

Tanglewood, 109 McDonnell Drive, Bungendore. 4 1/2 km from the downtown Bungendore roundabout via Tarago Road and McDonnell Drive. David Gibson and Leonie-Ruth Acland.

Tanglewood is a verdant, productive and multipurpose garden established over a 25-year period from depleted farmland. It has grown organically - pun intended. It is loosely based on permaculture principles, inspired by Edna Walling, and features low rock walls and relaxing garden rooms, covered orchard and veggie beds, planned plantings and areas of volunteer greenery. There are places to play and paths to stroll, areas of beauty and areas for production of food and firewood. It is a space for biodiversity, productivity, creativity and community.

It is home to multiple up-cycled garden art "installations" and several out-buildings all designed and built from recycled materials (mostly scrounged and gifted from the neighbourhood and surrounds).

Tanglewood was planted for food as much as for decoration:

- There are 50+ fruit trees (many being in the large covered fox-proof orchard, where ducks and chickens freely forage). Fruit trees include persimmon, pomegranate, apple, fig, plum, peach, nectarine, mulberry, apricot, mandarin, olive and lemon.
- Currently there are 19 vegetable garden beds and counting - with a brassica 'house' to protect the crop from the rampage of cabbage moths, and a poly tunnel. Friends with horses and pet rabbits supply straw and manure to enrich the soil, and sheep manure is collected from the adjacent paddocks
- A recent experiment is with hazelnut grove which is coming into bearing maturity
- Throughout the garden there is a blend of edibles and ornamentals. For example, rhubarb is used as decorative planting in several places in the garden, self-seeded oak leaf lettuce and cherry tomatoes pop up unbidden, and asparagus spears shoot up in spring thanks to the generosity of passing birds spreading berries from female plants.

Beauty is intermingled with function and biodiversity abounds.

- Bluebell woods, drifts of daffodils, jonquils and snow drops, and ornamental and fruit tree blossoms are a feature of early spring
- Mature deciduous trees provide shelter and shade from spring into summer. Amongst their number are oak, Canadian maple, silver birch, claret and golden ash, prunus, Japanese maple, pistachia, Chinese elm, white cedar, crab apple, wild plum, Gleditsia, elder berry and Manchurian Pear.
- Native shrubs and trees include casuarina, silky oak, kurrajong, callistemon, correa, crowea, eucalypts, wattles, and hakea.
- Large prunings, coppicing, and dead and fallen trees provide firewood.

Tanglewood is a place of abundance, verdancy and sanctuary for all of nature.

Down to earth info: David chose the land at Tanglewood for its northerly aspect, good drainage, and a long northerly view over grazing paddocks. Twenty-five years ago, the block was a recently subdivided section of rundown farmland, a bare paddock, not a single tree. The soil was poor, 10 cm of topsoil over a layer of broken quartz over a red clay subsoil. The appearance was windswept and little bereft.

David started planting trees. Never in a straight line (as taught by his mum who was an avid gardener). Trees to:

- provide protection from the wind

- create a micro climate
- stabilise the soil
- provide a home for native animals and insects
- provide shade and greenery for the glare and heat of summer
- provide a windbreak to temper the strong westerly winds, especially in Spring
- provide firewood

He also started building up the soil though compost, manure and most importantly, wood chip mulch. First trailer and ute loads, then by the truckload. Much of Tanglewood is deeply mulched which contributed to its establishment through the millenium drought.

In 2005 David (clever man) married Leonie-Ruth and the wedding gift list was plants! Some of the more exotic gifts were a persimmon, mandarin, an African Broom tree, kurrajong and Norwegian Maple trees.

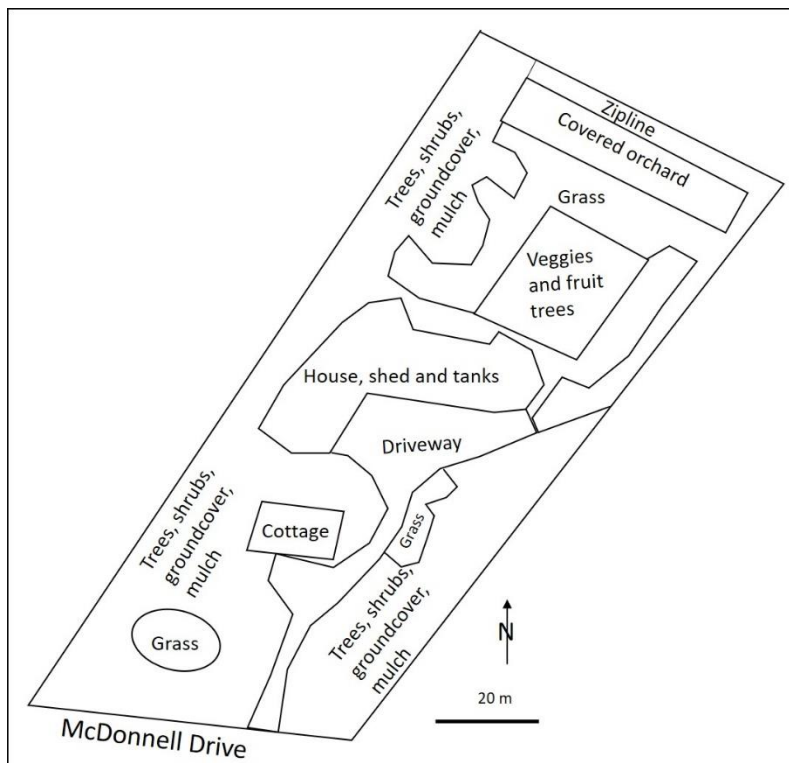
Today Tanglewood includes the original 2 bedroom owner-built 'homestead', now extended, and a recently built eco-cottage. There are currently three enthusiastic gardeners in residence.

Tanglewood is love story: love of the soil and biodiversity. Love of plants animals. Love of nature and the environment. And love between gardeners David and Leonie-Ruth, their families, friends and the broader community.

It is a sanctuary for all who enter, stay or pass through: birds, mammals, insects, reptiles and humans.

We hope that you will enjoy your visit with us and look forward to meeting you.

Please note that the nearest public toilet is in Bungendore Park and kids playground area at the top of Gibraltar Street.



Tanglewood sketch map