

BMCS Plant Nursery Report 2020/2021

The last year has again proved to be very challenging for the plant nursery, after surviving the previous year's fires, this year we had Covid as the main challenge.

Covid restrictions forced many changes to the nursery's normal practices with reduced numbers of volunteers able to work on site simultaneously. Much of the work was completed by volunteers working at the nursery alone, missing out on our collective morning tea sessions! The markets, our main outlet for selling plants were also closed, so we switched to selling plants "online". This proved to be very successful as we sold over \$10,000 worth of plants to customers desperate to get out into their gardens due to the Covid restrictions.

With the Blackheath Community Market closed, the nursery switched to selling plants at the Blackheath Growers Market which re-opened in August last year. This has been very popular move as we sell more plants at the Growers market than we did previously at the Lawson Magpie and the Blackheath Community Markets combined.

The major projects for the year were: -

- Developing new display labels (Figure 1) for the markets with pictures and growing information to assist buyers not familiar with native plants.
- Attaching labels with QR codes (Figure 2) to every plant that we sell so that customers know what plants they have purchased.
- Completing the transition to the new air pruning plant trays started the previous year which increased the capacity of the shade house and reduced our workload.

These changes to nursery operations have resulted in the capacity of the nursery shade house being increased by over 30% and plant sales increasing 40% to \$22,000.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to the many volunteers who supported the nursery throughout all the Covid restrictions enabling the nursery to produce all the wonderful plants we have sold in the last year.

Paul Irwin

Plant Nursery Manager

Acacia floribunda

Sally Wattle

Location	Sun/light shade
Type	Large shrub/small tree
Dimensions	Height 4.0-6.0m Width 3.0m
Flowering	Aug-Sep Flowers - yellow
Maintenance	A fast-growing shrub/tree that grows in most well drained soils. Prune to maintain size/shape
Habitat	Open forest/creek banks. Coast to mountains around Sydney.



Image Courtesy: Waratah Software

Figure 1 New retail plant display label

Acacia floribunda



Aug-18-2020

Blue Mountains Conservation Society

Figure 2 Pot labels