

## Beth and Frank's Garden

*It was 1992 when our family moved into the five acre-property that was mostly surrounded by mango trees, palm and tall coconut trees; bushland and wildlife.*

*The front area of the property consists of various types of mangoes including Bowen and Calypso fruit. Our first project was to clear the front area of the property. By doing so, we decided to remove all the mango trees because we found that the trees were too difficult to nurture and maintain. The mangoes would fall, rot and attract the flies.*

*The garden area in the middle of the property and surrounding the house consisted of mostly palm and coconut trees. We were a bit worried about the children playing in this area due to fact that the coconuts would fall to the ground from the tall trees, becoming a hazard point. We decided to remove many of the trees and create a safer space for our children to play. An orchid house was built in 1997. It began as a small DIY project using recycled materials including steel poles, wire mesh sheets and shade cloth. It was a cheap project to begin with because the materials used were old scraps from one of Frank's old jobs (having a husband working in the construction field has its advantages). Over the years, changes have been made to the orchid house. Gravel covers the flooring of the orchid house; different orchids come and go and maintaining a good irrigation system definitely helps.*

*We use to have over 100 citrus trees, some over 30 years old covering parts of the property. In 2019, we were devastated when we were told that ALL our beautiful citrus trees would be removed as part of the National Citrus Canker Response. Our trees were not infected but were within the restricted area. My grandchildren love my famous Kalamansi Iced Tea (Kumquat fruit). It was a tradition to have a jug of iced Kalamansi tea during family catch ups so it was very sad for the family to see all the trees go.*

*Nowadays, our rural garden displays a variety of plants including desert roses, cactus, bromeliads and bougainvillea plants. It has taken lots of hard work, time and dedication making our vision come to life! We like to express our personalities through the established garden beds, rock islands, and garden art features displayed on our property. Assorted flowers blooming and bursting of many different colours compliment our garden paradise. Asian fruit trees are scattered in amongst the garden including pawpaw, jackfruit and java plants just to name a few. The three large garden beds in the driveway are filled with a variety of flowers. The splash of different shades of pink, purple and white are on display when entering our property creating a pleasant welcoming for our visitors.*

*This weekend we will be supporting Saint Francis of Assisi Church located in Humpty Doo. All gate sales will be going to the church and we will be selling drinks, nibbles and lunch throughout the day. We will also be selling a variety of plants from my garden. There will be a morning tour of the garden at 11am and an afternoon tour at 2pm on both days for those who have any questions they might like to ask.*

*We hope you enjoy visiting our garden and love it as much as we do. Thank you for coming.*

*Warm regards,*

*Beth and Frank.*

