

GARDEN NOTES



NARRAWONG

17 ASTELIA PL

RIVETT ACT

12TH AND 13TH
OCTOBER 2024

Narrawong is a mix of formal and cottage garden styles. It has been designed to make the most of a small area, after the existing garden was almost completely removed (all except for three original trees, an ash, an elm and a silver birch, now a stump and a camellia) when the house was renovated and extended twelve years ago. The original house was built by my partner in 1971 and was rented for nearly thirty years when we lived in Cooma. Narrawong was the name of our property at Cooma. It is a combination of the places where we grew up, Narrabundah and Kywong.

Although I loved designing and extending my garden at Cooma, to make the most of the space we had we engaged an expert Ian Menzies (Horticultural Consultant and Garden Designer) who drew up a plan for us. Many loads of topsoil and compost were brought in to attempt to combat the “clay problem”. We mainly followed the garden plan but have incorporated “special” plants from the garden at Cooma and “interesting” plants that I have sourced from specialty nurseries such as Diggers.

There are repeat plantings of camellias, osmanthus, magnolias, jasmine, rosemary, lavender, and a pittosporum hedge. There is a variety of cottage plants including some unusual perennials. A collection of about thirty different hellebores provides much needed colour and interest during Winter. Azaleas and rhododendrons provide a splash of colour in Spring. Nimmitabel stone walls encircle garden beds and lawns. Large mature trees provide a backdrop, and we refer to the Rivett Oval as “our front lawn”.

My favourite area in the garden is what I refer to as “the woodland” in the corner under the ash tree. The bird bath is extremely popular in all seasons, attracting a wide variety of birds. I’m forever topping it up!

The garden now looks mature and is a good example of what can be achieved through good design, thorough soil preparation, appropriate plantings and a few seasons of plentiful rain and moderate temperatures.

I inherited my love of gardening and gardens from my mother who once so rightly said that gardening was good for the heart, soul and body! It is my very favourite place to spend time.

Garden Owners

Libby Hewson and Bill McIntrye

Toilets

There are public toilets situated at Coleman Court.