

GARDEN NOTES

THE WRIGHT PLACE

58 FAITHFULL CIRCUIT, KAMBAH



4TH- 5TH MAY 2024

HISTORY

The first action on arrival at No. 58 during Easter in 1975 was to install a letter box which took over an hour of digging into solid clay – Martin quickly realised he had a lot of work in front of him to tame nearly 1,000 square metres of virgin land to resemble a garden.

Like many gardens this one developed organically over time with no master plan. It was more a matter of Martin having a concept to which Sue would retort “Oh no not another brilliant idea!” The only professional intervention was the elliptical front garden terraces design as the garden is a triangle with the base being two complete neighbours at the back and the apex of the triangle at the front and eluded Martin’s inspiration. The front top terrace was lawn until 23 years ago and the current oriental inspired garden was started 8 years ago.

Much of the physical work in the past, with help from family, friends, and occasionally paid professionals, was undertaken by us but of late as we get older, Martin has had to call 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, the late Tony Featherston.

Martin also spent 14 years before retirement in 2010 in his own handyman/gardening /landscaping business. Both 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, another of Tony’s ideas. 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 24 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).

There are 92 trees, 7 water features and the whole garden utilises a variety of mulches which help preserve moisture and combat weed growth. A number of Bonsais are on display, on loan from enthusiast friend Mal.

FRONT GARDEN

The “**Pittosporum Garden**” on the left-hand side of the property extends from the curb up to the house. This garden which, in addition to pittosporums, contains liriopes, bluebells, nandinas, and other plants provides privacy.

The “**Bottom Terrace**” features a gabion wall and is one of the few areas of the garden that enjoys full sun. It contains a variety of plants that take advantage of it and cousin it and snow in summer fall over the wall.

The **“Second Terrace”** is home to a bower bird family with its distinctive bower and blue coloured plastic adornments collected by the male bower bird.

The **“Third Terrace”** features a climber covered rusted archway with a basalt pathway to a seat, succulent planted ex-birdbath, camellias, agapanthus, and oyster plants amongst others, whilst behind the seat is a large, variegated pittosporum and a forest of trident maples.

The **“Top Terrace”** is an oriental (not Zen) flavoured garden, inspired by our travels in Japan, China, and other Asian countries. Features include a torii gate, spill bowl, bamboo forest and an 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 17 cut leaf Japanese maples, Japanese maples, and a weeping ornamental flowering apricot, which blooms in late winter. The main feature of this terrace is the 62-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. Along the pathway to the fernery, and 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 on a house wall covered in reeds. A wooden sleeper path, with solar powered garden lights at its edge, meanders through a variety of ferns past a two-level pond and two water tanks.

A **“Birch Forest”** features 14 silver birches at various stages of growth as well as well as camellias, hellebores, liriopes, mondo grass and 3 large dishes, a wheelbarrow, a 3-tier pot, and a recumbent pot all full of succulents.

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

The **“Lawn Area”** features an artificial lawn installed in 2019 with the aim of reducing maintenance. The tree in the centre is a Japanese elm, planted in 2015, which is growing quickly to 9 metres to provide shade. The lawn is fringed by yellow banksia roses, white and tricolour jasmines and 2 tea trees. 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.

The **“Rockery”** on the northern edge of the lawn features shade loving plants for the most part but also a section of succulents where they receive sun for most of the day.

The **“Courtyard”** is an escape area, also inspired by visits 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.

The **“Entertaining Area”** is covered above the paved area by a pergola, of galvanised powder coated steel inverted L shaped posts & beams with laser cut powder coated aluminium panels to provide dappled shade. Behind the BBQ lattice are hidden 2 of the property’s 5 water tanks. The trough planters 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. The pots adjacent to the unit entrance are all shade loving - mainly Heucheras.

The **“Deck”** is made of 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 30 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 & Sue Wright

Closest Public Toilets are at Kambah Village Shops Cnr Marconi Cres. And Drakeford Drive