

Botanical Traditions:

Summer 2012 Update

Welcome to the Summer Newsletter 2012.

The team at Botanical Traditions would like to extend best wishes for the new year.

Within this newsletter we will be saying good bye to team member Fiona Hurse, who is relocating to Perth. We will also look at the effects hot weather can have on our gardens, as well a past project at Monash University which recently won an award.

Departing Staff

Fiona Hurse, who has been working at Botanical Traditions as a Graduate Landscape Architect, will be leaving the team.

"I will be relocating to Perth, where I will be continuing my career in the landscape industry. I'm excited for a new challenge, and to incorporate new knowledge of Western Australian ecosystems into my designs.



I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as part of the Botanical Traditions team. In particular, the exposure to an array of different projects and stages of the design process. Specific highlights include; being able to contribute to the design of numerous natural playspaces, an array of roof top gardens, using sustainable elements and principles into all landscape projects (regardless of the size or shape), as well as the passion and enthusiasm of our residential clients who have allowed me to contribute to their gardens and watch their gardens grow!

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank and acknowledge Ruth for her demonstration and commitment of knowledge and passion to the landscape industry and her continual determination.

Again, thank you to Ruth and the team at Botanical Traditions, I wish you great success in all future projects."

We are on Facebook!

Please 'Like' us:

www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Botanical-Traditions-Pty-Ltd/304746682885504



Recent Awards

DESIGN AWARDS

Our project received a Highly Commended in the recently held LIAV 2011 Victorian Landscape Awards. The award came under the 'Commercial Construction under \$500,000' category, and was for the constructed design of the Monash University Children's Centre, Notting Hill. The landscape construction of this project was completed by an independent contractor, in early 2010.

The landscape design aims to provide a playspace that reflects the various features of a natural environment, in order to challenge the children's experience of 'play' whilst aiding the children's physical and social development. The design was also a finalist in the AILD 2010 Awards under the Commercial/Institutional/Public Space Category.

The playspace is comprised of a variety of spaces which include a range of objects and materials that can be incorporated into play in many different ways, initiating creativity and imagination.

The constraints of the project were budget, access and limited time for the construction stage.

Botanical Traditions was also thrilled to receive a delightful email from the client late last year.

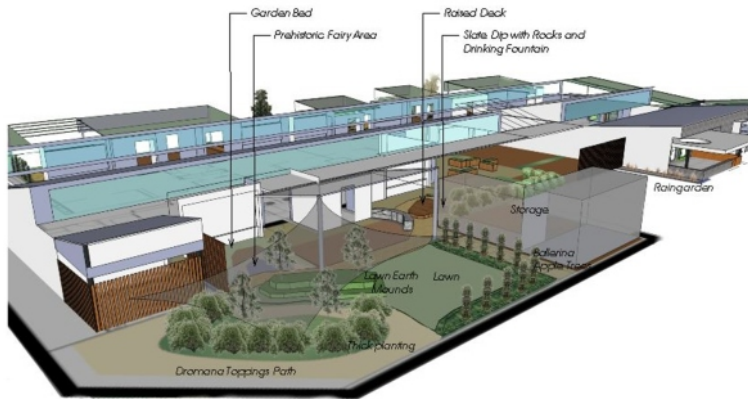
"Thought you might be interested - some lorikeets have nested between the rocks at the east end of the playground. The ground cover drapes over the gap so they are protected - and very used to children peering in too."



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Pro Bono Competition

Thank you for all the entries received for the ProBono competition. We are currently reviewing all the applications and will be in contact shortly with the short-listed organisations.



