

## ***Welcome to Linda and Rob's Garden – Our Story***

Our Garden – beautiful, interesting and messy!

We bought this property of 2 hectares almost 32 years ago as our family loves horses. The land had been used for grazing cattle so all the eye could see was one massive Black Butt, a few grass trees, bare sandy soil and cattle yards.

*Neither of us were gardeners* so you might notice that the garden is completely “not” designed! I (Linda) am the ideas lady, whilst husband Rob is the hard worker who gets things done. The garden has evolved with lots of trial and error, lots of things that didn't grow and others that flourished. After all these years, it's as though nature has pointed us in the right direction to develop a beautiful garden for people to enjoy and in which wildlife can flourish in the much-needed habitat we have provided.

### ***Interesting developments***

We started out by planting Eucalypts and spurred on by that success, we added Banksias. We soon discovered Banksias can be incredibly annoying plants where some thrive and others close by can just drop dead! When we noticed that as a result of the clearing of the nearby Gnaragara pine plantation, the endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo lost a vital food source without the pinecones, we planted 200 Banksias and crossed our fingers. Three years later the Banksias rewarded us with masses of blooms and the Black Cockatoos arrived for a noisy feast. We were so happy to see them – despite the mess they left behind.

### ***Messy outcomes***

We have created habitat for the smaller birds too and it is a joy to see the Boobook owl raising its young and to have nesting spots for the 28 parrots and pink and grey galahs. The tiny blue wrens with their delicate nests dictate our pruning regime so shrubs often look untidy. You might notice messy looking piles of branches and sticks as you wander around. These are intentional and are homes for reptiles – thus our curious dachshunds and reptiles can all live safely on the property.

### ***Our beautiful haven***

Our favourite spots in the garden are where we have created sanctuaries for relaxing and to soak up the rewards of our efforts (we spend 3-4 hours in the garden each day).

The stand of silver birch with its soft underplanting is a place of beauty. The wisteria provides a lovely perfumed hidden nook that shades the 100-year-old tennis bench. The grandchildren love to sit here after they've been exploring the cubby house and many fairy paths through the roses, agapanthus and citrus trees.

Would we do anything differently if starting over again? We'd probably start with a plan as we have moved so many plants so very often (Rob does that with enormous patience.)

Our garden brings us great joy and we are very happy to share this with you.

*Linda and Rob*