



Backyard Biodiversity

Kyneton projects



BACKYARD BIODIVERSITY



Macedon Ranges
Shire Council




Acknowledgement of Country

Macedon Ranges Shire Council acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land and waterways.

Council recognises their living cultures and ongoing connection to Country and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Council also acknowledges local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander residents of Macedon Ranges for their ongoing contribution to the diverse culture of our community.



The Backyard Biodiversity Program is a community-focused environmental program helping residents in urban areas create wildlife-friendly backyards with indigenous plants. It increases habitat for birds, insects, and small mammals while promoting awareness and connection to local nature.

The Kyneton pilot ran from March to August 2025. Ten households were selected through an application process and received personalised support to transform a small area of their backyard (up to 9 m²). Participants attended a wildlife gardening workshop, received a one-hour garden consultation with designer Sue Meli, and were provided with native plants suited to their site.

The program was delivered by Kimberley Cook, Environment Engagement Officer. The program aligns with the goals of the Biodiversity Strategy and Climate Emergency Plan 2023, by promoting nature-positive behaviours, improving habitat connectivity and empowering residents to take practical action for biodiversity.

The dry, peanut shaped garden



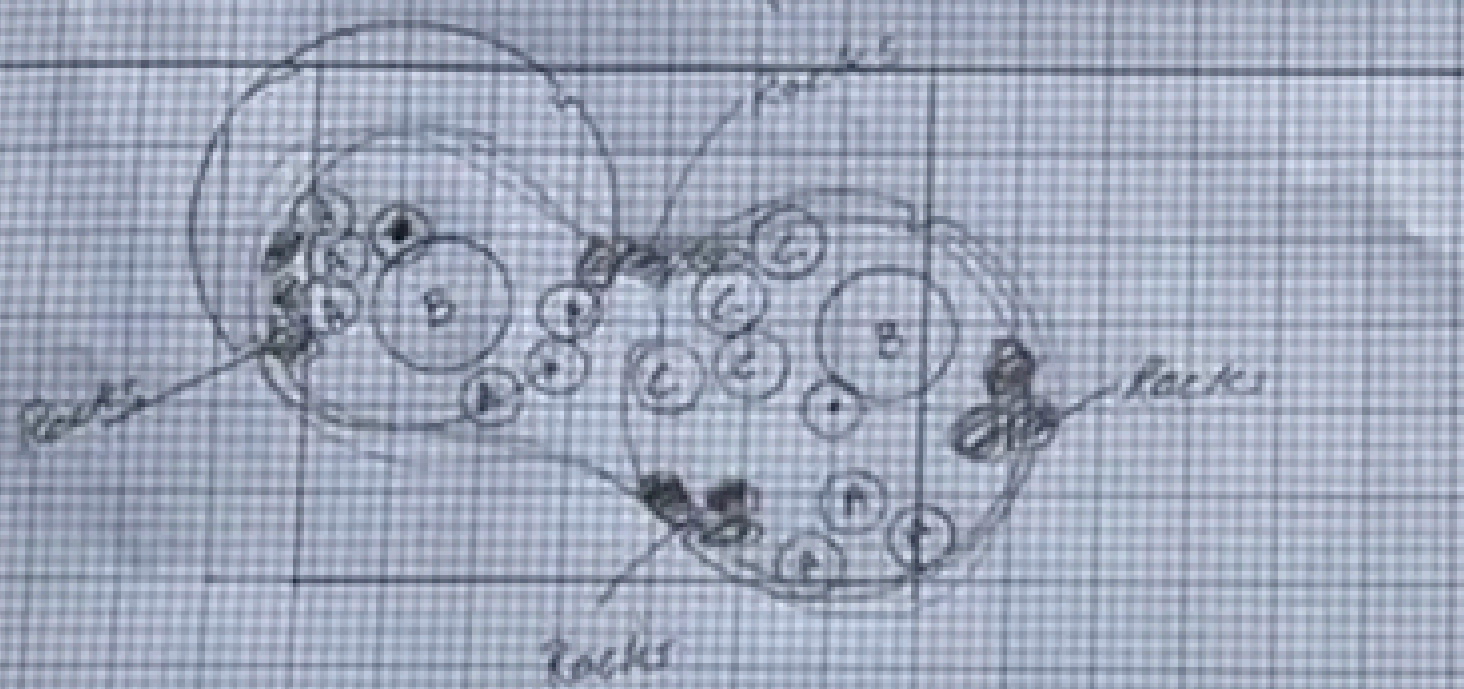
Before



After

