Garden makers of the Southern Tablelands

Tablelands Garden makers
Linda Muldoon, Brittle gum (*Xerochrysum bracteatum*)

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PHOTO CREDITS
COURTYARD: Linda Muldoon
Rock isotome (*Isotoma axillaris*)
Bamboo heath (*Eremaea ovata*), Andy Russell
Small Tree bells (*Correa aquatilis*)
Tiliqua scincoides, Geoff Robertson
Grey Ghost (*Lepidosperma laterale*)
Grey fantail (*Rhipiduraenalula*)
Eastern Blue-tongue lizard (*Tiliqua scincoides*)
Three gum woodland garden: Janet Russell
Spotted marsh frog (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*)

Courtyard: Linda Muldoon

Moth and flower (*Philotheca myoporoides*)

Zieria cytisoides, Kate Leith

PO BOX 987, Civic Square, ACT 2608

The Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) is a wonderful living and virtual resource for Canberra garden makers. ANBG is a place for recreation, inspiration, science and learning. Situated on the lower slopes of Black Mountain in Canberra, the ANBG has the world's most comprehensive display of living Australian native plants. There are many plants of the Southern Tablelands region included in the collection. The ANBG website is a scientific and horticultural resource for garden makers. If you would like to see an image of a plant that you would like to grow, you can click on it on the website on the photo image page. The website also has a map for the ANBG with a search window so that you can search for the name of a plant and see its location in the ANBG. This means that you can visit a living specimen growing in the ANBG and get a better idea of its character and growing needs.

The Molonglo Catchment Group website assists home owners and residents identify weeds, understand why they are weeds and how they can control or remove them. Also included on the website is a comprehensive list of indigenous native species.

Good garden design can assist you to control weeds, for example, mulching will inhibit weed growth. Good garden design can assist you to control weeds, for example, mulching will inhibit weed growth.

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Where is the STEP Forest 20 with demonstration garden?
The STEP Forest 20 with demonstration garden is one of the 100 forests of the National Arboretum Canberra. In contrast to the single forest species in the Arboretum, STEP Forest 20 with demonstration garden comprises 170 species of native plants, of which 70% are eucalypts. They have been planted in groups that reflect their natural place in the landscape. We are gradually planting understorey species so that different parts of the site will display a diversity of shrubs, creepers, vines, herbs, ferns and grasses that are commonly found beneath the forest and grassy woodland canopies. The full forest demonstration garden includes a small natural wetland that is a simple water feature to attract frogs and birds. It is hoped that visitors to the Arboretum will learn more about the key elements of the Southern Tablelands ecosystems and biodiversity from this site.

STEP offers opportunities for volunteers to participate in establishing the garden. Our working bees hold every Thursday morning from 8:30 to 11:30 am as a great opportunity for gardeners to learn by experience.

What’s on the STEP website?
The STEP website features information on the ecoserosystem-based plant communities of the Southern Tablelands in a series of fact sheets entitled Telling the Tablelands in a series of fact sheets entitled. The STEP website features information on the Southern Tablelands ecosystems of the region, and a list of the common and scientific names of the region’s understorey plants. The information about the understorey plants is divided into plant categories: shrubs, vines and creepers, herbs, ferns, grasses and grass-like plants. STEP has been developing and utilising these resources for garden design ideas and plant selection for our own demonstration gardens. The STEP website has been funded by a grant from the ACT Government.

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Developing Our Natural Capital
This brochure can help you to:

- create attractive design and habitat features in your garden
- make your garden a healthy and increase wildlife habitats
- get to know local plants and their growing needs
- manage water flows, soil and plant subsoil
- consider the weather and shape of your garden
- identify and manage weeds
- appreciate the diversity of colour, height and texture of plants
- develop a healthy lifestyle and increase wildlife habitat
- create attractive design and habitat features in your garden

The landscape and vegetation of your garden will benefit from sharing its education, research, horticultural, ceremonial and cultural objectives.

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More about STEP
If you would like to help develop the STEP Forest 20 with demonstration garden, you should consider participating in the STEP website. More information about STEP, including a membership form, is available from the website or on the next page.