

# GARDEN NOTES

## ANNE'S AND DANA'S

### GARDENS

#### GIRALANG



#### ANNE'S NOTES

We bought this house on a full moon in May 1986. Giralang was the outer suburbs. We heard cows mooing all day on CSIRO land (now Crace) and mopokes calling all night.

The front garden had several native trees- mostly Hakea's, and a Paperbark. Also the inevitable Cotoneaster. The back was all lawn with a few young fruit trees.

Over the years I dug up tracts of lawn to make veggie beds.

There was a pergola along the back of the house with a kiwi vine-(yes just the one which fruited prolifically ) and a Wisteria. The deck was built in 2000 after which I decided to take down the rickety pergola. One hit with a hammer and the whole lot came tumbling down.

The veg garden was always my priority and the front garden was sorely neglected until one day I cleaned out the chook house and spread it over the west bed which sprang into life as you can see by the size of the Laburnum. In spring it is a mass of fluffy white balls.

The veg garden became one big mound for a few years with herbs and flowers all mixed in. It looked lovely but hard work to keep from treading on everything.

I had 13 fruit trees until the fruit flies came in hoards so they are now whittled down to 6. On a visit to the Yass Community Garden we were introduced to wicking beds which at the time I thought ridiculous, but watching Sophie from Gardening Oz make one I decided to have a go. I ended up with 7 in various dodgy old crates and a tea chest which didn't take long to fall to pieces, so they were all removed and now I have two apple crates for the veggies. Life is easier when you don't have to keep bending down!

A few years ago I joined a garden club and we visited many and various beautiful gardens which were a source of wonderment. So many people in their 80's and even 90's managing large gardens, and so knowledgeable.

I've learned a lot over the years but I still have a long way to go.

## ABOUT DANA'S GARDEN

Dana's garden is a vegetable lover's dream. She grows enough to gather all year round.

Her plants are prolific due largely to her vast knowledge and general ability to keep pests and diseases away without having to resort to chemicals.

Five different types of lettuce, artichokes, egg plants, various peppers, peas, beans, broccoli, a range of cabbages are just some of her produce at this time in May.

Herbs, berries, grapes and many fruit trees as well.

She is generous with giving me seedlings. I had giant tomatoes this year.

Thank you for coming- we hope you enjoy your visit to our gardens.

## GARDEN OWNERS

Anne Norris (and Dana)