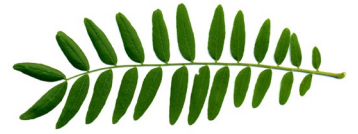


Garden Notes-Patto's Place

15 Stuckey Court, Howard Springs



A work in progress!

When we moved here in '93, the front of the block was lined with Black Wattles; there were Pandanus scattered around the block; 4 huge shady Mahoganies; random Spear Grass; weedy Curry trees and a massive clump of Ixora near the front of the house, which took years to get rid of. We have left the driveway gardens the same as well as the original Eucalypts.

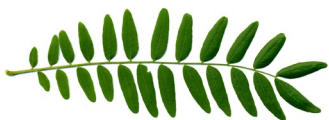
Apart from the huge Mahogany at the front of the block, many other huge ones had to be removed- a couple due to the Territory's 'favorite' pest, the insatiable white ants - before they destroyed our driveway, water pipes and house. It was amazing and very frustrating to see a productive KP Mango tree go from green to dead in 3 days. In those days, pest controllers were able to use arsenic, and one treatment decimated all the white ants, after which we didn't lose a tree to ants for over 9 years.

There was no overall design of this garden and most is unplanned. Once the rock wall had been completed next to the front verandah the rest fell into place. We liked the idea of having paths to different areas so we built the rest of the garden beds with this in mind then added the arches. However, rock work is not easy, so everything you see here has been created slowly over the last 25 years. Thanks to *Finlay's Stonemasonry* for supplying the rock (local porcellanite) and teaching us how to shape and work with it.

Over the years the garden has been challenged by Caterpillars, Grasshoppers, Mealy Bugs, Scale, Aphids, Borers, Dry Rot, Termites, Leaf Miners, Centipedes, Spiders, Snakes, Scorpions, Invasive Weeds, you name it! And, of course, every gardener's favorite bird – the Orange-footed Scrub fowl. Due to the inundation of cane toads over the years, the snake problem was reduced greatly-which in some ways was a blessing- but unfortunately the toads also obliterated all the Blue Tongues, Goannas and Frill Neck Lizards, which *was* a great loss.

We don't use bore water; we water sparingly (only the gardens, not the lawn) through the dry season and mulch whenever possible. The coffee rock is a challenge which limits us from planting big trees on a large part of the block. Cyclone Markus saw us lose seven big shade trees and subsequently everything living under those trees has suffered greatly and is still recovering.





Garden Notes-Patto's Place

15 Stuckey Court, Howard Springs



Keep an eye out for assorted Orchids, Bromeliads, Fruit trees, Cycads, Natives, Frangipani, Desert Roses, Maniltoa, Creepers and of course, Vines. It's been a continuous trial and error exercise over the years, but has also been a learning curve, however we are pretty happy with the progress so far. But can you ever finish a garden? This one will always be a work in progress with new ideas and areas still taking shape.

The history of our garden progress is available in a photo album for you to preview.

We have invited many knowledgeable people with their expertise to help, so please talk to them!!

Tim Moore from Territory Native Plants will provide a rare opportunity to learn about and purchase a huge range of NT Native Plants and Top End species.

Environment Centre NT (ECNT), who are also our chosen charity will be selling tea coffee and cakes over the weekend.

Considering the harshness of the seasons we tend to think our garden looks like a '*Dollar in the Dry*' and a '*Million in the Wet*'.

Please enjoy your visit and feel free to talk to us about our garden.

Cheers ~ Mark and Angela

2-3 April 2022



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