Garden design and plant list

- Themeda triandra
- Hardenbergia violacea
- Calocephalus citreus



The front garden, new build



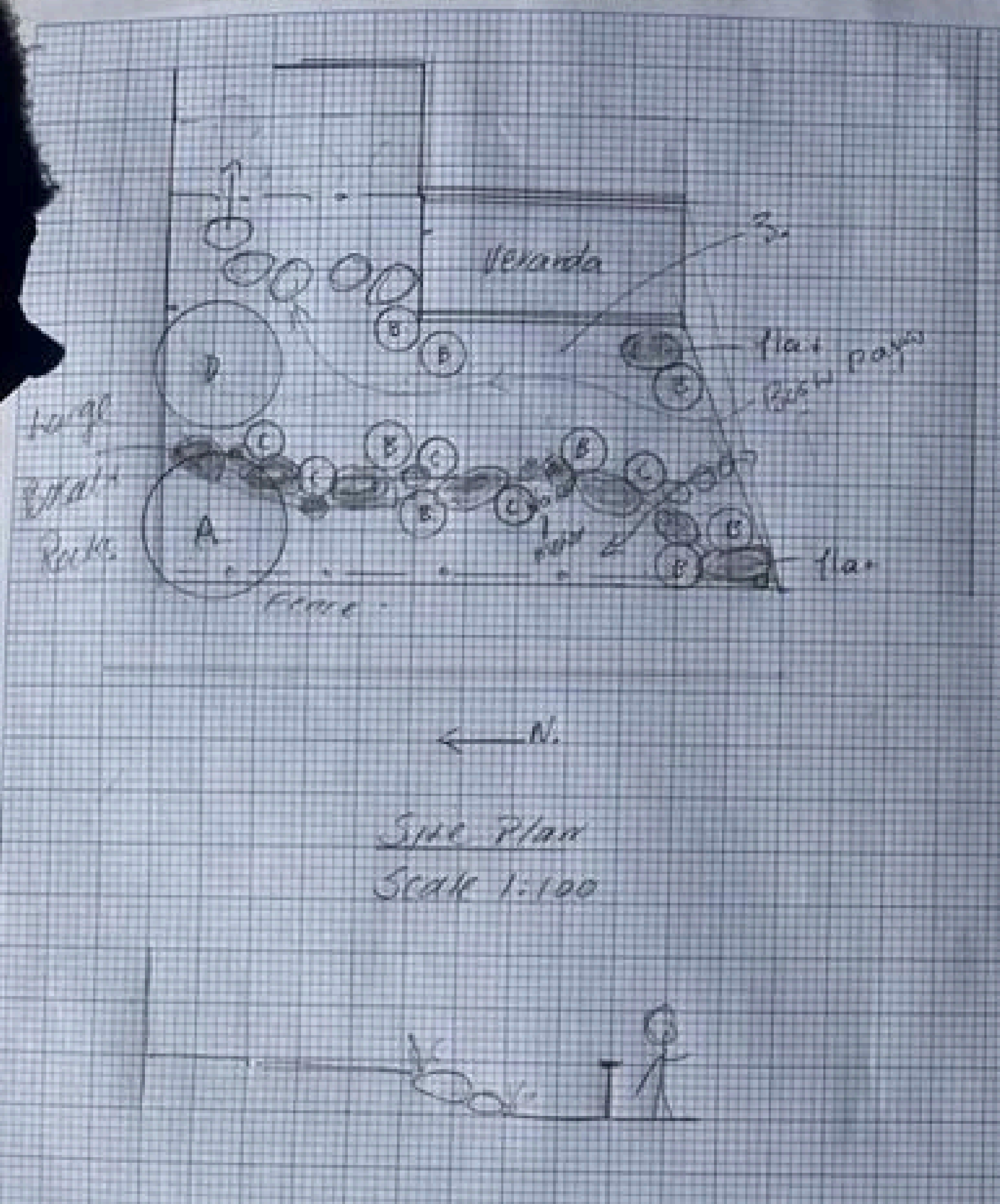
Before



After

Garden design and plant list

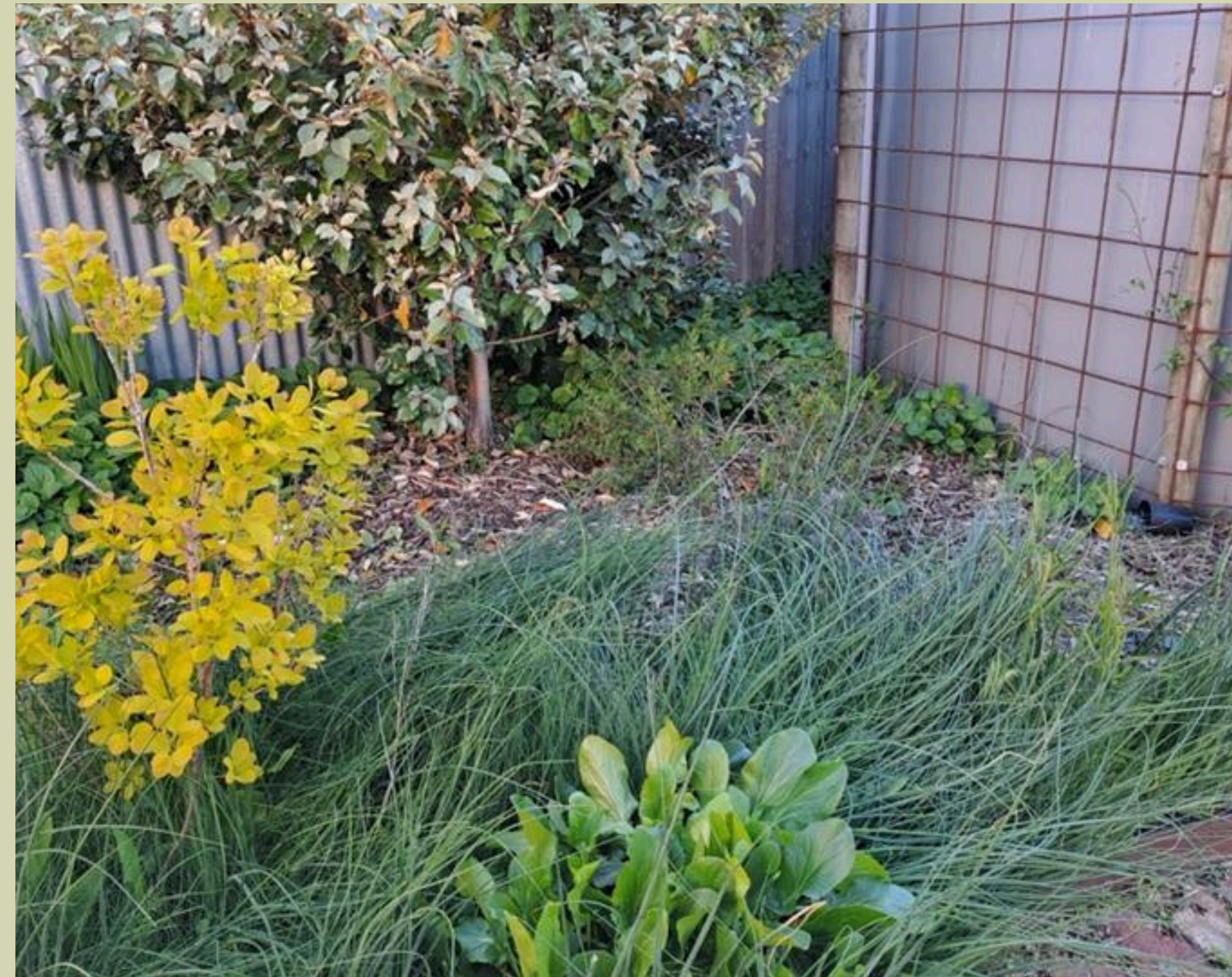
- *Leptospermum lanigerum*
- *Poa labillardierei*
- *Calocephalus citreus*
- *Melicytus dentatus*



The existing garden + natives



Before



After

Quantity

H. Isolepis nodosa

Living Creek Area

Quantity

3 x

J. Antheropodium striatum

Chobotell Lilly

2 x

3x J. Pelargonium austral

3 x

K. Swamp Billy Buttons

Gisborne Swamp

Swamp collect

3 x

Craspedia paludicola

3 x

Site Plan Scale 1:100

Garden design and plant list

- Banksia marginata
- Clematis aristata
- Indigofera australis
- Correa reflexa
- Themeda triandra
- Isolepis nodosa

