

GARDEN NOTES
CUUMBEUN
24 SEVERNE ST,
GREENLEIGH NSW



28TH AND 29TH
SEPTEMBER 2024

GARDEN OWNERS

Heather Ogilvie and Bill Willis

HISTORY AND FEATURES

The property is divided into a managed garden and untended local woodland. It comprises of a large Greenleigh NSW native plant garden and a small native nursery within a rural residential block located close to Queanbeyan CBD (< 2km). There is a wide range of native plants including many local grasses, forbs, shrubs & trees using Natural Landscaping principles and incorporating many Threatened Species. There are numerous native plants in pots. As a qualified horticulturist, I have utilised my skills to propagate plants for home use and for sale at Cool Climate Natives Monthly Markets. There will be selected plants for sale upon request on the day.

In 1982 we purchased the land as an uncleared bush property at Greenleigh (Dodsworth). We were seeking a block with a north facing aspect. We were the third resident to build and occupy a home within the 'estate'. The process of land development is destructive and during the clearing for the nominated building platform, our goal was to manage and to minimise the devastation that comes with preparing such sites. We were left with a cut on the southern and eastern side of the building site. Some of the fill was used to create a long mound at the front of the property providing both a privacy and a sound barrier from Severne St, into which we planted numerous native plants. The bulk of the fill formed a garden platform on the northern side.

Upon completion of the house, we set about restoring the damage. We selected the southern side of the block with numerous trees (*E. polyanthemos*, *E. rossii*), to be largely left untouched as it was generally undisturbed.

In the fill on the northern aspect, we initially attempted to plant a lawn surrounded by wattles (*Acacia longifolia*) as windbreak. As time and big dries progressed, interest waned in maintaining a failing lawn exposed to the NW

wind in summer which required constant watering to keep it alive, let alone verdant. In 2008 I took the decision to give over this site totally to planting native trees shrubs and forbs with a more local native plant focus and to develop a shelter belt from the NW winds.

I try to select plants according to Natural Landscaping principles, also called native gardening, that is the use of adapted species of Australian native plants, including trees, shrubs, groundcover and grasses which are local to the landscape and geographic area of the garden. Plants are regularly mulched with bush litter to improve soil carbon.

There is a range of native plant genera including: Acacias, Allocasaurina, Banksias, Brachyscome, Callitris, Calothamnus, Cassinia, Ceratopetulum, Clematis, Correas, Chrysocephalum Craspedia, Citrus, Croweas, Daviesia, Dodonaea, Eremophila, Hakeas, Grevilleas, Kunzea, Lomandra, Mentha, Prostanthera, Rhodanthe, Westringia and Xanthorrhoea.

Toilets

There are public toilets situated at Queen Elizabeth Park, and Riverside Plaza, Morisset Street Queanbeyan.