

GARDEN NOTES

LAVENDER HILL



155 LONDON BRIDGE ROAD, 27-28 APRIL
BURRA

HISTORY

Lavender Hill is a 20 acre (8 hectare) property set in the Burra Valley. We purchased the property as a lifestyle change in 2016. Having looked at different areas and houses for thirteen months, we had not even seen the house but had a great sense of coming home as we drove in the front gate and knew this was it.

As you come down the sealed driveway you will see our only dam. This is fed from dams along London Bridge Road. Water filters through from Burra Road and approximately five dams before ours than continues onto Tin Hut Dam and to Googong Dam. Continuing you will pass several large gums with one being an excellent climbing tree for children and two which we have found, provide roosting and nesting places for the numerous birdlife. Further along the drive on both sides, there are park like areas which have plantings of different conifers and pines.

When we purchased Lavender Hill, the gardens were established but it was time consuming watering. Irrigation and drip filters throughout the gardens make the watering process so much easier. The orchard with approximately forty-eight different fruit trees was, when in fruit, a feast for the birds and possums. A pipe and mesh 'aviary' was constructed which still allows bees and small birds the opportunity to pollinate and feed without causing damage to the fruit and which now provides bountiful produce which is enjoyed year-round.

We are extremely proud of Lavender Hill and enjoy the benefits of a peaceful lifestyle but love to open it to the public for others to also enjoy. When you visit, we hope you get a sense of peace as you wander around or just 'sit' and enjoy some afternoon tea and do nothing, relax, and enjoy the atmosphere that surrounds you.

FEATURES

We have two main features. The first as you come around the corner of the house, is Tin Hut Creek. This is, of course dependent on rainfall, a permanent supply of water. It flows through the bottom of the garden providing shelter and habitat for many varieties of frogs, water dragons (we currently have a family of five living in their burrow), Herons, Ibis and Kookaburras who steal our yabbies and several varieties of ducks who love to splash. Each afternoon you will find kangaroos on the lawn taking advantage of green grass and water. Along the creek we have a gum tree which we have been told could be up to 450 years old.

Our second feature are the dry-stone walls. Due to the strata being folded and faulted it has caused the rocks to be angled in the ground so during excavation for the house the previous owners took advantage of the uniqueness of these rocks having a flat side, thus making ideal building blocks for the walls. There is no cement used in these walls. They are put together like a jigsaw puzzle and are all self-supporting. They do collapse and need to be rebuilt. Numerous walls have been rebuilt since being here, the cause is usually too much rain or kangaroos who think they are in the Olympics high jump and are unable to 'clear the bar' (usually without injury).

JOHN AND DEBBIE CONVINE