

Welcome to Rosehill

Text and photos Angela Sully

I had a lovely garden in New Zealand. Growing roses along with other cool climate plants was easy: perfect climate, didn't have to spray much, fertiliser was whatever we got from local farms and I can't remember ever doing a pH test. Twelve years ago, I moved to Queensland and was told 'you can't grow roses here'. At the time we lived at Burleigh, the garden there was made up of palms and other 'things' unrecognisable to me at the time – a boring colourless palette.

Eight years ago Wayne and I bought a one and a quarter acre 'horse paddock' and built our dream home but we little thought my love of roses would develop into what we have now. Initially I planted 24 roses and, as they thrived, planted more until now Rosehill boasts over 350 rose bushes, around 12 cultivars; Hybrid Tea, Floribunda, David Austin (one of my favourites), Old Fashioned, Miniatures etc.

I believe healthy soil is one of the key ingredients in growing not only beautiful Roses, but all plants and continually add composts, manures and good organic fertilisers to improve the soil and feed the plants. The Queensland heat and humidity provide a perfect breeding ground for pests and disease that plague the Roses, so I spray on a fortnightly basis with a mixture of both insecticides and fungicides which keep the Roses healthy and disease free.

The driveway is lined with leopard trees, under-planted with 'Seduction' roses, camellia and agapanthus while the front central gardens are filled with around 300 hybrid Tea and Floribunda roses encased in hedges of 'Sheena Gold' set off by our lovely water feature. It's hard to choose a favourite among so many beautiful roses. The large gazebo constructed by 'Bob the Builder' Wayne, was last year surrounded by Delbard roses from 'The Painter's collection' and other pretty multicoloured roses. A poinciana in a circular garden is under-planted with a selection of tropical plants.

In 2007 the 'Grotto', the final step in the skeletal structure of the garden, was built. With the help of a bobcat and several metres of cracker dust and soil, the main pathway and border gardens encompassing tropical birch, magnolia, David Austin and old fashioned roses and a variety of other 'cottage' plants was completed. The pathway leads to a set of stairs leading to the bottom gazebo and a cool, shady break surrounded by magnificent Camellia japonica underplanted with azalea. A little further along 'windows' between the fig trees offer something different to view – tropicals, bromeliads, ferns, ginger and orchids.

The high section at the back of our property has a lovely view over the valley and is mainly planted with fruit trees under-planted with Kangaroo paw, hibiscus, various tropical plants and a grass garden. The walk through a nearby arbour has a planting of climbing 'Dublin Bay' and 'Gold Bunny' side by side which intertwine with a lovely red/gold effect and to the right, Wayne has built a shady pergola for a wisteria and 'Pierre de Ronsart' to climb over.

Spring brings the first sensory explosion of perfume at Rosehill from the many jasmine climbers rambling over structures in the back garden, then osmanthus, wisteria, magnolia, michaellea, camellia, gardenia, honeysuckle and jacarandas all flowering at differing times mingle with the best perfume of all, the rose. It is such a pleasure to be able to show people that not only can we grow roses in Queensland, but grow them to blooming perfection.

Wayne and I spend many hours of pleasure in their garden and hope visitors derive as much pleasure from it as we do. We are both members of The Gold Coast Rose Society. 'Rosehill' at 24 Charles Kurz Drive, Worongary on the Gold Coast will be open on the weekend of 17-18 October to raise funds for the Society. For details of the Society's 10th Anniversary Rose Show 24-25 October see visit the Web: www.goldcoastrosesociety.org.au.

'ROSEHILL'

**GOLD COAST ROSE SOCIETY
'ROSE' PROMOTIONAL
'OPEN GARDEN' WEEKEND**

**24 CHARLES KURZ DRIVE
WORONGARY QLD 4213**

17th & 18th OCTOBER 2009



1st August 2001 – We Bought a 'horse paddock'



The start of the earthworks for the house
My God' – what are we going to do with that!!



The retaining walls go in



More earthworks



Finally we have the pad for the house laid and soil in the top retaining wall



November 2001 - The house nears completion, natives are planted on the top bank and we have an exposed 'sewerage system' in the middle of what is to be the front lawn



December 2001 - Grass is laid, the natives on the bank are growing and Angela comes up with a design solution' to hide the sewerage system



Entry Statement to a fairly bare facade



December 2001 - A garden is starting to evolve



March 2002 - Evolution taking place



May 2002 - The first Rose gardens are planted, with a little bit of 'liquid manure' to help them along



It's starting to look a little more like a garden, and a little less like a bare block



December 2002 - Yellow Lantana gives a splash of colour, back planted with an assortment of shrubs Angela's plan is to turn this into a 'topiary garden'



December 2002 - The Roses continue to bloom and grow, surrounded by their little Sheena's Gold hedge



March 2002 - 'Stuart' the gnome adds humour to the garden under the Poinciana tree



Development continues in the yard by the pool



December 2002 - A few young trees are planted in our very dry back garden area. We're grateful for the established trees around the perimeter of the block



2003 - Angela's design ideas inspire better gardens in the back garden, fruit trees and other drought tolerant plant go in



An old 'Opal Mining' Winch is added to the garden, the first of several items of 'garden art' to adorn our garden



Two 12,000 Litre tanks ensure enough water for the plants
Henhouse and compost bins in the background.



October 2008 – How things have grown. Leopard tree lined driveway under-planted with Camellias and Agapantha with three flowering Jacarandas in the background



October 2008 – Many visitors come to admire the Roses which have grown to over 350 Bushes.



Arches laden with sweet smelling honeysuckle, with the water feature the central focal point (View from the House)



View from the fence



‘What happened to colour in Australian gardens’ There is plenty in ours - banks laden with Jasmine and Yellow Lantana, with Jacarandas in bloom just one example



The pathway leading down to the 'Grotto' with the 'Pidgeon House'
Wayne built Angela in the distance



'The Grotto' Standard 'Seduction Roses drawn visitors down to the cool shady Gazebo at the bottom of the garden



It's lovely to wander along the bottom pathway, edged with Tropical Birch, Magnolia 'Little Gem' David Austin Roses, Day Lillies, Hippeastrum, Perennials and more



The final area to be developed. Distinct 'Windows' have been created under the fig trees each offering something different, Ferns, Tropicals, Bromiliades, and more



A plathoria of colour in the central back garden area, with another 30 new Roses finding a home his year around the large Gazebo. The Poincianna is growing beautifully.



Visitors to the Open Garden have much to see



The View from the back garden



2008 saw the addition of the new 'Outdoor Kitchen' and Tropical Garden around the pool



The 'Balinese' look



Bouganvillia in bloom adds the perfect backdrop to the large potted Bromeliad taking pride of place between two large gums



'Lots to see'



'Squirrel – what Squirrel'



Wayne has turned into quite a 'Bob the Builder' constructing this flash 'Birdhouse' for his prize Goulian Finches.



An arbour built by Wayne has Climbing Dublin Bay and Gold Bunny happily growing over it.



Wayne is quite the 'Bird Man' this latest bird house is home to beautiful colourful bush parrots



Another Arbour constructed by 'Bob the Builder' Wayne has Wisteria and Perie de Ronstadt rambling over it. A pathway winds its way through a grass garden



Fruit trees underplanted with kangaroo paw grow and fruit to perfection



Our choice for the driest of gardens, a large bromeliad in a pot underplanted with Agaves, Song of India and backplanted with Frangipani



A high pathway links the back garden to the front garden at the very top of our garden. There are hidden fairies, succulents, bromiliades and garden art edging the top border