

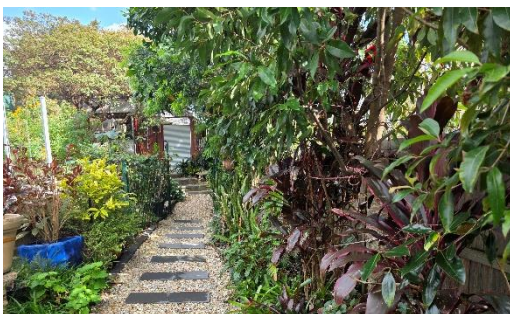
September Home Visit – Bronwyn's.



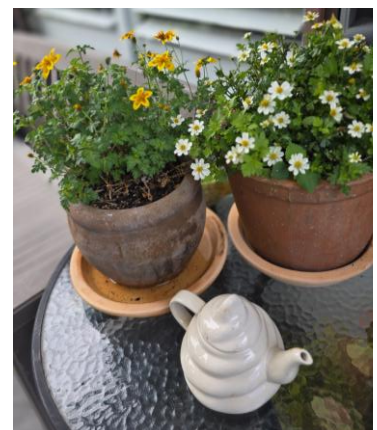
Walking down this pathway (left) at the bottom of Bronwyn O'Donnell's Garden regular attendee Wendy Clear quite rightly said – “This really reminds me of Alice in Wonderland it is so magical”. It even seemed as if Alice herself (below) was still there



exploring the colourful world around her. Magical creatures like the toad and the exotic cows at left just add to that mood. Adding to the whimsy there are teapots located all over the garden as if 'The Mad Hatter' has forgetfully abandoned them everywhere. As a visitor you quickly learn to expect the unexpected at every turn.



The Kangaroos sign (below left) is just another sign of that whimsy. It all adds up to a garden that is clearly a labour of love where so many different types of plant shapes and colours have been mixed so successfully to create interest.



The 'Mad Hatter' leaves his mark all over the garden!



If visitors can see 'the love' put into the garden the 'labour' is also clearly evident when you look. And one place to look is inside the collection of different letter boxes scattered around the garden. No, it's not the last place on earth that is still getting physical mail, but instead a brilliant way to protect your collection of garden tools while having them readily available in every corner of your garden. No more 'where the hell did I leave my garden scissors?' There's one in every part of the garden ready to use when needed.



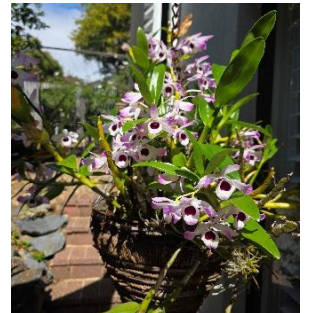
And used they clearly are to care for one of the most diverse collection of plants we've seen for a while. Among the highlights were a lovely little **gerbera** (below left) in the front garden and a pot (with goose!) of



Lobularia 'Lavender' (above right). The bright pink **cordylines** mixed with white **alyssum** and **ferns** (at right) also attracted attention.



Even more interest went to two plants near Bronwyn's work area. First (above left) is her "swamp orchid" **Phaius australis** (also called the lesser swamp orchid, swamp lily, or southern swamp-orchid). It lives very happily in a swamp in a large plastic rubbish bin. Beside it is a huge **Maidenhair fern** which grew from just part of a plant that had been in Bronwyn's family for a hundred years.



A collection of cardboard plants (**Zamia furfuracea**), a lovely orange **rose** and some **soft cane dendrobiums** in flower all add extra interest and variety.



One thing that more than a few of those present on the day commented on is the way items are grouped together in the garden. This especially applies to how different plants are growing so well together in pots that themselves are skilfully placed together. The group at left is a perfect example.



The mix of the bright orange **rose** with a **red geranium** and **yellow freesias** in bright blue and mauve pots is another great mix. In another pot (growing below still developing sweet peas) a huge **white freesia** was just as good.



The artistic use of colour and its use with 'objects' is very much exemplified by the way the blank wall (above left) is softened by a glassless window frame contrasted with an 'orange' **bougainvillea**. But for many one of the very best ideas was the one at left. On a group of palms in the front garden are signposts that point to where Bronwyn's various family members live – with each member of each family listed. A great tribute to family and their importance.



MANY THANKS to **BRONWYN** (with Maisie) for giving us so many ideas to copy (hiding an ugly wall with old mirrors anyone?). A really great visit.

