

GARDEN NOTES

SUE'S GARDEN

Our garden is an example of what can be achieved from a vacant block of land in approximately 3.5 years. Set on one acre, the garden is a mix of mainly natives with some foliage plants dotted throughout to give an effect of different colours and textures, with the garden constantly being added to or changed, as different ideas come to mind.

With no particular plan in the beginning, Sue started planting the sides of the block to assist as a windbreak, the front garden as a windbreak and also screening from the road. These were planted as the house build was completed in September 2020. Slowly, the gardens were formed one by one, with most of them being expanded to some degree as the years have gone by. Being very wet, especially in winter, the gardens have expanded so that the ride on mower doesn't get bogged. A lot of tea trees and callistemons have been planted due to the wet nature of the land. In other areas, topsoil has been used to build up the gardens to assist with drainage.

To attract birds to the garden, thought has been given to include plants that the nectar feeding birds will love, along with bushy shrubs for the little blue wren families to seek shelter in. A bird aviary with some budgies is located amongst the garden, along with various garden art that Sue has made.

Raised vegetable gardens are protected from the wind with a garden to the west, providing delicious fresh vegetables year round. Three round corten steel herb gardens are placed with close proximity to the house, surrounded by some foliage and bee attracting plants. Towards the rear of the property, an apple, apricot, avocado, lemon, mandarin and orange tree have been planted, along with a kiwi fruit vine on a structure that Sue built. This area has recently been added to with some more raised vegetable garden areas for zucchinis, cucumbers and pumpkins. Some beneficial insect seeds have been scattered around this area to attract the bees.

At the rear of the property, Sue purchased an old cubby house and together with husband Lochie, transformed it into a chook house and a run for them to forage in.

Our garden is continually changing, but brings much delight when looking back at pictures from when we first started as a bare block, to what is now on display. We hope you enjoy our garden as much as we do!

Sue's Garden is located on the lands of the Bunurong people. Open Gardens Victoria wishes to acknowledge the Traditional custodians of this land and we pay respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

These notes can be downloaded from the Open Gardens Victoria website:

www.opengardensvictoria.org.au

