

GARDEN NOTES

ENCHANTED GARDEN

4 PAULL PLACE, KAMBAH



HISTORY

The garden is in a cul de sac and has a block size of 715m². The house was built for government housing and first leased on 15/10/78. I purchased the house in 1996.

The back yard had previously had a lined swimming pool. Much of the subsoil dug out for the pool was used to line the back and side garden, making the area higher than the neighbouring blocks. The ground was covered in black plastic and thick wood chips. Six photinias were planted across the back fence and two photinias and three variegated trees on the side. Photinias also lined the driveway at the front. Later the swimming pool was dismantled and the hole filled with the parts and rubbish before covering with some soil and grassed.

In 1996 A new right hand fence had been installed with the shrubs cut and pushed aside. In the back there was a weeping elm tree, viburnum, albizia, lilac, a grape vine, and a brick barbeque.

The front garden had the argyle apple street tree, six cotoneasters along the side, roses along the wall, a variegated tree, lilac, and sasanqua camellia at the letterbox.

The back photinias were into the powerlines so were cut down and the front reduced to hedge height. The cotoneasters dug out, broken shrubs removed and roses moved to a garden bed. In the pool area a pond was dug at one end, removing the rubbish, and the soil building up the other end. The barbeque was dismantled, the bricks and rocks used to edge the garden and pool liner.

Plantings were mostly tube stock natives and deciduous trees for sun in winter and shade in summer, with many bulbs and groundcovers.

PROBLEMS. Clay soil, not being able to build up because of the height already, matted roots from the street tree and the depth of the original wood mulch. Elm tree beetle, sawflies on the bottlebrush.

WATER In 2008 The street tree roots clogged the stormwater pipe to the house. Five 1,000L water tanks were installed at the side of the house to take up the stormwater. When the rotting pergola was replaced in 2013 a 2,500L water tank was added to collect the stormwater

from the garage and pergola. Initially pipes were placed beside new plants for watering. The garden is hand hosed and washing and shower water also used for the garden.

FERTILIZER In 1996 the estate agent suggested that the horse manure from the Lions Youth Haven was a good addition to the garden. It has been collected and used as a mulch over the garden and an addition to making potting mix, at least three times a year since then. A worm farm is used for kitchen waste with the tea and sludge from the clean out of the pond annually also used for fertilizer. Three composts dispose of the annual leaf fall. The four nests are also composts. As the leaf and weed litter decomposes, rainfall and hosing filter the nutrients to the surrounding plants. Prunings are chipped and used as mulch around the garden.

2012 Retirement meant more time for the garden. Many of the natives were past their prime and replaced.

2017 Street tree struck by lightning, borers moved in and it gradually died. 2021 "Habitated". Cockies continue to strip what is left of the bark from the tree.

2020 Loss of Hills Hoist. Replaced the back lawn with a garden. Front lawn replaced with bark removed from the street tree by cockies, later planted with bulbs and groundcovers for a meadow.

FEATURES

As a professional potter since 1983, my pottery and mosaics are spread around the garden. Originally my pottery seconds were added to the garden, then I made some especially for the garden, including the totem poles. The mosaics came about when in 2017 the treated pine edging the pebble path was rotting. I added bricks, chicken wire and cement to make the wall, then mosaic over it using left over pottery pieces and tiles from the green shed. I then moved to making a mosaic wall around the front garden, the letterbox, a wall edging the back garden with the garden seat and then sculpture pieces. A folder shows the method of making the mosaics. The metal sculptures have been purchased. Since the 2021 Open Garden there have been a number of pieces, both pottery and mosaic added to the collection, including a dragon in the front lawn area.

GARDEN OWNER

I love working in the garden, endeavouring to recycle as much as possible. The garden is constantly evolving and challenging. I have done everything in the garden myself.

Leonie Lucey