

GARDEN NOTES

THE WRIGHT PLACE

58 FAITHFULL CIRCUIT, KAMBAH



HISTORY

The first action on arrival at No. 58 during Easter in 1975 was to install a letter box which took an hour of digging into solid clay – Martin quickly realised he had a lot of work in front of him.

In 1983 a professional plan was drawn up for the front garden as it is an odd shape, and this was followed until the top terrace lawn was removed 20 years ago and the Japanese garden started 5 years ago. The rest of the design work for the property is Martin's own work - no master plan, more of an organic growth over the years. Much of the physical work in the past, with help from family, friends and occasionally paid professionals, was undertaken by us; of late Martin has called on a handyman/gardener and we would be lost without his help.

In 1975 we attended a semester long, one night a week hobby gardening course, at CIT with inspirational garden expert Tony Featherston. Martin also spent 14 years before retirement in 2010 in his own handyman/gardening /landscaping business. Both of these endeavours have helped in the formation of the garden. The current design is pretty well set and major work is nearing completion. It should then generally be low maintenance (unless Martin comes up with anymore "brilliant" ideas).

FEATURES

The garden now consists of a series of garden rooms (a penchant of Tony Featherston) and wherever possible we have avoided straight lines. We have aimed for maximum privacy with the installation of green walls, pittosporums, trees, and brush fencing. The large front gum tree and heavy plantings of trees and bushes throughout the garden provide welcome shade but limit the use of plant varieties that require full sun.

The garden is supported by a Hunter wi-fi controlled dripper watering system of 20 stations utilising 5 tanks with a capacity of 13,500 litres. Most of the 200+ containers have their own tap-controlled dripper system and a numbered pebble in each which refers back to a list of details - see list at the entrance.

79 trees are also shown on a list at the entrance.

FRONT GARDEN

Pittosporum Garden On the left-hand side of the property extending from the curb up to the house. This garden which contains Liriopes, Bluebells, Nandinas, Gazanias and other plants. provides privacy.

Bottom Terrace features a gabion wall and is one of the few areas of the garden that enjoys full sun and contains a variety of plants that take advantage of it. Cousin It and Snow in Summer fall over the wall.

Third Terrace features a basalt pathway to a seat and 6 camellias which have been planted in the last couple of years, whilst behind the seat is a large variegated pittosporum and a forest of 10 Trident Maples.

Top Terrace The oriental flavoured garden (not a Zen garden) was inspired by our travels in Japan, China and other Asian countries. Features include the Torii Gate, the spill bowl, the bamboo forest and the artificial mountain covered with stepped basalt. The two large box elders provide welcome shade from the late afternoon sun in summer. There is a mixture of 15 Cut Leaf Japanese Maples, Japanese Maples, and a Weeping Ornamental Flowering Apricot, which blooms in late winter. A number of **Bonsais** are on display in this area, on loan from enthusiast Mal Tarbuck.

The main feature of this terrace is the 60-year-old **Red Box Eucalyptus** tree, which we have a love/hate relationship with: love the shading effect on the house in summer but hate having to regularly clean up debris from it. At the base of the tree are 7 small troughs which provide some colour to the garden. Through the Torii gate to the right is an avenue of conifers which were previously in pots.

REAR GARDEN

The Fernery features wall containers made from old commercial ice cream containers mounted in Corten steel garden edging. A wooden sleeper path, with solar powered garden lights at its edge, meanders through it past a two-level pond and two water tanks.

Birch Forest featuring 14 silver birches at various stages of growth as well as well as Camellias, Hellebores, Liriopes, Mondo grass and 3 large dishes, a wheelbarrow and a 3 tier pot all full of succulents, with a bog pond on the edge of a dry-stone pond.

The **Service Area** includes the clothesline, water tank, garden shed, compost heaps, worm farm and a shade house used for propagation.

Lawn Area The artificial lawn was installed in 2019 with the aim of reducing maintenance. The tree in the centre is a Japanese Elm, planted in 2015, which should quickly grow to 7 metres to provide shade. The lawn is fringed by yellow Banksia Roses, and White and Tricolor Jasmines. On the eastern edge is a dry-stone creek leading from a water filled pond near the water tanks down to a usually dry-stone pond.

Courtyard. This escape area is also inspired by travel to countries of the Mediterranean and Middle East. The tree in the large central pot is an olive which occasionally bears fruit. The espaliered fruit trees are a Myer lemon and a Lemonade tree. There is also a Cumquat which provides fruit for marmalade, and the vines over the pergola are Ornamental Grapes.

Entertaining Area is covered above the paved area by a pergola, of galvanised steel inverted L shaped Posts & Beams with laser cut aluminium panels to provide dappled shade. Behind the BBQ lattice are hidden 2 of the property's 5 water tanks. The recently installed troughs contain Berberis which grow to a height of .5 – 1 metre and Mondo Grass. Adjacent is a camelia garden which also has a variegated pittosporum.

Deck uses Tallow wood over a steel sub structure. Installed in 2017 it is the fourth deck in this spot. The timber was selected for its durability and oily nature, so it doesn't need to be retreated every couple of years. A hot tub spa was sunk into the deck some 24 years ago and still provides much relaxation on cold winter nights or as a plunge pool in the summer. Sails above provide welcome shade in summer.

GARDEN OWNERS

Martin and Sue Wright