

# SymbioNT

Hi! Welcome to our garden. We hope you have a wonderful experience here today.

Nathan and I moved here in July 2011. It was one of the best decisions we have ever made. We were living in Palmerston previously, and always dreamed of owning a rural block. When this one came up, we knew it was the one for us.

We have worked with the established trees close to the house, and added various features to complement the natural surrounds. We have sourced rock from lots of different places and used them to enhance the garden beds and create paths. The paths have really highlighted many of the native plants and draw your eye to different locations. Different textures throughout the garden are another strategy we have used to attract a wider variety of animals.

There are lots of cycads around the place, with a few male and females right next to each other. The idea of embracing the native plants that grow well here is to encourage as many native animals to our block as possible. So far, it seems to be working.

In 2018, we became a Land for Wildlife Property. This has been a great opportunity to be involved in various other projects, including receiving a nesting box in the hope to provide a safe place for wildlife to breed and/or shelter. There are a couple of nest boxes in the garden so keep a look out for them.

We are fortunate to have a range of bird species visit us throughout the wet and dry. It seems we are in the flight path for some black cockatoos who teach their babies how to fly right in our backyard. There are a pair of Tawny Frogmouths who nest here each year. We aren't sure where they go during the wet, however, they have been coming back each dry season for as long as we have been here. Hopefully, they will be returning soon. They like to roost in the trees close to the sandpit and it is a real delight to have them so close by. They are quite photogenic too. There are a pair of Burdekin ducks who hang out near the chook pen. They crack up when you get too close, and we jokingly call them the angry ducks. We also have Pam, our resident bush chook.

There are also many frogs, lizards and snakes who live here. The water features around the place provide additional habitat for these creatures. We have recently added some old pipes and logs to the garden with the hope to attract more lizards. Near the fruit trees, there is an insect hotel which will hopefully soon be inhabited by native bees. There are a few native bee hives on the block already which is great to see. Our future goal is to include more plants in the garden that attract beneficial insects.

Weed management is a big focus of ours and we have been working hard to eradicate gamba grass from our block. Mission grass is also a weed we get, though is easy enough to pull out. Mulch has been used throughout the garden to reduce the weeds, and retain soil moisture. We are on town water here, so we really need to be mindful of how much water we are using. Water use is monitored through timed irrigation, and various tanks around the place to hand water. You will see a couple of these down with the fruit trees.

We are supporting Wildcare this weekend. This organisation provides a volunteer rescue service for injured and orphaned wildlife. They have a sausage sizzle and cold drinks for sale. Their volunteers are available to speak with you about the amazing work they do. We are also supporting Bryce Fullwood; an up and coming Territory lad with a talent for driving V8 Supercars. They are selling fresh scones and cupcakes, as well as tea and coffee. Please feel free to get something to eat and drink, find a seat and take your time to enjoy the surroundings.

There are also plants for sale, including exotics and vegetable seedlings. The native tube stock has been provided by NT Native Plants.

If you're wondering about the name of the garden - the definition of symbiont is an organism living in symbiosis with another, or in other terms, the living together of unlike organisms.

Have a great day!

Jody