

GARDEN NOTES
MARKLOW
10 DONOGHOE PLACE
BUNGENDORE



14 & 15
NOVEMBER 2020

We moved to Bungendore in 2016 with the intention of creating an all **AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANT GARDEN** on a block which had no established garden except for a couch grass and weed cover. Eradicating the couch grass turned out to be a challenge which necessitated the use of GLYCOSPHATE ('ROUND-UP') and much weeding with a fork. No other weed killers were used.

The gardens which we had created on previously owned properties were predominantly **EXOTIC PLANT GARDENS**, one in a Canberra suburb & another in the Burra Creek Valley.

Our reason for this time wanting to create an Australian Native Plant Garden was to encourage birds, lizards & other native fauna into our garden. We planted in excess of 30 wattles which gave us a wonderful display of golden flowers in September. Another benefit of growing wattles was to fix nitrogen in the soil thereby helping our soil-fertility. Apart from wattles, we have planted Eucalypt, Grevillea, Xanthorrhoea, Crowea, Correa, Callistemon and many others.

It has been most satisfying seeing the tube stock planted from 2016 onward, over a period of only 4 years, develop and grow into adult plants - the Eucalypts are now about 10 to 15 meters high.

We hope that visitors to our garden will be encouraged to grow more native plants themselves, especially as gardening gradually becomes easier as the seedlings become established and with the use of tanbark mulch, there is less water needed and it will be noticed an increase of Australian Native Birds visiting regularly.

There is a section in the garden devoted to vegetables & fruit trees.

GARDEN OWNERS

Bruce and Lyn Mitchell