

## GARDEN NOTES

### BINCHY'S GARDEN

If you are obsessed with grevilleas and Australian gardens created for habitat, you should enjoy this garden. Over the last 20 years, I have been collecting and hand grafting rare and endangered grevillea species. A large majority of grevillea species in the garden are from Western Australia and will struggle to grow in southern Victoria on their own roots, so grafting them onto a more tolerant and strong rootstock is the best solution I have found.

We purchased two small blocks of land in a housing estate next to each other around five years ago. The idea was to build the house on one block that looks out into the garden on the second block, so you can see the different plants come into flower throughout the year, as well as watch the birds feeding and doing their thing out in the garden. We painted the house an earthy green to blend in with the garden, and all the windows on the west side of the house look out into the garden.

I started building the garden before the house to get the plants in the ground and get them growing, as I had carted them around to different rentals for four years while we sold our previous house. I had grafted all the plants from our previous garden to plant in the new garden. There are up to 200 grevillea species, a large majority from Western Australia, but also many from all over Australia, two from New Caledonia as well as the odd hybrid, and two grevilleas that are extinct in the wild, packed into our 500 square metre block. I later added some eucalyptus and banksia species to grow up as an upper canopy for the birds, overall giving a natural look and blocking out the other houses in the estate.

I used the heavy clay soil we have in the area and made sure to create raised garden beds for better drainage, as well as visual appeal. The garden faces the west so it gets all day sun. Towards the front the garden faces the south, so I have planted lilly pillies and larger growing shrubs to block out the harsh south west winds, which has helped create a microclimate. I have made sure there are plenty of paths to view the garden from different angles. The plantings are done with care to create habitat using some indigenous plants and grasses from our local area, giving it a natural look and attracting our local fauna. The nature strip plantings help provide the birds with a wildlife corridor into the garden.

There is a small garden at the front of the house facing south, so this area doesn't get much sun throughout the winter months of the year, but I have managed to grow some shade-tolerant plants in this area, including a *Eucalyptus gregsoniana* and a grafted brachychiton.

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The garden is constantly evolving, and I'm hoping to inspire other people to plant Australian native plants in their own gardens.

We are looking forward to your visit.

David and Cathie Binch.

Binchy's Garden would like to pay our respects to and acknowledge the Bunurong peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands.

Please stick to garden paths and watch your step for any trip hazards and slippery ground.

***Binchy'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](http://www.opengardensvictoria.org.au)**

