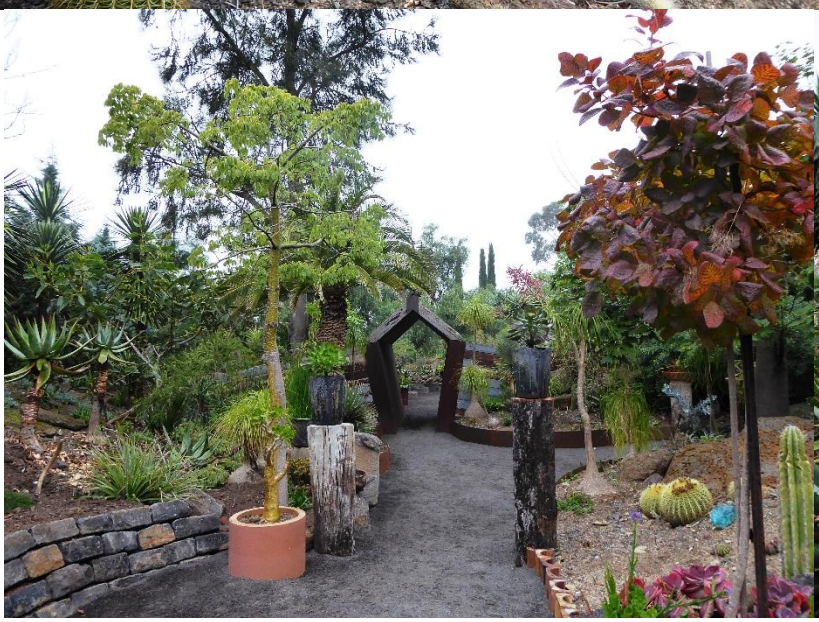
RORAIMA NURSERY

Newsletter No 24 **Winter 2017**

20 Swan Street Lara Vic 3212
Ph: 03 5282 8704
email: enquiries@roraimanursery.com.au

Roraima's Display Garden has now been open since late April. If you haven't been in for a wander through the astonishing garden, here are some images to entice you!



Being Winter, the vibrant Aloes/Kumaras/Aloiampelos/Aloidendrons will be out in flower. Who said Winter was dull? Not at Roraima Nursery! Our Garden always has some blooms brightening the scenic paradise. The gardens open 9am - 4pm. The Flame Tree Café is currently open 7 days a week 9am – 4:30pm.

RORAIMA PLANT PROFILE

Aloidendron barberae

Previously known as Aloe barberae, this sculptural tree has such a textured trunk that it is certain to catch the eye. The candelabra-shaped clusters of orange flowers above the rosettes of leaves during Winter, adds yet another feature to this beautiful plant. Native to South Africa and commonly known as the Giant Tree Aloe, it is a slow growing tree that can reach up to 15 - 20m height and is Africa's largest Aloidendron. Pictured to the left is Roraima's Aloidendron barberae which is approximately 65 years old and currently

stands at 10m high and 6m wide. Nectar loving birds enjoy this tree during Winter. It is a year round attraction with its pre-historic sculptured look, and can be a focal point in your garden or even be containerised and with its growth successfully restricted in large pots. It is available in a range of sizes beginning at $34.95 for 20cm pots, $90 for 30cm pots, $250 for 50cm pots up to some advanced trees that are currently available.

WINTER WONDERS

Aeonium ‘Sunburst’

Here is a very reasonably priced plant to brighten up your Winter days in the garden. Aeonium ‘Sunburst’ adds that splash of instant color immediately. No waiting for the flower to provide color like most plants, this Aeonium has striking colors with its foliage 365 days a year! Most Aeoniums are Winter growers, which explains why during the hot Summers you may see the rosettes close up to avoid the heat. While preferring part sun to obtain its striking colors as pictured top left, it can nevertheless be grown in full sun but will be paler as pictured lower left. Free-draining soil or raised beds are best for this Aeonium. Like all Aeoniums it does not like the frost, so a position under an evergreen tree is also suitable. This Aeonium does not multiply as rapidly as others like ‘Emerald Carpet’, ‘Velour’ or ‘Zwartkop’. Aeonium ‘Sunburst’ can reach 35-40cm in diameter. It is available in 14cm pots as pictured to the right for only $14.95.

Chasmanthe floribunda

Commonly known as the African Flag and native to South Africa, this member of the Iris family is very easy to grow. It can have a mass of spikes of hot orange blooms from late Winter to mid Spring after only a couple of years growth. It prefers a full sun/part shade position in a rich free draining soil. The only care that is needed is feeding when it dies down and then again when it is in growing season. It is available in 20cm pots as pictured to the right for only $18.95 each.

