

# GARDEN NOTES

## NEVERTIRE

1 MCEWAN AVENUE,  
QUEANBEYAN



### HISTORY

We fell in love with and bought 1 McEwan Avenue in 2010 after an extensive and wide-ranging search for a character country property with room for our extended family to get together.

The property has a block size of 1400m<sup>2</sup> containing an extended Heritage listed weatherboard cottage, double carport, shed, studio and the garden. We understand that the 1880's weatherboard cottage was relocated from Bombala to Queanbeyan in the 1920's by the NSW Railways to accommodate railway employees. The property transferred into private ownership in the 1930's when it was no longer needed by NSW Railways.

The previous owners did major renovations and extended the cottage, built the carport, shed and studio and laid out the garden. We have further renovated the house, modified the studio to become an art studio, continued to develop the garden including initiating the Railway Garden. In 2012 we named the property 'Nevertire' to reflect its resilience.

### GARDEN DESIGN

Gardens evolve to reflect the abilities, capacities and interests of their owners. When we bought the property we were not yet retired, had a pet family comprising two Standard Poodles and a Persian cat, and an extended family which included eight babies/toddlers.

Over time and even as we both retired, the objective for the garden is for it to be beautiful, easy care, spacious, restful, fun, engaging and pleasurable for humans, pets, and all manner of local and visiting wildlife. The garden has also been developed to complement our beautiful Heritage-listed house, include places to sit and contemplate, and enable views of the garden to be seen from inside the house and studio.

### FEATURES

**Railway Garden** (outside the property along the northern boundary and above the Canberra - Sydney railway line) containing 'Free and Found' plantings which survive without any extra watering eg free Diggers Club flower seeds, self seedings and excess plants from the main

garden, plant gifts from passersby (River Wattle and Hakea Burrendong Beauty), and the ever reliable 'Queanbeyan wild flower' aka African Daisy.

**Nevertire Garden:** Trees are a main feature of our garden. There are over twenty types of deciduous exotic and native trees, both mature and new, in our garden. These include: Chinese Elm, Claret Ash, ancient Moorepark Apricot, Crepe Myrtles (three), Olives (three), Manchurian Pear, Gleditsia (Ruby Lace), Golden and Moptop Robinias, Quince, Medlar, Cherry, Camellia Japonicas (four), conifers and junipers, Golden Ash, Judas tree, Golden Rain Tree (two), Silk Tree, Flowering Plum, Japanese Maples, Irish Strawberry tree, Eucalyptus (two), English Elm, Bottlebrush, wattle and Almond trees.

There are also several gardens within the block. These provide many areas in which to sit and enjoy the garden as well as open spaces for entertaining and playing. Brief notes to help you explore these gardens are below.

**Front Gardens** - Large shady paved area at the front of the house and the Secret Circle garden which is accessed through a small gate (next to the Cecile Brunner climbing roses) and the Curvy Path.

**Side Gardens** - Removal of a wall of bamboo along the fence on the north-side of the house enabled us to widen the garden beds for hardy, flowering perennials. There are slim, but fully planted, gardens along both sides of the driveway on the western side of the property.

**Back Gardens** - A raised lawn of Santa Ana Couch went in late Autumn 2020. It provides an excellent place for children to hang out and play. Along the back boundary fence is what is known as the 'Native garden' although in practice it is a mix of native and exotics. Behind the studio at the southern corner of our property (around the washing line) is the 'Italian Garden'.

**Roses** - The small rose garden at the back of the lawn contains nine bush and three climbing roses. Elsewhere in the garden, there are Banksia Roses and Cecile Brunner climbers.

Raised vegetable gardens next to the carport, and potted citrus, provide us with enough scope and space for the food production part of our garden.

Five rainwater tanks for garden use hold a total of 14,000 litres (for when it stops raining). One large Aero Bin facilitates the composting of kitchen scraps, Autumn leaves and spent potting mix for ongoing soil improvement.

## GARDEN OWNERS

Amanda Pratt (plant collector and gardener) and Neil Sloan (landscape labourer)