

SPRING 2011



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## NEWSLETTER



**S**pring has certainly sprung with warm sunny days and even some much needed rain. Needless to say the plants and lawns are loving it with flushes of new growth and flowers wherever you look.

To see a great spring garden in action plan a trip up to Dennis and Christine Nielsen's place on September 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> (10am -4.30pm). This fully landscaped yard is part of the Open Gardens Australia and features a wide variety of foliage and flower and shows how native and non-native plants can compliment each other. Lush Empire turf, large staghorns, newly raised pool deck area and native orchids are just a few of the reasons to spend a bit of time strolling through the peaceful surroundings. Admission price is \$6 as per O.G.A. The address is 59 Kunde st. Cornubia/Loganholme, 4130.



Nielsen's Marine  
Mates

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Lorikeet's Coffee Shop  
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With the warmer weather comes colour and Kangaroo Paws are an iconic native plant that will throw splashes of vibrant colours throughout your garden. There is a huge range of varieties these days including dwarf forms which grow well in pots. Simply plant into a very well drained soil, as they hate getting their roots wet for too long, and lots of sun. If your 'Roo Paws suffer from Ink disease, a blackening of the leaves, just prune them back low to the ground and they should reshoot quickly with nice fresh growth. Once established they will need no hand watering and just the occasional dose of fertiliser will keep them looking healthy and vibrant.



Aussie colour

Grevillea Wonderland Pink is a new arrival on the scene. This form of *Grevillea garewerdensis* grows to around 1 metre high by 1.5 metres wide and can be kept smaller with a light prune after flowering every year. It bears spider-like, pink flowers in winter and spring. An excellent addition to any garden and is recommended for attracting nectar feeding birds to your area. Plant into a well drained soil in full sun or part shade and feed with a good native fertiliser. As this plant is endangered in the wild you'll be doing your bit to conserve some native flora.



The birds love it

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We've just received a new supply of Proteas. These ever popular South African beauties will also need well drained, loose soil. If you don't have that they will grow equally well in pots. Prune back the shrub after flowering to promote a more compact, dense plant and feed with a native fertiliser. Even though they aren't native they require a low phosphorus food. Along with the Proteas we also have Leucadendrons, Leucospermums, Serrurias and Cordifoliums. The hard part will be choosing which one to get.



A big range

It's hard to walk past all the orchids in full flower at the front entrance and not buy one so if you don't want to miss out you'd better get in quick! There's a big range of varieties and colours including the impressive Phalaenopsis and Cymbidiums. They make the perfect gift for someone and we can even gift wrap them. Orchids do well in a shady, well lit area like a windowsill, bathroom or tied to a tree. To get the most from your plant dose it with Orchid Booster, a complete liquid food which is designed to promote strong growth and masses of brilliant blooms.



Don't miss out!

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Armeria, or Pink Thift, is a reliable groundcover that requires very little maintenance. Reaching about 10cm high by 40cm wide this water-wise plant is great in mass plantings, borders, pots or rockeries. In spring and summer the plant is smothered in vibrant pink flowers. It's quite a show! Plant into a well drained soil in full sun or part shade and fertilise with a good slow release fertiliser 3 or 4 times a year such as Organic Extra.



Pink, so much pink

So we've set up a bit of a Fruit Salad Bar down near the vege patch. On the table you'll find a range of tasty fruiting plants such as passionfruit, paw paws, gooseberries, youngberries and grapes. Growing your own is the best way to get fresh and flavourful fruit and it's a fun way to get the kids to eat healthy. Just ask one of our friendly staff to advise you of the best way to get the most out of your fruit trees including the right soil conditioners and fertilisers to use.



So tasty!

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Prorock is a local company that manufacture unique, artificial rock water features that are hard to distinguish from the real thing. These lightweight but durable pieces come in a huge range from ponds, cave cascades, and waterfalls. You can mix and match to create whatever look you want and there are also self contained units which are ready to go. We have brochures at the counter to give you an idea of what is available. Of course we sell the pumps you'll need and products to keep the water as clean as possible. A few water plants and fish will complete the picture. A Prorock water feature is a great addition to any garden and will help cool down your summer



Making a splash

As usual we have a huge range of pots. New lines are always arriving so a walk through the area might give you some great ideas. A wide variety of colours, sizes and styles will ensure we have the right pot for any situation. Some ranges are heavily discounted and if you can't find them just ask one of our staff. We're here to help you lift them as well so don't be afraid to sing out for assistance. Along with pots we have new statues and bird baths and if you keep walking you'll end up in the advanced tree area where you can buy an instant tree for only \$59.99.



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With the rain and the warmer weather plants will thrive but unfortunately so will the weeds. Having a supply of Zero on hand is always handy. This Glyphosate herbicide will knock over the unwanted weeds ,roots and all, within about a week. Mix in a bit of Spredmax for even better results.



Kill the little nasties

New to the area is the Logan Food Gardeners. This group connects residents who love growing food in their backyards. To find out more go to [www.loganfoodgardeners.org](http://www.loganfoodgardeners.org)

Why not make a day of it? Have breakfast or lunch at Lorikeet's Coffee Shop (38061313) and then pop into our aquarium (38014222) to say hello to Nemo and all his friends.



What a clown!

**Happy gardening all!** .....Eliot Holzworth