

Helleborus Down Under: a Real Winter Plant (No 7 on the farm Gate Trail map)

(Extract from the ABC 702 Radio Segment transcript. An interview with Ingrid Nemetz from Helleborus Downunder - 13 Mountain Lagoon Road, Bilpin.)

A bit of background information

Nemetz Nursery has been established since 1952 when the late Mr Ludwig Nemetz came over from Austria and settled in North Richmond. He worked as a fettler on the 'Pansy' which was the steam train that used to run from Richmond to Kurrajong, (it closed around 1956 due to wash aways along the Richmond line).

He also started a nursery growing citrus as well as vegetable crops. He then moved to Bilpin (18 acres) where he grew citrus and stone and pome fruit trees, (he grew approx. 12000 trees) & about 70% of orchards in the Bilpin and surrounding area where supplied by him.

Did Ingrid have a background in Horticulture?

No, actually Ingrid was a nurse and she had been looking after Ludwig - she had married his son, Robert, in 1976, & she was talked into taking over the nursery & keeping it going, something she said that she had absolutely no concept of. He had taught her to bud and graft & so she started growing all kinds of plants.

Why did Ingrid choose Hellebores?

Ingrid said that she had been introduced to these wonderful plants & had grown roses, and decided that it was time to specialize, so approx 20 years ago she started what she calls her 'love affair with Helleborus'. Since then she breeds them & of course sells them all over Australia, as well as giving talks to garden clubs & she has quiet a number of the rarer species.

The nursery isn't open all year?

The nursery is open from June to Sept and you can get lot's of information and of course see them growing.

This most beautiful flower springs to life in Winter. Ingrid, your host, will tell you all about this fantastic flower. How to look after it and how to grow it.

Your journey to the Helleborus Nursey at Bilpin (turn left off Bells Line of Road into Mountain Lagoon Road) will take you through some of the best picturesque country in the Hawkesbury.

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