

GARDEN NOTES

JUDY'S GARDEN

When Allan and Judy bought the one-acre property at 9 Nesci Court 16 years ago, there were no improvements except some large gums at the rear of the property. It was part of a farm and had the headwaters of the Ayr Creek running at the front in an open drain. The land is very flat and all garden beds have to be raised to contend with Inverloch's wet winters.

As you enter our place there are native plants on both sides so we can no longer see the street outside. Originally we planted lawn at the front, but now gardens occupy this space. This was mainly due to us wanting more built up gardens with a dry river bed to drain the area and no soggy lawn! About 80% of our gardens are planted with native plants, but recently we have introduced non-natives for variety and cut flowers.

The first garden we planted was immediately behind the house and the natives were chosen for the contrasting colours of the foliage. Near the house there is a fishpond with many ferns that seem to be multiplying at a great rate. We have recently changed this lawn area with contrasting gravels, redgum seating, a rusty iron feature and a fire pit. The area at the rear of the property has many banksias, kangaroo paws, a grass tree, acacias, leptospermums, leucadendrons and proteas. This is a haven for the many birds – honeyeaters, wrens, parrots and the bossy wattle birds. A garden built recently features crepe myrtles, smoke bushes of contrasting colours and a weeping cherry surrounded by native prostrate plants.

Our vegetable garden supplies us with all the veggies we need in spring and summer and during the winter we plant snow peas, onions, garlic and broccoli. Our soil is enriched with compost made on the property with horse manure, garden waste and autumn leaves. There are fruit trees, blueberry bushes, rhubarb and a strawberry bed.

You can take a wander along the path at the rear of the property amongst the mature eucalypts, hakeas, silky oaks and casuarinas with the lower storey plants being mainly correas and kangaroo paws. You will pass a flourishing passionfruit vine and our compost bins. You will also pass our rustic potting shed with hibbertia and pandorea climbers covering the roof. We feel fortunate to own an acre in the residential area of Inverloch where we not only have privacy, but can enjoy our ever-changing garden and grow our own food.

Judy'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

