

Beyond the Dust

A gardening journal

Lindy Hardie





Aerial shot in 2013. The avenue of bottle trees are slowly starting to make an impression

Foreword

To be presented with a blank slate – to design a house and garden from scratch – and to make it work, requires many skills. As seen in her picturesque oasis, Lindy Hardie has mastered all the skills.

You start with a dream. Include some delightful memories mixed with imagination, experience and creative flair. Temper that with the limitations of your environment, your physical capacities and finances. Put your designs to paper and plan the steps to completion. Then add some courage, some new learning and lots of hard physical work. There – you have created your dream. What a great sense of achievement you feel and how delightful it is to sit or roam with family and friends and enjoy the colours and fragrances of your labours. A secret garden, stunning floral displays, bountiful fruit trees, cut flowers and foliage for her home – Lindy has achieved it all.

However, with a house and garden there is work to be done to maintain the dream. Creating it is one thing, but sustaining the beauty requires ongoing attention and adjustment. To most who enjoy working in their havens, this is a labour of love. As you will read in excerpts from her work journal, Lindy and family have had their fair share of garden adjustments.

Lindy told me that one day her son said, ‘Mum, you’re a dreamer.’ Well, that’s where it all starts!

Lindy’s dream, supported by family, has become an amazing reality. In the following pages share her beautiful garden and make use of her tools to fulfil your own dreams.

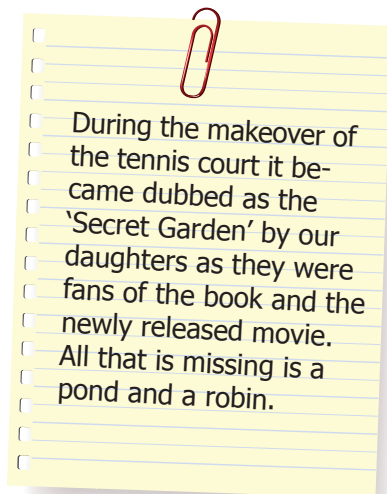
Friend and Fellow Dreamer

Diane Akers

‘Lass O’Gowrie Gardens’ Charleville

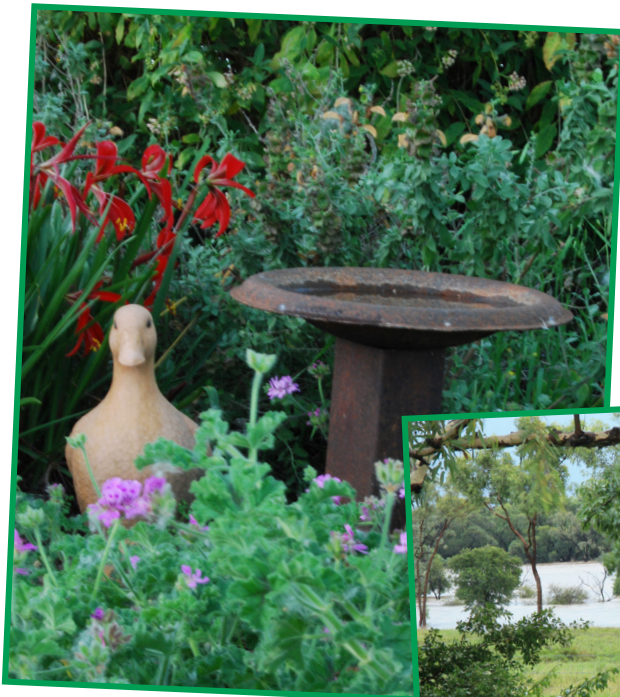
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what you would normally add as the Dutch iris loves a rich soil. Success, I have learnt, all comes back to how cold the winter has been and how well the soil has been prepared.



2013 I was so excited in November last year when the French lavender self-seeded in the gravel of the 'Secret Garden'. Sadly, 90 per cent of them have now died with the high humidity and excessive heat (44-45 degrees) of the last few weeks. I was hoping to replant my hedges with the seedlings.

7 January – Tamara and her fiancé, Paton, came out for lunch today and expressed their wish to get married here at 'Dumfries' in October this year. Of course all daughters have their fathers wound around their little fingers and he immediately said 'yes' to the wedding being here. So there is great excitement and it is a marvellous incentive to be out in the garden. Regardless of the heat and trying to get a head start, I immediately started propagating perennials that flower in spring and which might help fill in any bare spots in the garden. I need to do some research as I had promised last year that a bus tour from Sydney could visit in September ... now I hope that their visit is not too close to the wedding!



