

GARDEN NOTES

GARDEN BY FLEUR

16 CHAPMAN ST. BRADDON



31 OCT - 1 NOV 2026

HISTORY

In 2012 we knocked down the decommissioned single bedroom 1926 cottage to build a multi-generational family home keeping the original front door as a nod to its heritage. The garden started as a perimeter sandstone wall, lawn, concrete paving and a mature apple tree that was perfectly shaped to support a kids' treehouse, now beehouse.

In 2016 I took six months of long service leave, signed up to a garden design course and commenced building my new garden. I pulled up over half the lawn and created garden rooms learning new skills as each room required: paving, irrigation, carpentry, basic landscaping, planting. This phase established the framework you can see today and gave me scope to rejuvenate garden rooms as the family interests changed over time. The trampoline area became the studio, the kids play space became the sauna garden and more lawn gave way to experimentation with plant combinations.

Motivated by designing and renovating my own garden, I embarked on a career pivot, retiring as an Army Colonel and enrolling at University of Canberra in Landscape Architecture. I established my landscape design business in 2018 and continued to develop my garden to host design workshops, small catered garden events and my own plant, materials, accessories and spatial experimentations. I wanted to understand how to build structures, maintain water features, grow edibles, keep chickens and bees, and maintain, prune and nourish a diversity of plant species so I could advise and design gardens for others.

FEATURES – *SEE SEPARATE MAP*

The garden has three distinct zones: the north facing garden is a series of functional garden rooms connected by the entertaining deck and lawn (306 sqm); the side garden is a productive permaculture system (18 sqm); and the south garden and courtyards are mobility-friendly spaces for my elderly in-laws (130 sqm).

- **Entrance Garden** bears the brunt of full summer sun so hosts mostly Mediterranean and drought-hardy shrubs. The arches are being trained in Laburnocytisus 'Adamii' which provides a divine yellow/pink/purple wisteria-like flower in Spring. The feature tree is the Cercis canadensis 'Forest Pansy'. The Arbutus unedo is cloud-pruned to provide an evergreen feature in winter. Map reference **2 3**
- **Glasshouse** - a place of refuge with a range of flowering succulents, orchids and pelargoniums. I found my glasshouse created challenging conditions for herbs and vegetables which grew much better outside. **5**
- **Productive Garden** includes raised planters and a wicking bed for mixed edibles and pollinator-attracting ornamentals, as well as three citrus. **6**
- **Arbour Garden** is a design feature to emphasise symmetry, vertical interest and a focal point. It provides a beautiful cool and shady space in summer under the ornamental grapevine and adds a formality to the structure of the garden. **7**

- **Studio** is a multi-use space built by Goulburn Roundhouses, fully insulated, double glazed and fitted with heating and cooling. It has proven a handy teenage retreat for music, art, yoga and parties. ⁸
- **Sauna Garden.** The sound of the stream, the outlook to the Japanese-style garden reflected by the mirror and the sense of enclosure created by the trellis adds to the meditative sauna experience. Plantings are typically Japanese and arranged to create an immersive sanctuary. I attribute this garden to my dear landscaper and friend Tell, the last garden he built before he succumbed to cancer this year. His hand print is in the slab under the sauna. The pond was enhanced by Beyond Aquariums to connect the flow above the wall with the mural. ⁹
- **Mural Garden** was a 50th birthday gift to myself and a playful opportunity to obscure the boundary fence. I commissioned Jacquie Jordan @jacal.arts to paint a trompe l'oeil mural connecting a formal garden scene with a surrealism scene to create visual interest and year-round colour. Can you see the alignment between the real crab apples and the mural? Can you spot my cat? Follow the flow of water from the teapot to the end of the sauna garden ¹¹
- **Productive Garden** includes 17 espaliered fruit trees, chicken coop and run for three lovely productive ladies, Flow Hive, compost, worm farm, kitchen herbs and rainwater tank. The orchard/coop enclosure has recently been upgraded by Revival Landscaping and includes a Omlet Eglu Coop with an auto close/open function to keep the chickens safe at night. ¹²
- **Accessible Courtyards** provide private open spaces with potted gardening for my in-laws. Levelled with the house, they provide low-maintenance gardening opportunities. The east courtyard includes another trompe l'oeil mural by Jacquie Jordan to project a conservatory with maintenance-free plants. ^{13 16}
- **Main Vegetable Garden** to the south of the block receives adequate sun from late Spring to early autumn for all those large and messy crops like pumpkins, zucchini and tomatoes. My in-laws enjoy growing vegetables as they did in their home country, Croatia. ¹⁵
- **General Information.** I added irrigation to the garden beds in 2025, before then it was tough love but I did feel a bit stressed about losing plants. I apply organic and permaculture principles in regenerating my soil, use autumn leaves as mulch, apply nematodes to the lawn, host a community compost system and adopt Integrated Pest Management. I minimise external inputs and aim to generate a circular production and waste system. All 'box' hedges are Euonymus japonicus (a much hardier shrub than buxus).

MOBILITY ACCESS & SAFETY

The garden is level and generally accessible. Access to the inside of the glasshouse is narrow and not suitable for mobility aids.

Please ensure children do not drink from or climb/swing on the tiered fountain.

Assistance dogs only.

TOILETS

The nearest public toilets are 800m away in the Canberra Centre or Glebe Park

GARDEN OWNERS

Fleur Froggatt of *Gardens with Fleur*