

Wanna Wanna Garden  
149 Wanna Wanna Road, Carwoola

Opened 11-12 November 2017

In 1859, Samuel Taylor selected at Wanna Wanna off the Captain's Flat road and raised a family of nine children in the slab hut, which still stands and which has been dated around 1830. It isn't known whether any garden remnants are from this period but the *Pinus pinea* adjacent is of considerable age.



The present garden was founded by Florence (Florrie) Powell (nee Finch, aunt of the actor Peter Finch who spent his holidays at Wanna Wanna and who trained here as a jackaroo to prepare for his riding in the Shiralee) in the early 1920s. It is laid out in traditional Southern Tablelands style with a central carriage turning circle at the end of the original *Pinus radiata* drive, a wisteria walk leading to ant-bed tennis court, plus a kitchen garden and orchard as well as a shrubbery.

Areas are demarcated by substantial hedges acting as wind breaks and originally most of the garden was surrounded by Cyprus to protect against the prevailing winds. Original plantings of Box, Laurel, Holly, Quince and *Prunus* survive. The present owners have attempted to integrate new plantings within the original design. The garden is designed to survive with minimal watering but many landmark trees and some areas of hedging have been lost during the last drought.

Roses have always been an important component of the garden and at present there are approximately 200, both old and new, shrub and rambling: flowering starts in early October (Canary Bird) and the last (Macartney) flowers for Christmas.

The most recent area of the garden is to the east, developing the area around a water hole and the infrequently flowing creek. Here a meandering path leads past heritage roses towards the paddocks, over the creek and back to the shrubbery. A recent challenge has been a wombat taking up residence under one of the bridges across the creek and insisting on his rights. Resistance is useless and the owners are endeavouring to compromise with its demands.

Libbie and Mike Hillman 2017