Bird bath made from a camp oven lid

2010: Much appreciated rain and floods after drought!



MARCH The days are certainly becoming shorter now and in some ways I miss summer with the early hours in the garden before the heat sets in, and the late evening opportunity to keep pottering if there is no one to cook for.

Notes from my journal

2000 Planted afro parsley hedge in front of the mutabilis roses. It took eight punnets and should look effective in May.

2001 Andrew and Ian cemented in the arches over the proposed fragrant walk along the length of the tennis court. So I was able to plant out the roses that I had ordered and potted up last year. Our daughters have now named it the 'Bridal Walk'.

2003 Great excitement as we finished flagstoning the 'Rose Walk'. A garden seat was put at the far end of the walkway in front of the white duranta with pots of liriopse either side. The pecan tree nearby will provide endless shade in the future. I am so happy with the end result that I decided to flagstone another area on the western side of the Secret Garden. David has decided that I have completely lost the plot. He thought I would have been cured of all rock work!

2005 We agreed to host the Bendemeer Garden Club from Roma in May. Time to get the running shoes on! Trying pink petunias this time in front of the murraya hedge and along the Bridal Walk.

2010 The heavy rain earlier this year washed all the compost off the garden beds resulting in the soil becoming very compact. I need to do a lot of digging to aerate, add compost, gypsum and aged manure to the soil. Trying to keep on top of the watering and weeding, as soon the garden will have a low priority for a time. All hands will be needed on deck as the cattle can come home from agistment and the 'long paddock', involving branding of calves and drafting prior to putting the cattle back into their respective paddocks.

Andrew made me a circular trellis which I aim to put at the shed end of the western walk. Hopefully the circle will replicate the circles of the wagon wheel seat nearby. Planted the deep red mandevilla 'Aloha' at the base of the trellis in a cardboard box dug into the ground as the receptacle for plant and fresh soil. The area is dense with tree roots under the surface.



The pink petunias were pretty but still not as effective as white would have been.



2013 Sadly, the mandevilla didn't survive the frost and cold winds of winter. I have been given a stephanotis plant and although more suited to a warmer site, I will use it as a replacement. The fragrance of the flowers is divine and hopefully this will carry to the garden seat.

2010 Caterpillars and slaters are being very active around all the bulbs and rhizomes. I drenched the soil around them with Pyrethrum. With the hippeastrums growing in a pot, I covered the holes in the bottom of the pot with old panty hose or a square of gauze before adding potting mix, to prevent the slaters coming up and eating the bulbs. This has proved to be a successful deterrent.

The annual blue salvia is wonderful value. Planted now (early this month) they will give a display in May. I was rewarded with a second display in spring by cutting back and lightly fertilising. I need to watch out for powdery mildew. I have had some of the annual blue salvias in for two years and I think the blue is much more effective in the garden than the white variety. But of course this all depends on the effect I am trying to achieve.

I must ensure to plant out the Asiatic and LA lilies as soon as they arrive. The plan is to plant them in large pots, either black plastic or terracotta. I love the flowers and their long life when cut and put in a vase; a great subject to photograph and Mum enjoys the blooms in her room.



Kapok tree flower



2010: The Bridal Walk

Biography – Lindy Hardie

Lindy Hardie grew up in western Queensland and with her husband David, raised their four children on the northern Darling Downs. She still found the time to create two magnificent gardens in rural Queensland to Open Garden Scheme standard at their properties, ‘Warrawee’ at Jandowae in 2000 and ‘Dumfries’ at Blackall in 2004. When you realise that only four years had elapsed for Lindy to create a magnificent oasis from scratch at ‘Dumfries’ to the high standard required by the Australian Open Garden Scheme, you will begin to understand the personal courage and dedication of this remarkable lady.

Lindy’s passion for photography, her landscaping abilities, her knowledge of soil improvement, the placement of suitable plants, and her fertilising and pruning routine on a monthly basis, are all recorded in her journal, *Beyond the Dust – a journal and workbook of an outback garden*.

This publication of her personal gardening journey is a reliable testament to her skills and is an invaluable guide for those who want to become a passionate and informed gardener.

Jenny Muir

Universal Garden Centre and Gallery, Blackall

