



## OPEN NATURE GARDENS WEEKEND

Margaret River. October 15-16. Tickets \$15

Come and visit some amazing and inspiring nature gardens over one weekend in the Margaret River region! All profits go back into nature conservation in the community. Tour the properties, meet the gardeners and get their top tips for creating a nature-friendly, water-wise, sustainable and ecologically-rich garden packed with habitat for wildlife and pollinators. From bush blocks and rural properties to FireWise and coastal gardens, there's something for everyone! Visit all six gardens over the one weekend, or pick and choose the ones of most interest.

Tickets: <https://events.humanitix.com/open-nature-gardens-weekend>

### TIMES AND ADDRESSES AT A GLANCE

#### Garden 1 & 2: Open Saturday October 15, 9am-12noon

1. A feel good sensory native garden that is a space for artisanal craft and land for wildlife

Address: 25 Mallee Fowl Way, Margaret River

2. A lush and landscaped native and wildlife garden in Kilcarnup

Address: 20 Mentelle Rd, Burnside

#### Garden 3 & 4: Open Saturday October 15, 1pm-4pm

3. A coastal, no-irrigation native garden in Gnarabup that blends seamlessly with its surrounds

Address: 65 Baudin Drive, Gnarabup

4. A lovely landscaped native garden incorporating Firewise principles and design elements

Address: 555 Wallcliffe Road, Margaret River (Wallcliffe Fire Brigade Station)

#### Garden 5 & 6: Open Sunday October 16, 9am-12noon

5. A Gnarabup gem showcasing a dizzying delight of natives and orchids

Address: 55 Baudin Drive, Gnarabup

6. From paddock to packed with wildlife, this garden stunner is well worth a wander

Address: 10 Hogan Place, Witchcliffe

## FULL PROGRAM

Welcome to the second Open Nature Gardens Weekend! Thank you so much for supporting this Nature Conservation Margaret River Region event, which is part of the For Nature Landowner Stewardship Program – aimed at helping you give nature a hand at your place! We hope you find plenty of useful info, tips, ideas, and inspiration by visiting these gardens and apply some of them on your property. You can register with our For Nature program for free at <https://www.natureconservation.org.au/for-nature/>, where you can also find a wealth of info, resources, free workshops, equipment hire and grants for conservation work.

Please read these guidelines to help your weekend go smoothly:

- Gardens are only open during the times listed on the program
- Toilet facilities are not available so please use the loo before your visit
- **Dogs will not be admitted to gardens**
- You will need to drive or cycle to each garden – please carpool with friends if possible and **park on the road or verge outside each garden**
- Bring a water bottle to stay hydrated
- The event will proceed even if it rains – just bring a raincoat or umbrella!
- Closed shoes are recommended
- Children under 16 are free with an accompanying adult who has a ticket
- Please supervise young children at all times and be aware of hazards including steps, ponds and wildlife
- Please print out your ticket or have it ready on your mobile phone to show our volunteers upon entry to each garden. Have a great weekend!
- Please use the dieback cleaning station when directed





## SATURDAY MORNING

### Garden 1: Open Saturday October 15, 9am-12noon

**A feel good sensory native garden that is a space for artisanal craft and land for wildlife**

25 Mallee Fowl Way, Margaret River

Joan Tilburn and Barry Walker's property on Malley Fowl Way is a native showstopper when it comes to all-year colour and fragrance with flowers and foliage, providing a home for bandicoots, frogs, spinebills and honeyeaters. Plus, it's a great example of how to transition from cultivated garden to bushland on their 8-acre property near Redgate Beach, which wisely factors in fire safety and the use of rockeries. Their plant choice is almost entirely based on local native species, with standout features including a mauve/blue garden teeming with insect pollinators and a grevillea/nectar garden beloved by birdlife. The garden was started from scratch is designed to delight the senses (sight, smell and sound), create an environment for creative pursuits, and dedicate plenty of land for wildlife. Joan & Barry who are both



retired biologists, faced challenges including swathes of bracken, sandy soils, weevils, grazing fauna and infestations of acacia longifolia and cape weed. Make sure you pick their brains for top tips on these issues!