The new garden bed



Before



After



The frog pond, recycled materials



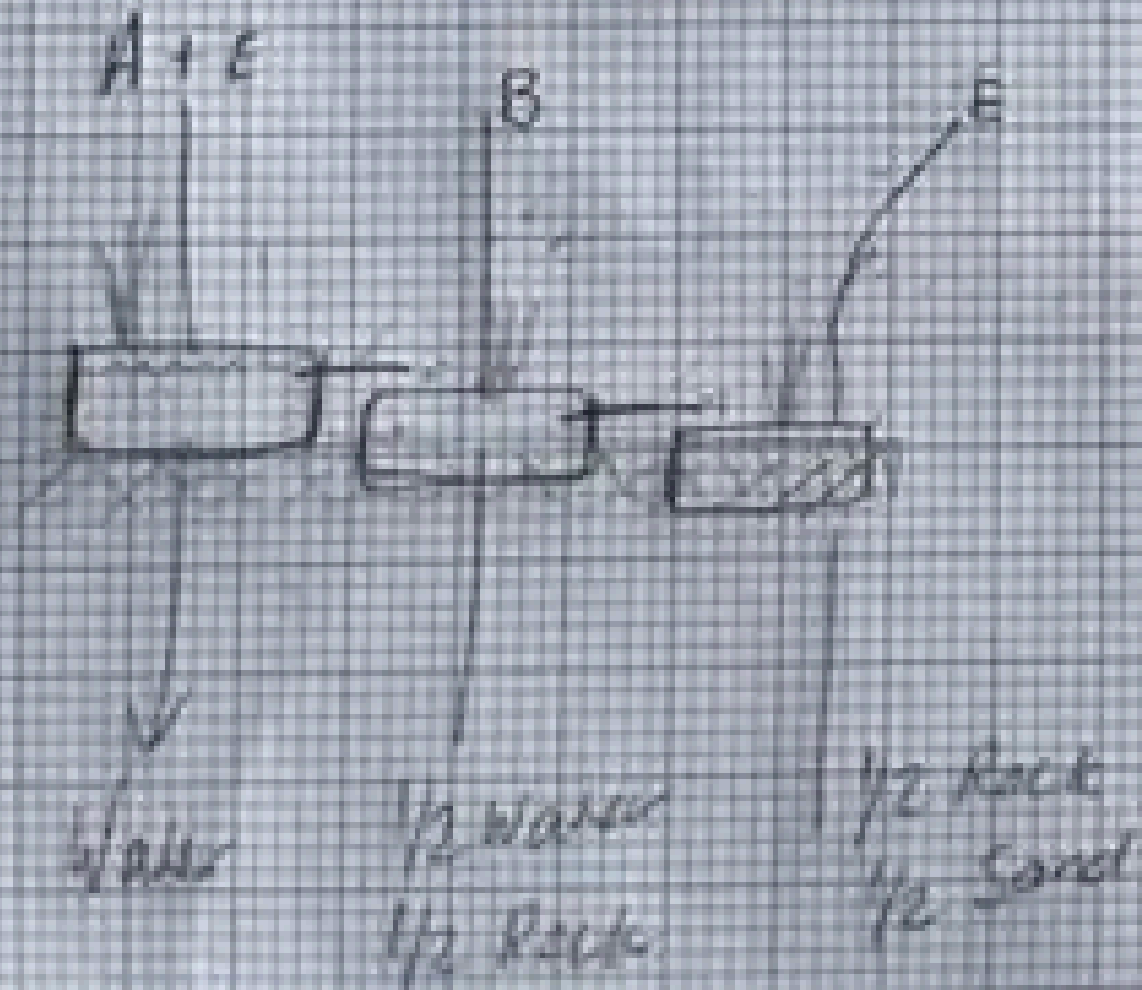
Before



After

- Pot Ep 14/2000 pot
Native potting mix
mulch with gravel

Site Plan
Scale 1:100



Garden design and plant list

- *Carex appressa*
- *Juncus pauciflorus*
- *Poa labillardierei*
- *Pelargonium australe*
- *Lomandra longifolia*

The front garden, blank canvas

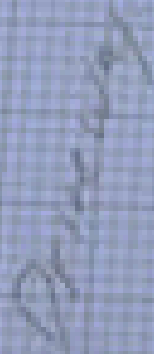


Before



After

A Power Sale



- **Bursaria spinosa**
- **Callistemon sieberi**
- **Poa labillardierei**
- **Pelargonium australe**
- **Brachyscome diversifolia**

