

GARDEN NOTES

Glenmore

The house Glenmore was originally built in the old township of Glenmaggie in 1880 and was to be flooded when Lake Glenmaggie was created. The house was purchased from the Garvey sisters by the State Rivers and Water Supply then moved by bullock dray in 1925 to Maffra and used as accommodation for the workers of the water board.

We bought the property in 1992 just after the house had been extended and one of the attractions for us was that it had no garden, we had a blank canvas to work with! We were told that we couldn't have a garden as it was too windy, so one of the first things we did was plant a wind break on the nature strip. Christine was interested in cottage style gardens with bulbs, while I was interested in native plants only, so she had one side of the drive and I had the other. Out the back was a mixture, depending on who was doing the planting at the time.

There was joint planning of the structure of the garden so we both knew what we wanted and worked towards an end goal so that we didn't have to repeat the same sections of the garden. Initially there was farmland over the road and paddocks behind us, then as the town evolved around us and the land behind us was subdivided, we decided to buy the block behind us and add it to the garden. At least we had more room for the chooks and vegie patch.

Although the bones of the garden remain the same, the plants have changed over time. Recently there has been more emphasis on edible natives, such as Lemon and Aniseed myrtle, native celery, samphire, Davidson plum, saltbush, Midgen berries and edible native flowers such as Bracycomes and Geraldton wax. Other native genesis are Verticordias, Isotome, Dasymalla, Eremophila, lechenaultia, Eremaea and of course the more common ones as well.

Some of the more unusual bulbs include Haemanthus, Brunzvigia, Crocus, mini-Cyclamen and Queen fabiola, while irises include Dutch, Bearded, Japanese, Water and Siberian. The orchard includes many fruit trees.

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