

GARDEN NOTES
BOB'S GARDEN
72 ELLENDON STREET,
BUNGENDORE



OPEN
GARDENS
CANBERRA

14-15 NOVEMBER
2020

HISTORY

72 Ellendon Street is a large, essentially flat, block of just under 3000 sq. m. with a small fenced front entry garden that is intended to focus mostly on natives and some flowering plants. Two large ash trees are in the yard and eucalypts are located adjacent to the street. The house is situated near the front of the block and is surrounded by bricked court yards. A bricked area on the east side of the house is sheltered from late in the day summer heat, has a great wisteria cover and is fine for entertaining. A large back yard is edged with oak and eucalyptus trees with planted mounded areas either side of a large open yard. At the rear of the block is a vegetable garden and a work/storage shed.

The raised mounds and a ground level area in the central back have a wide variety of roses, about 80 in all, inherited from the previous owners. An open area on the left, beyond the roses, is now planted with natives and other flowers sown in a raised area that previously held several old and dying acacia trees. Opposite that, under the oak trees it is hoped to plant North American spring flowers as they become available. A dog running track circles the edge of the garden. It has been created by Callie, a year old border collie. We have just added an exercise pool with hopes of greater fitness.

We have owned the block now for about 5 years and the recent drought was a major challenge. The current forecast of closer to normal rainfall is looked to with great hope.

The deep winter frosts, Bungendore is essentially a frost hollow when compared with Queanbeyan or Canberra, is somewhat limiting as to plants that can survive our winters and takes some experimentation. As an older individual it would be impossible to maintain the garden without the able assistance of Grant, our gardener. The fruit trees serve to feed the birds.

Why is gardening important to me? I grew up on 6 acres of wooded hill slope in southern Indiana. I have always enjoyed plants, nature, the out-of doors. Not to be surrounded by space and growing things would seem a strange and barren way of life. I may not be good at it, I may not water enough, I have certainly killed more than a few plants. But, plants bring birds and other wild things. I wouldn't want to live without a garden, but I could do without the weeds.

GARDEN OWNER

Bob Nicoll