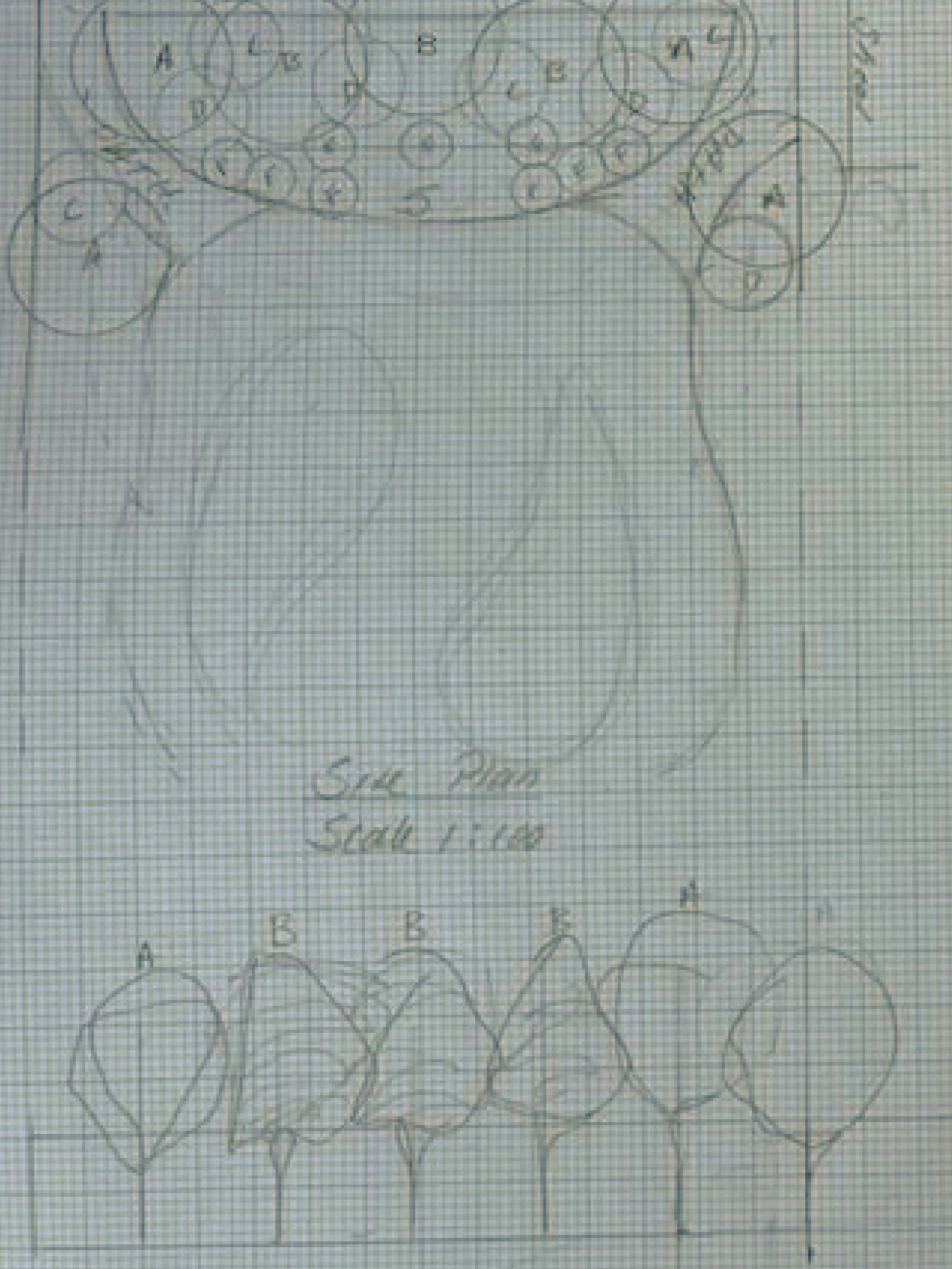
The backyard, where do I start?



Before

After image coming soon

After



Garden design and plant list

- **Bursaria spinosa**
- **Acacia stricta**
- **Poa labillardierei**
- **Calocephalus citreus**

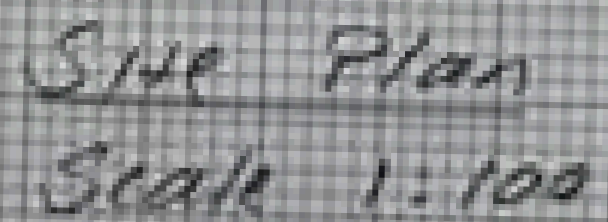
The narrow garden



Before



After



Garden design and plant list

- **Poa labillardierei**
- **Juncus pauciflorus**
- **Ozothamnus obcordatus**
- **Einadia hastata**
- **Pelargonium australe**