### Garden 2: Open Saturday October 15, 9am-12noon

**A lush and landscaped native and wildlife garden in Kilcarnup**

20 Mentelle Rd, Burnside

Prepare to be dazzled by Supawan and Kirby Franzinelli's 1.2ha property with a colourful and stunning yet low-maintenance, dry garden on Mentelle Rd at Burnside. As well as creating an incredible nature garden to imitate nature and compliment their home, the couple run a retail online custom print fabric shop specialising in native flora and fauna prints from their shed! "We basically were after a very low maintenance garden comprised mostly of natives and drought-tolerant species. Once the plants are established, we don't water unless there are signs of stress during summer. Lots of flowering plants were a must to attract wildlife, to pollinate the veggie patch and for our working beehive," they said. Informal plantings around the house are separated by textural poa



grass and old fence post borders which create symmetry and continuity, with a formal area around the inviting fire pit and kids' play equipment. Garden beds were planted sequentially over the four years the family have lived here, so if you're planning a nature garden you can see the different stages staggered over several years. Challenges included plant predation by kangaroos, rabbits and birds, plus compacted and sandy soil, strong winds and winter flooding, meaning careful selection of plants to cope with both wet and dry seasons. Surrounded by bushland, the garden is now home to species including cherry candle prostrate banksia, billy buttons, silver princess, lemon scented darwinia, grevilleas and burgundy peppermint trees, plus hakeas and croweas. And it's a thriving habitat for small birds including wrens as well as honey eaters, magpies, kookaburras, possums and skinks. "The greatest success has been the improvement to the quality of life our family is lucky to enjoy here. It's been a lot of hard work but a lot of fun watching the garden grow," the couple say.



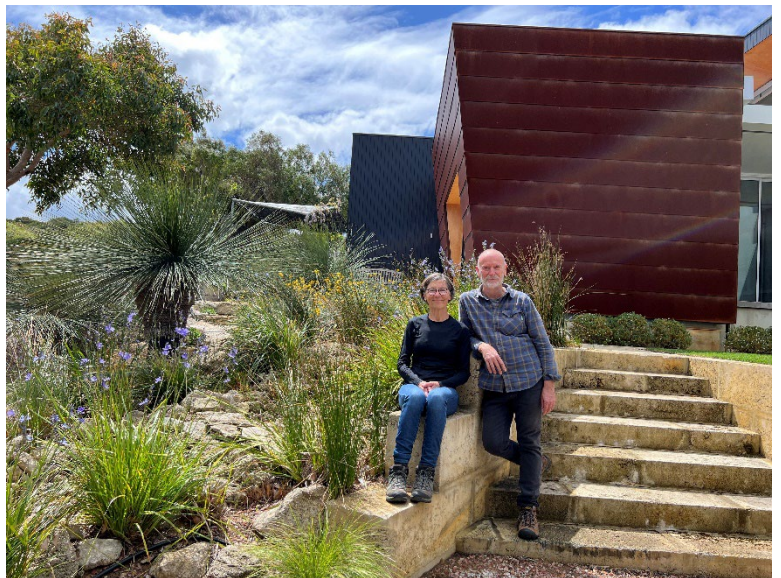
## SATURDAY AFTERNOON

### Garden 3: Open Saturday October 15, 1pm-4pm

**A coastal, no-irrigation native garden in Gnarabup that blends seamlessly with its surrounds**

65 Baudin Drive, Gnarabup

Ann Delroy and Michael Carr moved to Margaret River permanently seven years ago with the goal of turning their 1400sqm property on Baudin Drive at Gnarabup into a garden that would blend with surrounding bush and is a prime example of how to combine a stylish modern architecturally designed home with a healthy native garden with plenty of habitat for wildlife. The garden planted with predominantly tube stock is a haven for birds, reptiles, and frogs as it blends informally with the bush around. Key features include different levels across the block to maintain the natural slope; differing garden 'rooms' visible from all windows; and a dry creek bed feature designed to channel away excess water flow and create habitat and aesthetic impact. The planting philosophy is almost all local natives, focusing on form, leaf texture and colour with selected species from greater WA and south-east Australia suitable for the coastal limestone environment, while a handful of exotic deciduous trees and a climber are being trialled to provide summer shade and winter sun to north-facing windows. Prostrate rosemary is used along one retaining wall for visual effect and as food source. "We wanted to use natives to link in with the adjacent national park, attract and provide a food source for local birds, and to ensure a healthy, sustainable garden that can thrive in the harsh coastal conditions," says Ann, adding that the couple hoped to create a "healthy, visually-appealing garden that fits in with the local environment, enhances the house design and provides an enjoyable living environment". It certainly achieves that and is a must-see during the Open Nature Gardens Weekend!