Above: Example of sketch work & constructed playspace

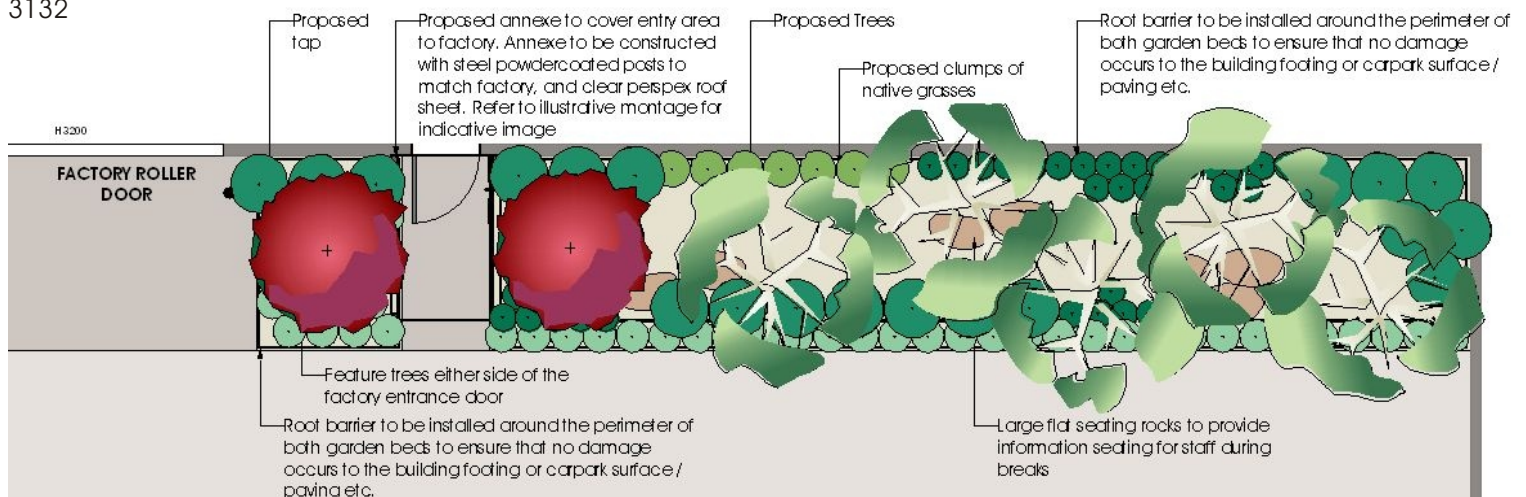


Our webpage is undergoing renovation - sorry for any inconvenience, some of the links and images do not work.

We have moved!

Our new address is:
 Factory 4/613 Whitehorse Rd,
 Mitcham
 3132

FACTORY 4/613 WHITEHORSE RD



We have already been busy planning the revitalisation of our office garden.

CARPARK

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Summer in the Garden

Summer is a great time for us to be out and enjoying our gardens. It's the time to harvest an abundance of fruit and vegetables from the veggie patch, and the warm summer nights are perfect for outdoor entertaining. But the long days and hot weather can come at a cost. Below, we discuss some of the effects of hot weather on our gardens and how best to combat them.

Effects of Hot Weather

Just as we dislike being too hot, so do our plants. Below are some of the negative effects high Summer temperatures, hot winds and dry conditions can have:

- *Dried-out soils
- *Increased evaporation
- *Increased runoff (water-phobic soils)
- *Wilting or burnt plants



Sunburned foliage

What to look for:

Common symptoms of heat stress:

- * Wilted or scorched foliage
- * Discolouration
- * Fruit & flower-drop
- * Dry soil under mulch layer



Wilted plants due to heat stress

Irrigation

In the dry, hot months, it's vital that watering regimes are managed correctly. On very hot days, or during a continuous spell of hot, dry weather, increasing the frequency/length of watering will help keep plants happy and healthy.

- * Drip irrigation reduces water wastage, evaporation and runoff by delivering water directly to plant roots. The irrigation dripline MUST be placed close to plant roots for this to be effective.
- * Deep hand-watering in areas prone to drying out, or in extreme weather conditions, will add much-needed water to the root zone.
- * Water either early morning or in the evening, when temperatures are lower, to reduce the incidence of evaporation and wastage.
- * Monitor garden beds near buildings and under eaves to ensure these areas receive sufficient water.

