

GARDEN NOTES
BRADDON BOUNTY
67 ELIMATTA STREET
BRADDON



HISTORY

We have been looking after this little piece of ground in Braddon for 12 years. At the outset, a garden that would provide seasonally was at the forefront of our minds and to this end, the garden has been substantially altered since our arrival. Out with the cotoneaster, privet and lawn and in with fruit and flowers. The bounty includes flowers, fruit, vegetables and water and is for human occupants and other creatures.

FEATURES

The garden is 845 meters square and encircles the 1924 house with pathways made of 'Canberra reds' and rocks salvaged from the original garden as well as purchased pavers. It's an organic garden both in its management as well as look, as plants self-sow and erupt through the warmer months. A predominantly no dig garden, the naturalistic look is tempered by formal elements such as espaliered fruit trees, clipped evergreen forms and interest is added through artworks and objects. The colour purple underlies all garden beds, sometimes with hot colours and other times with pastels and yellow. To hear the morning bird chorus, see the skinks scamper or meet the possum on its nightly wander is what makes this garden a joy.

The garden encompasses many sustainable features that feed and nurture its inhabitants. There is a chicken run, beehive, raised vegetable gardens, water tanks and over 40 fruiting trees. Many fruit trees are espaliered and most of the fruiting trees are dwarf varieties- in pots and in the ground. We have 4 rotating compost bins and a bumper work farm. Weeds are used to make weed tea and there are many perennial herbs used for cooking, preserving and herbal teas. Thought is given to companion planting both in the vegetable patch and flower and fruit gardens. Just shy of 10,000 litres of stored rainwater is used for the ground and potted plants. Rarely is town water used

for this purpose, but the 2019 spring has seen us using town water as early as late November. A 9.5 kWh solar power system and 10 kWh battery assists with electricity generation and storage and helps charge the electric car. We have achieved a fossil fuel free lifestyle with a recent conversion of our heating and cooking system from gas to electrical.

Having moved from a garden that suffered during the millennium drought we desired a garden with could cope with extreme heat conditions and lower rainfall. We continue to assess this through careful plant selection, through rainfall storage and generous mulching. We use various water saving/use strategies, such as watering plants in the spring/summer when rainfall is expected (we call it the double dump), collecting shower, laundry and kitchen water, being mindful of watering in the morning and stretching out watering to encourage plants to develop deep roots. Most pruning materials are returned to the soil surface to provide mulch, habitat and soil nutrition. Use of this mulch material can cause many seedlings to emerge and it can be difficult to remove little seedlings, but we are getting better at recognizing keepers or potting up others to give away. Plant prunings are often propagated into new plants and the box hedges are an example of propagating our own plants.

An artist's studio resides in the garden and provides an inspiring atmosphere for its occupants. A lazy stroll around the garden, pulling a weed or two or checking on the chickens is a regular ritual that revitalizes the senses and provides an opportunity for contemplation.

We hope you enjoy wandering the garden and seeing the pretty and productive potential of a suburban block.

GARDEN OWNERS

Michele and Andrew England