

## 🐾 Abby's place 🐾

I purchased this block of land in 1989, built a modest house and moved in. Palms were all the rage and I foolishly planted way too many of them in between the existing and somewhat sparse bush. Along the way I acquired a fine sapling of a husband who has grown into a sturdy tree and become my tractor. Much time and energy has been spent by us removing most, but not all, of the palms. We have carted in and spread literally tons of mulch over the intervening years. There are not too many gardening problems that can't be solved with mulch.

Our block is divided into two sections. The front half is ours; we planted natives and exotics, we irrigated and made pathways. We've chased scrub fowl, our chickens, neighbour's chickens and wandering peacocks and peahens away from garden beds hurling all sorts of curses and insults at them. They never listen.

The back half of the block belongs to the bush and the rural critters. There is the stray feral plant that has jumped the great divide but mostly this area has been left as bush. Here we just do our best to keep the weeds under control.

And then along came Cyclone Marcus.

The block received a bad hammering from Cyclone Marcus. Our guesstimate was that 60 large trees were blown down which we mainly cleared by ourselves. This job is almost complete. But many holes were left in the canopy, opportunities for new ideas with more emphasis of working with nature rather than trying to conquer it. Slowly, slowly we have been filling in the spaces, almost entirely with NT natives. Are the plantings completed? Of course not. No garden is ever finished; it is always a work in progress.

We are so pleased that you have come here today to share our garden with us. Please enjoy the surroundings, relax, have a cuppa and feel refreshed.

*This Open Garden is fundraising for PAWS.*

*Welcome*