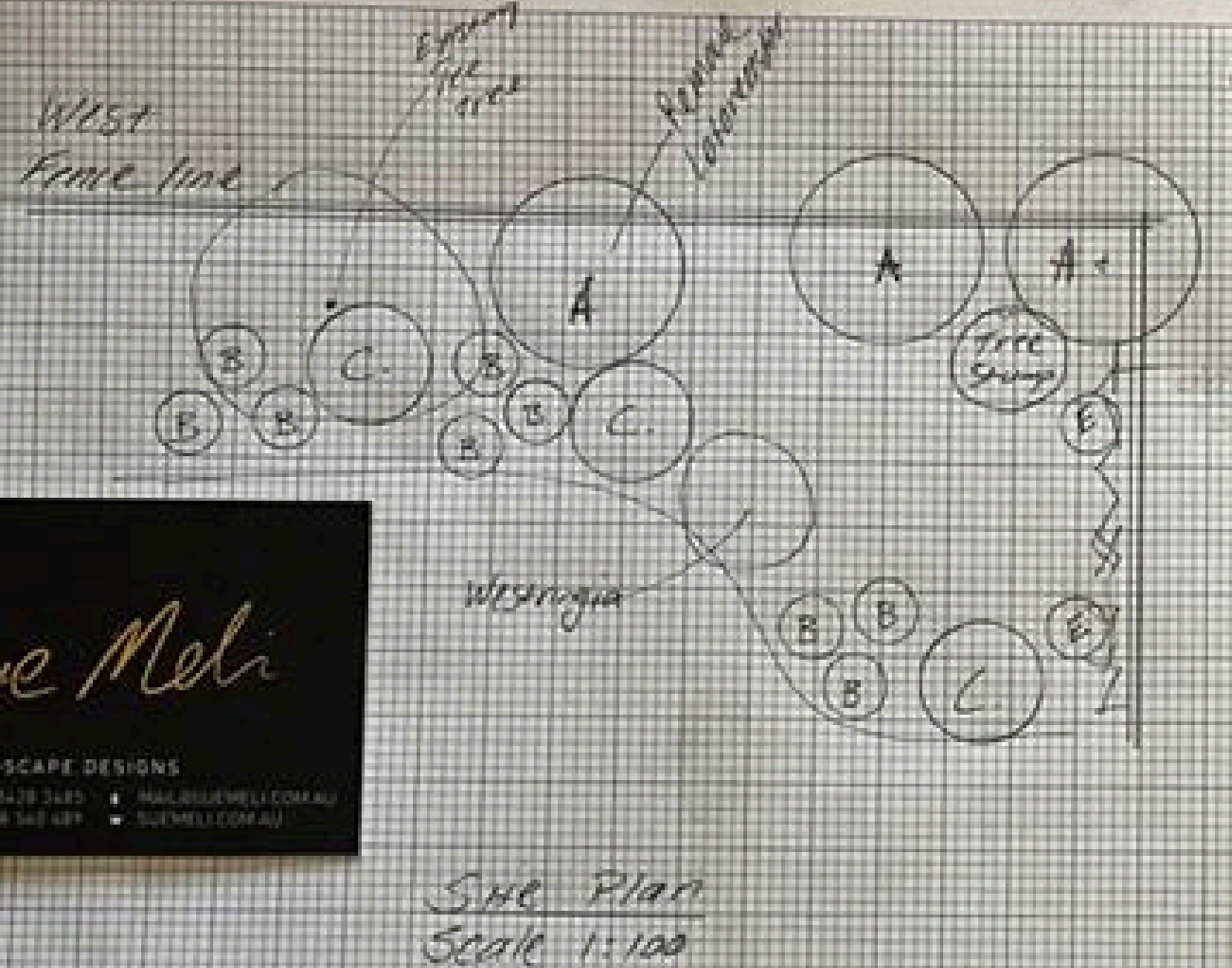
The fill in the gaps garden



Before



After



Garden design and plant list

- *Acacia stricta*
- *Correa reflexa*
- *Clematis aristata*
- *Poa labillardierei*