Soil & Mulch

The type and condition of soil in your garden impacts on the amount of water available for plants. Compacted soils have a reduced porosity, meaning less space available for air and water. Sandy soils, which are coarse and free-draining, have a low capacity to hold and store

water. Clay soils become rock-hard when dry and have a tendency to become compacted, but when saturated, inhibit root growth.

*Improve your soil by adding compost and organic matter - this not only adds nutrients, but also overtime changes the structure of the soil, increasing porosity and water-holding ability.

*Add mulch. This acts like insulation, reducing both the incidence of evaporation and the surface temperature of the soil. The ideal depth is between 75-100mm. Bush mulch is ideal in a native garden, and for exotics, mulch with a high content of organic matter and a fast drainage rate is recommended.

Lawns

A key element of the Australian backyard is the lawn. Whilst the benefits of having a lawn are great, they do require a deal of care, and depending on the turf type, vary with their ability to cope with Summer conditions. It is important to recognise which variety of turf you have in your garden.

*Once lawns are established, during summer months, water only once or twice a week. Deep watering less frequently encourages the lawn to establish a deeper root system and therefore cope better with dry periods.

*Depending on your soil, lawns require between 20-70mm depth of water per watering event (20-30mm of water for sandy soils, and 40-70mm for loams and clay soils).

*An easy way to test this is to put a container on the lawn whilst watering, and measure how much water is in it.

*Aerate lawn regularly to encourage water infiltration.

And most important of all - stay cool and enjoy the wonders of your garden!



Useful Links:

- *Melbourne Water
www.melbournewater.com.au
- *Living Victoria Water Rebate Program
www.water.vic.gov.au/saving
- *Green Acres Lawn
www.greenacreslawn.com.au
- *Carbon Price Calculator
www.yourcarbonprice.com.au

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Plant of the Month

Rhubarb Recipe

Rhubarb



Rhubarb is a herbaceous perennial that is commonly used for culinary and medicinal purposes.

The plant grows from a thick stalk, spreading by rhizomes and has large triangular leaves with long fleshy petioles. Typically it grows to approximately 50cm H x Up to 1.5m W.

Rhubarb is easy to grow in cool climates, and can be left in the ground and will return a crop for many years, even up to 10 to 15 years.

Culinary Hints - Cooking and eating Rhubarb

Pick stems about the thickness of your thumb. Large stems will have tough 'strings' down the length of them. Use in pies, crumbles, fools and jams. Rhubarb goes well with orange. Will usually need sweetener.

Careful!

Do not eat the leaves or roots as they contain oxalic acid which is poisonous.

Easy Rhubarb Crumble

Ingredients:

500grams rhubarb, leaves discarded, ends trimmed
1 teaspoon Smart sugar or pinch Stevia (or 1 tbs raw caster sugar)

Juice and Rind from 1 x Orange

1 teaspoon Vanilla Paste

500g Granny Smith Apples

1/2 cup untoasted muesli

1/2 cup plain flour

1/4 cup brown sugar

2 tablespoons butter (room temperature)

Cream or icecream to serve

Stevia

Stevia is a South American herb often used as a natural sweetener. It likes full sun, a warm spot in winter and well-drained soil. Protect from frosts.

For more information visit www.stevia.com

Method:

Preheat oven to 180°C. Lightly grease a suitable oven dish.

Cut rhubarb into 4cm pieces. Place into saucepan with rhubarb, orange rind, vanilla paste and juice and simmer until rhubarb is tender. Remove from heat. Peel and slice apples thinly and mix into rhubarb mixture. Spoon into dish.

Mix muesli, flour and sugar in bowl and use fingers to spread the butter into the mixture to form clumps which will look about the size of coarse breadcrumbs. Place in freezer until butter hardens. Sprinkle over fruit. Place crumble into oven and bake until topping is golden.

Serve hot with cream or icecream. Enjoy!

