after you and your gardening needs.

Happy gardening,
From all at Roraima Nursery