

# MOTHER'S DAY



Karinga Nursery owner Roy Schirmer is set to bring a smile to mums across Australia with his chrysanthemum flowers this Mother's Day.



Mums Natalia Kapranov, Addie Schirmer and Sandra Cameron surrounded by Karinga's chrysanthemums.

## Splashing out for mum on big day

Keysborough's Karinga Nursery is set to bring a splash of colour to mums all around the country this Mother's Day.

A family business, Karinga Nursery has been growing flowers in Keysborough for more than 40 years and produces more than 1 million pots a year.

With its flowers destined for stores across Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Queensland, Mother's Day is one of the special event nursery's busiest times of year, with the breathtaking chrysanthemum flower at the top of

the most wanted list.

With roughly 100,000 pots of chrysanthemums set to depart Karinga in preparation for this Mother's Day, owner Roy Schirmer contributes not only the flower's beauty but also its conveniently timed bloom to its continuing popularity.

"The chrysanthemum is a traditional flower, and it's what they call a short day plant," Roy said.

"So, as the days get shorter, the plants initiate flower buds and coincidentally flowers for Mother's Day week.

"It's because we live in the southern hemisphere that it flowers this week ... it doesn't do that in the northern hemisphere."

While chrysanthemum flowers are available in a wide range of colours from gold, maroon, bronze, violet and even purple, Roy admits that the traditional colours are usually the most sought after tones to celebrate the mothers of Australia.

"We find colours such as white and pink are most popular because they're traditional," Roy said. "However, there are the decorative types that

are also popular later on for people who would rather have a collection for their gardens.

"They'll go for colours like oranges, pinks and reds - I guess you could call them chrysanthemum collectors."

While Karinga's chrysanthemums are set to appear in supermarket giants such as Coles and Woolworths in the lead up to Mother's Day, potted chrysanthemums will last for weeks following mum's special day if kept indoors, watered when dry and kept in a well-lit spot.