

Welcome to Knuckeys Secrett

Some of you longer-term Darwinite's will recall this address previously being fronted by the original Secrett Road before the McMillans Rd extension occurred in 1998 and the road was forever renamed. Further rewind to the early 1970's, then owners Ron and Heather Tresize owned most of the land on this side of McMillans Rd as one parcel. Post-cyclone Tracy this was divided into most of the individual allotments currently seen. Over time these were sold off but the Tresizes retained this block and the 3 surrounding blocks whilst Ron continued his sand extractive business. The house you see here originally resided in Nightcliff, however in 1975 was repositioned onto the lower floor structure to become a genuine 2 level house as opposed to an elevated house like those that are predominant in Darwin's older suburbs.



The end of the 1970s saw the Tresizes go their separate ways with Heather retaining this property and surrounding land, further subdivision and the sales of the surrounding properties resulted in the 4.5acre allotment you are viewing today and allowed 'Simply Palms Nursery' to be created.

The under house area with its almost entire glassed perimeter lent itself perfectly for the office space and the tea room also on offer at the time. Some of you may also remember the deer enclosure - now home for 'bonza' the emu and his chicken buddies.

We moved here in 2000, approximately 3 years after Heather had sold, and walked into 3 years of neglect - but there was a vision. Most of the established tall plants had survived and thus formed the basis of what you can currently view - this 'old growth' (for Darwin) has provided the canopy that has allowed us to develop the understory which has since thrived.

A love of gardening and establishing different individual areas has informed what you see now, all of which is based on easy care and low maintenance with mostly overhead irrigation rather than ground-based. Most of that irrigation is provided from what I assume is Darwin's largest well, originally constructed to support the nursery





with an above-ground storage tank nearby. The base which now supports a treehouse (cyclone damaged and not rebuilt, more to follow), also on offer is a bore 50m deep which has never run dry.

What you don't see is the towering mahogany trees that once enveloped most of the house and portions of the garden areas closer to the ring road circling the house. Cyclone Marcus in 2018 resulted in us losing most of those large trees, as the winds determined they all fell into areas that only damaged nothing other than the understory. These fallen trees have been retained and now form the basis of my timber slabbing that I offer from here.

The treehouse suffered mainly water damage and since our kids have grown up, I have removed the walls etc. and not chosen to rebuild it as such. This could lend itself to being rebuilt as another treehouse or the basis of another room of quality accommodation with a properly built landed stairway offering verandah vistas.

We replanted post-cyclone and have used the aftermath to our favour by introducing numerous paved pathways throughout most of the existing garden. This opened up the gardens to be more accessible and provided another dimension we didn't previously have.

We enjoy strolling through these pathways and hope you do also.

