

# GARDEN NOTES

## HEALING GARDEN

### 20 BADIMARA ST, WARAMANGA



#### HISTORY

Nestled in the heart of Waramanga, Weston Creek, with sweeping views over the Brindabella Mountain ranges, the Healing Garden is a vibrant and soul calming sanctuary planted on a 920m<sup>2</sup> sloping block. Since November 2021, this once barren space—choked with bamboo, agapanthus, ivy, and buried tyres and mufflers—has been lovingly transformed into a haven for both people and wildlife.

But the garden doesn't stop at the fence line. We've extended our planting to include the nature strip, thoughtfully landscaped with boulders, trees, and habitat pockets to continue supporting the local ecosystem. Every corner of the block pulses with life and learning.

This is no ordinary garden. It's an **organic, waterwise, native landscape**, shaped by experimentation, observation, and care. With the frost protection of five towering Eucalyptus mannifera trees, we've created a microclimate that welcomes birds, lizards, frogs, and insects—and offers a place of healing for ourselves too. Soil regeneration is a priority here, with six in-ground worm farms, five above-ground hot composts, and bark composting systems all working beneath the surface to restore health from the ground up. Nothing goes to waste.

We call it the *Healing Garden* because it truly is a place of recovery—both for the land and for us. As a household, we've grown as gardeners here. We've made our nest among the gum trees, learned the names and songs of local birds, followed the seasonal cycles of flowers and insect life, and grieved our plant losses as much as we've celebrated our first vegetable successes. We've bathed in sunshine, dug through clay and compost, and fallen in love with the scent of soil and eucalyptus.

The biggest challenges? Learning how to manage the site's slope and water run-off. With trial, error, and perseverance, we've built dry river beds and implemented permaculture inspired techniques to keep precious rainwater on the block. Canberra's weather hasn't always made things easy—but we've found resilience in working with our little plot of land, not against it.

Our garden design has been shaped by walks in the bush, visits to the Australian National Botanic Gardens, and inspiration found in other open gardens. Over time, we've shifted from a rigid vision to a more organic, evolving space. Each plant has taught us something new.

We hope that when you visit, you'll see that a native garden doesn't have to be neat, flat, or fenced off from life. It can be full of movement, birdsong, child-friendly paths, insect habitats, and places for dogs to play. We started with mostly tubestock and now we wake each day excited to do "just one small job" in the garden. It's how this entire space came to be.

One of our proudest moments was seeing our *Protea neriifolia* trees bloom after years of patient tending from tube stock and growing *Xanthorrhoea* from seed. We believe everyone can experience the some magic—regardless of budget or experience.

We'd love to welcome you to the Healing Garden during our **Open Garden Event**. Come wander the paths, smell the gums, listen for frogs and Gang Gangs, and maybe even leave with a few ideas—and a lot of inspiration—for your own patch of earth.

## FEATURES

'Habitat' 3D Printed Bird Boxes, murals by renowned artist Nastia Gladushchenko, frog ponds, out door lounge areas, 10 person dining area under *Pandorea pandorana*, sloping block, dry river beds, fern garden.

## MAP

Attached separately

## TOILETS

The nearest public toilets are at the Ampol Service Station at Coolman Court (49 Brierly Street Weston). There is a great café for lunch at Waramanga Shops call Village Café also.

## GARDEN OWNERS

Belle and Jake with two kids and two Jack Russell Terriers.