

Rod and Anna's garden bed and chooks

February 2014

"There's nothing so powerful as an idea who's time has come..."

A chance encounter with Rod in the supermarket and a conversation about veggie gardens was the catalyst. Rod mentioned that he and Anna had wanted a veggie garden and chooks for years. One week later we were turning their dream into a reality!

When we arrived, their back garden in Magill was beautifully cluttered around the perimeters with low and mid level plants. Lawn, divided by a central path, dominated the yard and towering trees on the northern side provided a leafy overhead canopy.

The position of the veggie garden had to be carefully considered to take into account their desire to keep a central open lawn space while optimising the limited light getting through the leafy canopies.

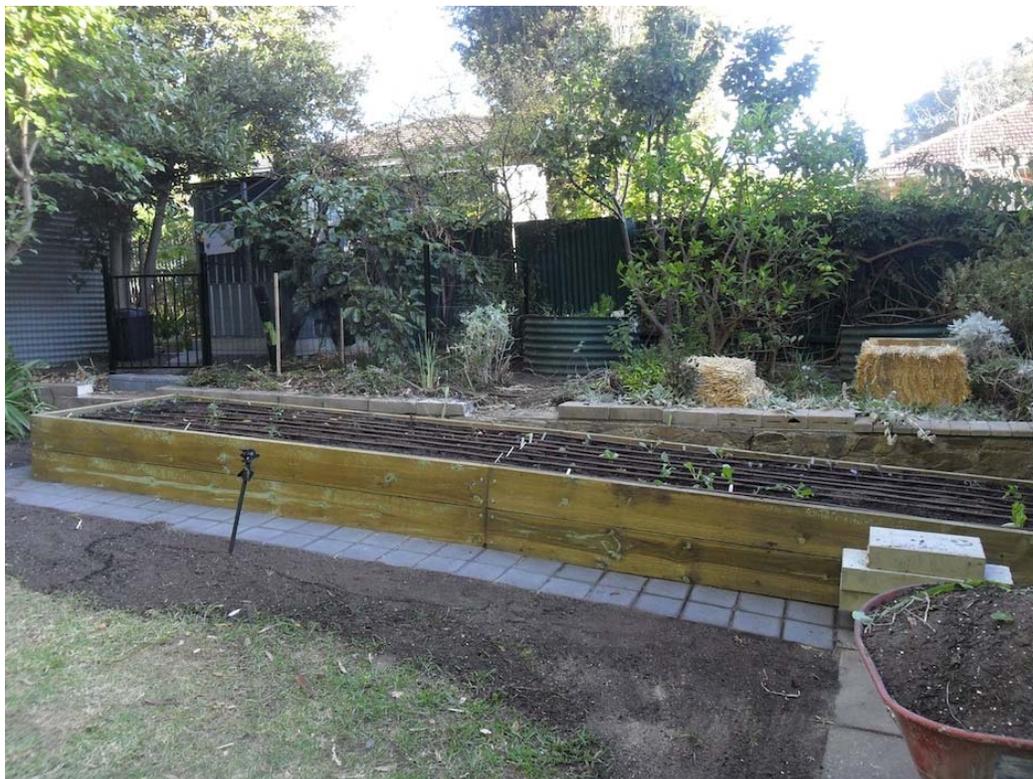
Before we started the southern side of the back yard looked like this:



We pulled out the row of agapanthus to situate the new garden bed along the path to Rod's studio. Filling the veggie garden bed with 5 tons of our special soil (delivered in their front driveway) wasn't as easy as we'd hoped. Our little digger wouldn't fit through their narrow side gates to move the soil from the front to the back yard. Poor Roger had to use the digger to fill the wheelbarrow with soil in the front yard, then wheel it to the back yard and manually tip it into the bed. Load after load after load!



Here's the finished veggie garden with the chook house in the left hand corner.



The back yard feels much more open and light.

By placing the veggie garden along the path on the southern side of the yard, maximum sunlight will be available to the plants as the leafy overhanging trees are on the northern side. The open back lawn area has been retained, and Rod will be able to survey the progress of the veggies every day on his way to the studio.

But it wasn't the veggie garden that enthused them, it was the chooks!!!

After installing the chook house in a discreet corner of the garden we erected a fence around it so the chooks could 'free range' at their leisure during the day.

When we delivered the two chooks last week, they were lovingly greeted by a "Welcome to your new home" sign, and christened Betty and Wilma.



Betty and Wilma have a lovely surrounding area to peck around in adjacent to Rod's studio that will be planted with green chook food. Rod's chook Betty is the feistier one, but with daily cuddles from Anna, they are both quickly becoming very tame and part of the family. I'm sure it will be a memorable day when that first egg is found...

In addition to the new veggie garden and chook house, we installed a berry garden down the side of their house and renovated 2 large tubs to make a herb garden and a potato garden.

Observing the excitement and vitality that infuses our clients when we install veggie gardens is a great joy for us. A change in surroundings usually brings new inspiration into their lives.

Rod and Anna are now planning further changes to their back yard. They've started the process of crafting it into a functional natural space that will provide both food and inspiration.

