

Nurseries setting Standards

Applying the philosophy of best management practice and continuous improvement

By Michael Danelon: CNP Specialist, Nursery Industry Development Officer - NGINA

Jamberoo Native Nursery is located at Jamberoo in the Illawarra region of the New South Wales South Coast. The nursery specialises in the collection and growing of provenance-specific material for revegetation projects and land rehabilitation throughout the greater Sydney region.

The nursery also produces a general range of native plants grown to suit ornamental plantings for the landscape and retail gardening market.

Jamberoo Native Nursery works closely with its sister company, Southern Bushland Repair, which provides a complete revegetation contracting service including preparation of Vegetation Management Plans, planting-out, maintenance, monitoring and reporting on revegetation projects.

From the outset, Jamberoo Native Nursery's focus was on growing native plants for revegetation and domestic planting options to exotic species. The initial concept and nursery was within

a backyard but, with the mindset of continuous improvement which has since developed, a reputation for being a consistent and specialist supplier of natives and provenance specific plant material.

The nursery has been developed with the assistance from many individuals and information/services supplied from the Nursery and Garden Industry container levy revenue service to adopt industry Best Management Practice.

Participation in Waterwork® workshops, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) training, and adoption of industry Best Management Practice guidelines such as NIASA® (Nursery Industry Accreditation Scheme Australia) and EcoHort®

Environmental Management System have allowed the business to identify its needs and prepare for future expansion and challenges.

An awareness of the Nursery and Garden Industries research and development programs and extension of this information has seen the nursery work toward adopting NIASA into their business which was achieved in February 2007. The key issues of NIASA are in adopting a proactive - rather than reactive - approach in considering the operation of the business which manages resources to create an environment suitable for optimum plant production whilst managing weeds, pest and diseases.



While this is a photo taken many years ago, many of the current staff remain due to the culture created by the owners Geoff and Kate

The achievement and maintenance of NIASA has been an ongoing process of nursery management and evolutionary improvements to the facilities and processes.

EcoHort allows a focus on sustainability of the business and resource management in addition to promoting their strong connection to environmental stewardship in the operation and focus of the business improving the broader environment.

The development of a water recycling and disinfection system utilising collected waste water, filtration and ultra-violet radiation to control pathogens in the irrigation water has been the major addition to the nursery sustainability of water and nutrients albeit with operational costs for power.

Since the water recycling system has been installed, it has allowed the nursery to measure the amount of run-off generated from irrigation which can be captured, monitored, treated and reused to demonstrate environmental management principles and sustainability.

The owners and directors, Geoff Bailey and Kate Malfroy, employ staff to fulfil the diversity of the business needs; a combination of formally qualified and experienced employees working toward gaining horticultural/environmental qualifications are present within the business. Under the key direction of Geoff, Jamberoo Native Nursery invests



Nursery grounds. Quality stock has always been a priority - grow well and grow it once.

in the professional development of their staff offering them career opportunities, fulfilling challenges but most importantly job satisfaction and security.

Jamberoo Native Nursery is a well equipped propagation and production nursery operating to industry Best Management Practice. They have won multiple awards for best medium sized production in NSW and ACT and best medium sized production nursery NGIA in 2012.

Their objective to implement exceptional staff management, business development, nursery hygiene, production efficiency and environmental management are the driving principles of continuous improvement and risk management for the nursery industry.



Grasses! Jamberoo Native Nursery - some of the excellent stock produced within the nursery