



Haven – Garden Notes

We bought the land in 2012. Our basis for the new house and garden was that everything had to accommodate our ability and mobility for at least the next 10 years. That would see us both well into our 70's. The block is 540m² and flat. We are adjacent to the Gungaherra Grasslands and across the road from the community gardens.

My flower garden incorporates both natives and non-native plants. I love buying new, different and interesting plants and enjoy challenges such as growing a hoyo outside and having five healthy citrus trees which, among other things, provides the fruit for home made marmalades. I endeavour to have interest 12 months of the year be it colour, flower, shape and/or foliage. In the middle of winter there are cyclamen and camellias flowering and the shapes of the bare trees are fascinating. I am often in a dilemma when going to plant new acquisitions – where to fit them in!

All of the flower beds have been built up using layers of material added to the top of the beds. I have used predominantly mushroom compost and some cow manure. The only digging done is when planting or moving plants. Our subsoil is a clay like rock that allows water to drain through. Some original tree plantings required a jack hammer to dig the holes! It hasn't impeded the development of the general plantings and the trees are thriving. My garden is crowded with a wide variety of plants which necessitates me using my artistic skills. I enjoy talking to passers by who stop to enjoy my efforts.

John and I love roses but they must have a good perfume. Our ten rose bushes provide a long period of visual and scented delight.

In the back yard, as well as the compulsory real grass patch, there are a chook run, vegetable garden (to compliment our plot at the community garden), fruit trees (apple and pear on dwarfing stock), compost bins, a shed and a large hard surfaced area to entertain. The chooks are run on a deep litter of saw dust which breaks down and with their droppings provides an excellent compost additive about every six months. Using the two gardens John is able to grow a wide variety of vegetables, fruit, herbs and perennials such as asparagus and rhubarb. We usually end up with far more than we can eat!

We love our garden and look forward to sharing it with our visitors.

Liz (and John) Myszka 2018