

# GARDEN NOTES

## FAIRVIEW

### 71 EUREE STREET REID



#### HISTORY

I have lived at Fairview since 1989. Fairview cottage Circa 1927, is a heritage listed dwelling representative of a typical bungalow style workers home constructed during the early development and expansion of Canberra. It reflects one of the very first residences built in the 1920s with many parts of its interior replicating the original features that have been retained and restored to uphold the original architectural components of the 1920s period. In contrast, Argyle is a modern architectural house at the back of the property and is one of the first dual occupancy residences built in Reid that has been sensitively designed and positioned as to appear invisible from the street.

Two enormous Catalpa bignonioides commonly known as Indian Bean trees, and a large plum tree remain from early plantings on site and have been preserved for their shade and beauty. Several advanced Camellia shrubs which were also part of the original garden have been incorporated into the back yard planting of Rhododendrons, Pieris, Dogwood, Japanese Maple, Oakleaf hydrangeas and shade loving perennials.

Over the last five years, I have become absorbed in the creation of our garden to suit the architecture and the area. I am always pleased that quiet areas like these are close to a busy city.

#### FEATURES

In order to enhance the integrity and architectural style of Fairview, I have recently re-designed the outdoor spaces to reflect the traditional, strongly architectural appeal of an Arts and Crafts English garden, while also including elements of the classical gardens of Italy. As a contrast, the dual occupancy garden will largely feature Australian natives.

I want to demonstrate what can be done in a smaller space through the judicious use of plant material to create the illusion of depth of field. My intention has also been to ensure that the garden would act as an extension of my home, by ensuring that each window and door of the house looks out onto a different part of the garden. Although much of the original garden is no longer present, the new design encompasses a series of enclosed and private spaces interwoven to achieve a sense of continuity. Seats invite visitors to rest and enjoy the tranquility of each space and art installations and sculptures have been positioned in focal points. The planting incorporates a large range of deciduous and evergreen shrubbery in addition to a diverse selection of heritage perennials that have been sourced

to complement the backdrop of hedges and shrubs. Water plays a prominent sensory role in our garden.

**Front Garden:** Exploration of the garden should commence at the small entry gate and along the sandstone stepped path flanked by Camellia shrubs, English box hedges, standard and topiary Bay trees and aromatic French lavender. There is an assortment of shrubs, perennials and groundcovers selected for the diversity of texture, forms and foliage and to complement the building material. I love the tall Miscanthus grass, which provides a punch line to the foliage diversity.

**Side Garden, via the wrought iron gates:** The prominent feature in this part of the garden is the two-tiered wrought iron fountain which adds sensory stimulation. This area attracts wildlife and can also be viewed from the old parlour room of the house. The gravel pathways and courtyard, with identical pleached Bay trees, leads to our pride and joy, the grand pond containing a variety of water plants including lilies, Siberian iris and koi fish.

**Back Garden:** The more informal back garden comprises two interlocking lawn circles surrounded by different plant groups selected specifically for each site. I have aimed to create a sense of privacy and enclosure. I regard this part of the garden as an extension of the house. The view into this area can be enjoyed from my living room window and kitchen. Two weeping trees, a Mulberry and Ornamental Cherry and the large, old fruiting Plum tree, display foliage patterns in a variety of shapes, textures and colours.

The understorey also houses a diversity of ferns and white flowering Hellebores which provide a beautiful display for extended periods.

At the end of the drive and directly to the left visitors can take a look at the small Japanese style garden which contains a rill and pond, both of which were part of the original garden, and which have been restored and incorporated into the new design.

Visitors are encouraged to take home a list of shrubs and perennials that have been planted within this garden. Please contact me if you are interested in having your garden designed, require planting recommendations and/or planting plans or require assistance with regular garden maintenance.

## TOILETS

Nearest public toilets are at Edgars Street, Ainslie Shops.

## GARDEN OWNERS

Ruth Teunissen