



# The WW Wire

What the New Year brings to you will depend a great deal on what **YOU** bring to the New Year. *Vern McLellan*

February 2014

**Did you know:** Tomatoes are the world's most popular fruit! More than 60 million tons are produced every year. That's 16 million tons more than number 2 fruit...the banana

## Weeding Women Take a Bow

**YAY! .....Its 2014, our silver anniversary year.**

On 16<sup>th</sup> September 1989, Weeding Women began! It was just before Gardening Australia and Burke's Backyard came into the market, which marked the explosion in gardening in the commercial world. Suddenly everyone wanted a beautiful garden. The back yard came into its own. But who would do all those gardens? Weeding Women!

Before long, there were Mediterranean pizza ovens, back yard blitzes and everyone wanted to "keep up with the Jones's"

In 1991 Paul Keating told us that "Australia needed a recession" and retrospectively – we did.

Householders "tightened their belts" and most of our clients cancelled. We slowly clawed our way back and although we have seen booms and busts since; we refuse to dwell on the hardships. Instead we remain positive, focused, looking forward with commitment and open to suggestion. Always endeavouring to be flexible and to adapt and adjust to our market.

This year we all have a lot to celebrate. There isn't one of us who doesn't deserve to be congratulated. Because with every weed that you and everyone else pulls, we have contributed to and still are, contributing to our great history.

Well done Weeding Women! Lets hold our heads high and be proud. We all deserve it. Save the date for a party in September.

### How to move a Day Lily:

Dig the clump up of Day Lily. You can see just how easy they are to dig up. You can even divide them like that, and you'll end up with more than one plant. Stick it into a lovely sunny spot in the garden.

Day Lillies are a dream to transplant!



Relaxing after a hard year of gardening Christmas 2013 celebrations at "The Garden"



Yvette on the move ..... wheelbarrow and all.



It's all in the bag .. thanks to Emma and her team



Is that a bug? ... Rachel's team gets stuck in



Bianca... where do we start!

No rest for Chris and Kara

Belinda's old work boots with vincas and gumboots with parsley. In the background an Elkhorn in an old wooden cray pot and flowering bromeliad



## Good ol' Vincas



Who wouldn't want to have Vincas in their garden. They put on such a fantastic, continuous show of colour throughout the

hot summer and well into autumn. The annual Vinca (*Cartharanthus roseus*) originated in Madagascar and is often referred to as the Madagascar periwinkle. It has the same common name as 2 other plants with different characteristics, but with similar leaves and

flowers- *Vinca major* and *Vinca minor*- (both are perennial vines used as ground covers). Vincas are a hardy small shrub to

Ground cover



the height of 25-30cm preferring full sun and hot conditions, although they will tolerate some shade. Vincas needs little care- water and rich well drained soil are the only major requirements. They are self cleaners so no deadheading is required. Vincas will flower 4-8 weeks after planting and to keep the blooms coming liquid feed once a month. If the soil becomes too wet, the plant will have trouble absorbing nitrogen, iron and magnesium and the leaves will turn yellow. Vincas can sometimes be attacked by spider mite, white fly and aphids, but are fairly pest resistant. Diseases are not common, however stem rot can sometimes be a problem. Vincas look great in hanging baskets and pots or mass planted as a border. All parts of the plant are poisonous if eaten

## The Siangwe Group.. Gets our help



Through an organization called **KIVA**, the Weeding Women support team were able to make available a loan to the Siangwe Group of

Bungoma South Kenya. This loan helped the group to buy hybrid seed and fertiliser for the cultivation of maize, millet and sorghum. Through sheer determination and commitment the group has now paid back their loan. We will now use that money to make another loan, helping someone else start their own business.



## Disease of the Month Cypress Canker



Cypress Canker is a fungal disease. Spores enter a plant through either a natural crack in the bark or by wounds caused by borers and other insects or poor gardening practices. Spores can also be carried by the wind, on

the feet of birds and insects. The fungus affects the sap conducting system of the plant, eventually causing death of the branch or main trunk above the wound.

Older trees are more susceptible, however any tree that is stressed by insufficient water or poor soil nutrients, can also become susceptible. Conifers planted in rows tend to be more affected by the disease This is caused by "rain splash"— spores are washed down the tree or splashed by rain

The most common symptoms include the branches dying rapidly, yellowing almost over night .Close inspection will reveal a brown powdery substance in the splits in the bark and resin oozing from the branch. Once the tree has turned brown

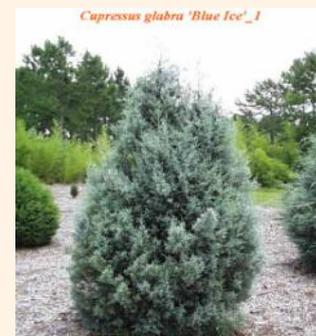
there is nothing that can be done to resurrect it and it should be removed. With a tree in about 30% decline, it can be chemically sprayed or injected with an active ingredient of copper oxychloride or phosphorous acid.

The most sensible approach to Cypress Canker is to choose the disease resistant conifers which



include prostrate **Book Leaf Conifer** (*Platyclusus orientalis* sy. *Thuja orientalis*) a beautiful small specimen to 2.5 m.

**Chaparral** (*Cupressus glabra*) with its blue mint foliage to 4m or the prostrate **Shore Juniper** (*Juniperus conferta*)



## Food for thought...

"Knowing that someone out there wishes the best for you is enough to give you drive to achieve your dream." - Sammy, a Kiva borrower in Kenya