### Garden 4: Open Saturday October 16, 1pm-4pm

**A lovely landscaped native garden incorporating Firewise principles and design elements**

555 Wallcliffe Road, Margaret River

Visit Nature Conservation's FireWise installation garden at the Wallcliffe Bush Fire Brigade headquarters to see how beautiful and colourful a FireWise and waterwise garden can be! Designed to withstand ember attack, this garden features a range of stone mulches, rock features, paths, gabion baskets and sculptures that look stunning but have actually been made from recycled building waste materials. The garden is home to a variety of fire resistant local and WA native plants which put on a fantastic display of foliage and flower - and proving that you can have a diverse native garden that is fire-wise if you stick to some simple principles! If you're interested in creating your own FireWise garden or would like to hear about the principles of a FireWise landscape, this garden is must-see.





## SUNDAY MORNING

### **Garden 5: Open Sunday October 16, 9am-12noon**

#### **A Gnarabup gem showcasing a dizzying delight of natives and orchids**

55 Baudin Drive, Gnarabup

Don't miss this beautiful half-acre native garden of author and plant guru Jane Scott, located on a steeply-sloping block with ocean views over Gnarabup. It's home to an incredible variety of local flowering natives including banksia, correas, eutaxias and grevilleas – and even spider, pink fairy and leopard orchids which are flowering now. Jane and her husband Roger have battled sandy soil, ever-present wind and rabbit predation to create this superb example of a native wildlife garden, with mulched pathways meandering between bush garden areas packed with birdlife. Other features include more than 100 grass trees, with colourful climbers like native wisteria and flame pea. Damaged by the 2011 bushfire that hit Gnarabup, this garden has regenerated remarkably and is a prime example of how species selection can make a property more fire-wise. Don't miss this chance to check out a leading coastal garden created by one of our most celebrated flora authors! Copies of Jane's books will also be available for purchase.



### **Garden 6: Open Sunday October 16, 9am-12noon**

#### **From paddock to packed with wildlife, this garden stunner is well worth a wander**

10 Hogan Place, Witchcliffe

Experience the stunning landscaped native garden sanctuary Brent and Kate Carter have created for their family - and native fauna. The stunning property on Hogan Place at Witchcliffe was once mostly cleared but now blends seamlessly with the native forest that it borders. "Our philosophy was always to be an entirely native driven garden, with the idea to fit in with our amazing surroundings and integrate with the local wildlife, as well as minimising harm from weeds. Working with natives, especially local natives, has been very rewarding as they are not only beautiful but attract so much life to our garden," Brent says. While most plants in the garden are south-west species, some wider ranging Australian natives and nursery hybrids were also planted to deliver high-



impact flower displays, attract more birds and other wildlife, or as a hardier species for the local environment. The focus of the garden was to showcase WA plants first, with careful selection of non-natives that will not become weedy. The Carters are also busy on the forested area of the garden to help rejuvenate the understory, while an arum lily blitz targeted the invasive weeds on the property. Rockeries blend with pathways, ancient grass trees and even a section of edibles. Pick Brent and Kate's brains about plant losses - some losses forced them to experiment with alternative species and to better understand their soil. Although only two years old, their garden is already home to native birds like Carnaby's, Baudin's and Forest Red-tailed cockatoos plus honeyeaters, robins, wrens and a chorus of various frogs.



Thanks again, we hope you had a fabulous weekend! And don't forget to register with our For Nature program for free at <https://www.natureconservation.org.au/for-nature/>, where you can also find a wealth of info, resources, free workshops, equipment hire and grants for conservation work.

For Nature is proudly supported by funding from the West Australian Government's State Natural Resources Management Program, the Water Corporation and the Shire of Augusta Margaret River.