The update a communal space

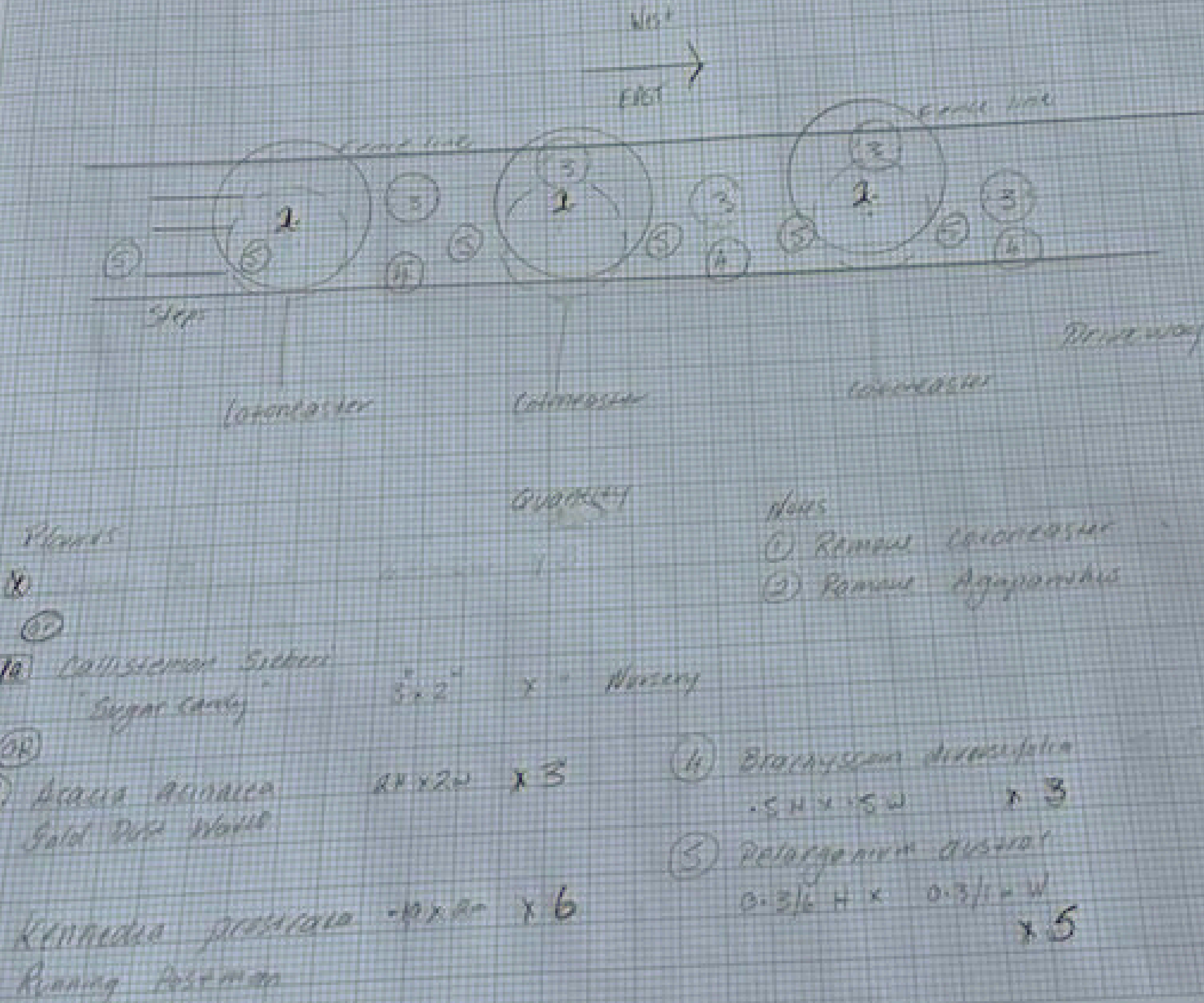


Before



After

Garden design and plant list



- Callistemon sieberi
- Kennedia prostrata
- Brachyscome diversifolia
- Pelargonium australe

Plant species information

Kyneton urban area

EVC 55 - Plains Grassy Woodlands

Description: An open, eucalypt woodland to 15 m tall occurring on a number of geologies and soil types. Occupies poorly drained, fertile soils on flat or gently undulating plains at low elevations. The understorey consists of a few sparse shrubs over a species-rich grassy and herbaceous ground layer.



Acacia stricta

Common name: Hop Wattle

A small shrub that ranges from 2-4 metres in height. Leaves are a dark green while its flowers are yellow. Flowering from May to October. The flowers supports a range of bird species.

Image credit: Yarra Ranges SC



Banksia marginata

Common name: Silver Banksia

A medium shrub that ranges from 1-3 metres high. Leaves are a dark green, but their underside is a light silver. Flowers are dense and yellow in colour. Flowering from February to June. Attracts a range of birds as well as bees. The plant is resistant to frost and snow.

Image credit: Yarra Ranges SC



Brachyscome diversifolia

Common name: Tall Daisy or Large-headed Daisy

A tall daisy that ranges in height from 30cm to 1 meter. Found in grassy woodlands. Its flowers have white petals and leaves are light green. Flowering from September to February. Daisies attract bees and butterflies.

Image credit: Yarra Ranges SC



Bursaria spinosa

Common name: Sweet Bursaria and Native Blackthorn

A small tree ranging in height from 2-6 metres. The leaves are narrow and are dark green. Flowers are white, flowering from November to February. The plant produces brown seed capsules which can be eaten by insects for food.

Flowers produce nectar for both bees and butterflies.

Image credit: Gardeningwithangus.com.au

Plant species information

Kyneton urban area

EVC 55 - Plains Grassy Woodlands



Callistemon sieberi

Common name: River Bottlebrush

A small, dense, spiky shrub with a height ranging from 1 to 3 meters. It usually grows along riverbanks. The leaves are spiky and green and the flowers are a light yellow. Flowers bloom from November to March. These plants help stop erosion on riverbanks.

Butterflies use the plant for nectar.

Image credit: anbg.gov.au



Calocephalus citreus

Common name: Lemon Beauty-heads

A small shrub that grows 15 to 50 centimetres in height and can be found in dry grasslands. Leaves of the plant are green. The flowers are yellow balls of pollen at the tip of a stalk. These flowers bloom from September to March. Native bees and butterflies feed on the nectar.

Image credit: Botanic Gardens of South Australia



Carex apressa

Common name: Tall Sedge

A semi-aquatic species found just underneath shallow water. Plant stems can grow from 50cm-1m in height when in flower. Spiders love this plant as they construct webs to catch small insects within the flowers. Flowering from August to January. Frogs use this plant as a habitat. While butterflies seek its nectar.

Image credit: Australianplantsonline.com.au



Clematis aristate

Common name: Australian Clematis, Mountain Clematis, and Old Man's Beard

This plant can climb up to 15 meters high. It can be found in cool forests. Branches are a dark brown, the leaves are green, and the flowers are yellow. Flowering from August to March. The plant also attracts birds, which may nest in it.

