

GARDEN NOTES

Ironbark House

The property we moved into four years ago had very little in the way of gardens but a wonderful wind-breaking perimeter of local eucalyptus and casuarina trees. The eucalypts are yellow gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon* 'Bellarinensis') and messmate (*E. obliqua*). The casuarinas are *Allocasuarina verticillata*.

The driveway is bordered by a grove of black trunked ironbark trees (*Eucalyptus tricarpa*) with an underplanting of coast pomaderris (*Pomaderris paniculata*) and sweet bursaria (*Bursaria paniculata*) with a sprinkling of grasses *Lomandra* 'Lime Tuff' and native fuchsia (*Correa reflexa*). At the top of the drive, turn left towards the garages and enter the rear garden. Here you will find the berry tunnel, raspberries and blueberries, the enclosed vegetable garden and chook run. The vegetable garden containers are elevated wicking beds keeping the growing areas clear of eucalyptus root take over.

The citrus cylinders are necessary as trees planted in the ground here were also overwhelmed by the very active roots of the nearby eucalypts. On the other side of the path is the flower garden with its selection of cold climate perennials.

The Back Shack is, at present, home to a friend. Its privacy planting includes west coast gem (*Alogyne huegelii*), Geraldton wax (*Chamelaucium uncinatum*), sea lavender (*Limonium 'Perezii Blue'*) and Albany woolly bush (*Adenanthos sericeus*).

Circling around the house, on the left, you will find a bank of exotic and Australian native plants giving enclosure to this area. In the two black containers are Mexican lilies (*Beschorneria yuccoides*).

Around the pool are low growing native plants and these plants continue behind the pool and on the mounds as you drop down the slope. Under the guiding hand of Peter Shaw of Ocean Road Landscaping, these areas of the garden have only recently in June 2021 been established so there is promise of a lot more growing.

The large grass trees (*Xanthorrhoea australis*) give a defining character to the front of the house with their age unknown but recognised as old. They were planted here 30 years ago. The native plants you will see include *Correa alba*, forest phebalium (*Phebalium quamulosum*), wiry cushion bush (*Leucophyta brownii*), slender velvet bush (*Lasiopetalum baueri*), coast rosemary (*Westringia fruticosa*), several banksias and grasses, *Lomandra* 'Lime Tuff', tussock grasses *Poa labillardieri* and *P. poiformis* as well as coast spear grass (*Astrostipa stipoides*).

Follow the path down the slope to the labyrinth and take the walk. The rules are: Walk in single file, no conversation, concentrate all your negative thoughts on the path to the centre. Here, abandon those thoughts and, on your return walk, crowd your mind with positive and compassionate thoughts.

Leave the garden by the lower gate above the Ironbark Shack.

Ironbark House is located on the lands of the Wadawurrung people. Open Gardens Victoria wish to acknowledge the Traditional custodians 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