Rosmarinus officinalis prostratus group

syn. Rosmarinus officinalis prostrata

A hardy, fast growing groundcover plant that is also very useful in the kitchen. Compact and evergreen this plant displays blue flowers for several months of the year. It is a perfect cascading plant for those in search of a plant to grow over their retaining walls. Commonly known as Rosemany and native to the Mediterranean region, you can never have enough of this herb in your kitchen. Preferring full sun/part shade, it does well in all soil types. It is available as pictured to the right in 14cm pots for only $10.95.

Ruscus aculeatus

Who would not want one of these plants in their garden? Commonly known as Butcher's broom, this is a low clumping evergreen shrub native to Europe and Asia. It was used for cleaning chimneys, repelling rats/mice, and was also known for its use in medieval folk medicine. This Ruscus has quite a history and is still seen today as a very appealing plant. It has flat shoots resembling leaves that are known as **cladodes,** and these make the plant look rather stiff. Preferring shade/morning sun, free draining rich soil, this plant could be the choice for an interesting plant in a shady area. It has small greenish/white flowers that are followed by bright red berries that appear late Autumn/early Winter. It grows to 1m in height and 1.2m in width. It is available in 14cm pots as pictured to the right for only $9.95.

Aloe mitriformis variegated

This is a small-growing, compact, clumping Aloe with vibrant yellow stripes that brighten up the garden. A vivid orange bloom appears during Winter attracting nectar-feeding birds to your garden. Preferring full sun/part shade and a free-draining soil, this is a very easy Aloe to grow. It is available in 10cm pots as pictured to the right for only $7.95 each.

Kalanchoe hilderbrandtii

Part of the Crassulaceae family, this beautiful Madagascan plant with its silver foliage is commonly known as Silver Teaspoons. It is sought after for the color and shape of its foliage rather than for its flowers, which are very small. It prefers a frost free area, free-draining soil, and full sun, and can reach a height of 60-90 cm. Pictured above is an image of Kalanchoe bracteata in one of our staff's garden which is very similar in foliage but has a red flower. This image gives you an idea of what size the Kalanchoe hilderbrandtii may reach in only a few years if grown in the right conditions. It is available in 10cm pots as pictured to the right for only $5.95.

Strobilanthes gossypinus

Commonly known as the Pewter bush or Persian Shield because of its stunning silver-green foliage, this easy to maintain compact shrub creates a great contrast in the garden. Its silvery texture is a real eye catcher when you see it. Native to Southern India, it prefers a free-draining rich soil, morning sun/light shade, and protection from frost. It is best in a drier soil during Winter rather than in a continuously wet position. Its flowers are pretty but limited in our cooler climate. It is available in 20cm pots as pictured to the right for only $24.95 each.

Montanoa bipinnatifida

Native to Central America, this colorful shrub is also known as the Mexican Tree Daisy. It has lovely daisy-like flowers in Winter which can help brighten the garden. It can reach 4-4.5m in height and width in time. Pictured to the left is Ricky and his Montanoa bipinnatifida which is approximately 5 years old. Preferring rich, well-drained soil and part shade, it needs to be out of strong wind to ensure it grows healthy. It is available in 20cm pots as pictured to the right for $24.95.

Yucca gloriosa 'Spanish Dancer'

A drought tolerant plant once established, this is a very easy plant to maintain in your garden or even in a pot on the patio. Preferring full sun and a free-draining soil, this variegated plant will survive well in clay soils, providing the area does not end up in pooled water over the wet season. One of our staff members has the pictured plant in their clay soil garden in full sun. The plant would be approximately 7 years old and currently stands at approximately 0.9m tall. It flowers in late Summer/early Autumn in this part of Victoria. Like all Yucca flowers, it has is a sweet scent that can generally be admired in early morning or late evening. It is available in 14cm pots as pictured to the right for only $13.95.

Words

Cladodes - a flattened leaf-like stem as used in the description of Ruscus aculeatus

WINTER GARDENING

At the beginning of the cooler season, it is always best to prepare for those cold nights ahead. For those of you in areas that receive frosts, it is suggested you prepare your tender plants like Brugmansia. This coats the plant with a fine film of protective cover that helps repel light frost. Another way to avoid damage from frost would be to cover with sheets of plastic or weed mat etc. the night before the frost.

Just a reminder to those of you with that weedy Oxalis pes-caprae. See our newsletter Winter 2015 on how to successfully remove it from your garden.

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

We have lots of images for you to peruse so please join us! Note we are using Instagram to show you images only. Please send any questions via email roraima.nursery@gmail.com 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 Winter gardening and should you have any queries, please 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