Image credit: anbg.gov.au

Plant species information

Kyneton urban area

EVC 55 - Plains Grassy Woodlands



Correa reflexa

Common name: Common Correa or Native Fuchsia

This plant is a medium-sized shrub and ranges in height from 1-2 metres and can be found in drier forests. The leaves are leafy green, flowers can be greenish or pink in colour, flowering from October to March. The plant attracts a range of birds and insects. It is also resistant to frost.

Image credit: Kuranga.com.au



Einnadia hastata

Common name: Berry Saltbush and Saloop

A small shrub that grows 50cm in height. Found in open and coastal areas. The plant has rich green leaves and its flowers are red. The flowering from November to March. Nectar attracts bees and other insects.

Image credit: vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au



Common name: Happy Wanderer, and Native Lilac

This plant has a beautiful flower and climbs up to 2 metres. It is found in forests and woodlands. Stems are reddish in colour while its flowers are a bright purple, flowering from July to November. Its nectar attracts butterflies and bees. Very scrambly.

Image credit: gardeingwithangus.com.au



Indigofera australis

Common name: Australian indigo

A small flowering shrub that can grow from 1.5-2 metres in height. The leaves of this plant are green and the flowering buds are a bright pink. Flowering from September to December. Pollen attracts butterflies.

Image credit: gardeingwithangus.com.au

Plant species information

Kyneton urban area

EVC 55 - Plains Grassy Woodlands



Isolepis nodosa

Common name: Knobby club rush

This plant is a herb that can be found in ponds and dams. The stalk of this plant is green and is often slimy because of the algae on it. At the top of the stalk are the flowers, which are a dark red colour. Flowering from spring to summer. Insects feed from this semi-aquatic plant.

Image Credit: australianplantsonline.com.au



Juncus pauciflorus

Common name: Loose-flower Rush

This plant can be found in damp or moist soils. It's a small spiky shrub with reeds growing from its base. Its height ranges from 30cm-1m. The flowers on this plant grow from offshoots off the stem as small bulbs that are brownish in colour.

Flowering from November to January. This plant supports frogs, birds and other small insects.

Image credit: Yarra Ranges SC



Kennedia prostrata

Common name: Running Postman

A dense foliage plant that grows in the undergrowth and has pink to red flowers. The height is up to 1.5metres, but spreads wide. Flowering from April to December. The plant supports animals such as butterflies, birds and bees.

Image credit: gardeingwithangus.com.au



Leptospermum lanigerum

Common name: Woolly Tea-tree

A small tree that can be found in swamps. Although classified as a tree, it is more shrub-like with little branches shooting off everywhere. On each branch are its grey leaves, with white flowers. It can grow up to 4m in height. Butterflies and other insects are attracted to the plant.

Image credit: Xera Plants

Plant species information

Kyneton urban area

EVC 55 - Plains Grassy Woodlands



Lomandra longifolia

Common name: Spiny-headed Mat-rush

The plant is a spiky flowering bush. Each leaf stemming from the base are green and the buds are a brown bulb. Plant is 50cm-1m in height. The plant is used by frogs as habitat, and pollen is collected by butterflies and bees. Birds are attracted by the frogs and other insects. Flowering from September to February.

Image credit: westernstarnurseries.com



Melicytus dentatus

Common name: Tree Violet

This plant is a small spiny shrub that is very dense and thick. The leaves of this plant are green in colour and the flowers are small and white. Flowering from September to November. Birds eat the berries and bulbs of the plant.

Image credit: Yarra Ranges SC



Ozothamnus obcordatus

Common name: Grey Everlasting

This plant is a small dense shrub that can be found in moist and wet areas. It is snow and frost resistant. The plant grows up to 80cm high. Yellow folders, flowering from December to February. This plant attracts many pollinators.

Image credit: vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au



Pelargonium australe

Common name: Austral Stork's Bill and Wild Geranium

This plant is often found on rocky hills where it can fully make use of the sun. It's frost tolerant. The flower colour is pink. Flowering from October to March.

Image credit: vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au

Plant species information

Kyneton urban area

EVC 55 - Plains Grassy Woodlands



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Image credit: westernstarnurseries.com



Themeda triandra

Common name: Kangaroo grass

Kangaroo grass is a reedy grass with green and brown grain-like flowers. It can grow up to 1.5 metres high. Flowering from September to February.

Kangaroo grass is an important plant due to its ecological importance in grassy ecosystems, it is resilient to fire and has cultural significance.

It's an important food source for birds, kangaroos, wallabies, insects and other wildlife.

Image credit: theplanthub.com.au

The Macedon Ranges Shire contains many different ecosystems. These ecosystems are grouped into what are known as Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs).

EVCs are an important tool for:

- Choosing the right native plants for your property or garden.
- Restoring natural areas with plants that belong in the local ecosystem.
- Guiding land management decisions, especially when it comes to revegetation and tree planting

To find the EVC, and native plant list, in your location, visit '[What to plant on your property](#)' and follow the steps.