

## In My Garden

We were hoping to visit Anne's Garden in May and discuss the differences between starting a new garden, to the problem President Di has of dealing with an existing Garden.

Anne's house was also designed by Geoff Lovie (Geoff and Lesley Vincent), whose garden and house the group has previously visited.

### Beginning a New Garden

So often when we move house, we inherit someone else's garden which can mean a mixed bag of luck. Less often we get to start with a 'clean slate'. Which is what I was lucky enough to gain when I moved to Lilli Pilli in December of 2018.

The block has a NNW orientation with a back drop of the beautiful trees of Halo Creek, and three distinct areas, full sun, dappled shade and full shade.

**My aim was to develop a native garden in a white, yellow and mauve colour scheme with a couple of old (exotic) favourites, and productive areas as well.**

I also felt it was important to work with the solar passive design of the new house, by developing a waterwise garden.

There have however been challenges to overcome. **The thick clay** that after rain became sodden as moisture drained down the block towards the creek, and **the wallabies** that saw a new garden as a nice place for an evening snack.

Soil improvement was tackled with fresh soil and gypsum being used in planting holes, and for some plants sand was also added. Over time, and with the addition of chip bark mulch, the soil improved significantly. Netting plants became



the only way to ensure protection from the wildlife while plants were young. While a couple of plants were not successful and others required repositioning, the garden has now thrived and along with native plants conveniently appearing naturally, the gardens are now becoming quite full.

*Eucalyptus staigeriana* is a lignotuberous iron-barked tree which occurs naturally in woodland on the eastern ranges of Cape York Peninsula. Copious Essential oil with a fruity lemon fragrance is distilled from the leaves, and is used in perfumes and aromatherapy. Interestingly, most of the oil produced from this species comes from South America. Hopefully, Anne's dwarf form will not achieve the growth of typical trees at Cape York, which often grow to 15-20m in height.

## Anne Bailey, Lilli Pilli



The 'clean slate', a time of excitement and maybe trepidation. Just where to start.



In the beginning, there was..... mulch. And someone had to supervise !



Now May 2020, not far into the journey, and Anne is making significant headway.

A range of plants now fill the garden, a variety of **westringia**, **hardenbergia**, **grevillea**, **correa** and **kangaroo paws** mix with **Weeping Cinnamon Wattle** (*Acacia leprosa*), **Dwarf Lemon Ironbark** (*Eucalyptus staigeriana*) and **Soft Tree Fern** (*Dicksonia antarctica*) as well as many more. A new garden is a garden of hard work but also one of delight and learning.