

Ho ho ho – how to be a wrap star!

13/14

Better Homes and Gardens.

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the season's **gardening**

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With a bushland-inspired front garden, melding into a spacious backyard landscape filled with exotic plants, it's hard to believe 'Woodcote' occupies just half an acre. Designed to be an idyllic escape within suburbia, it's arranged as an informal garden of rooms, where not everything is seen at first glance and where boundaries become obscured by vegetation. The garden features a mind-boggling array of plant species and hard landscapes are kept to a minimum – natural materials such as rocks and pebbles are the preferred choices here. At the lowest point of the garden is a pretty, naturalistic pond fed by a pebble stream that meanders through the landscape.

1. Vast trees like this elm are the inheritance of many a gardener. You can work with them by planting shade lovers beneath – a cluster of Japanese buxus balls looks fabulous.

2. Artistic touches really bring a garden to life. Here, this pebble mosaic, made by cutting out a stencil and carefully placing each stone in place, evokes the gnarled branches of a tree.

3. You can consider replacing part of your lawn with a timber deck. It makes the ideal outdoor living room – in fresh air!

4. When planting out garden beds, try using a mix of plant forms, textures and shades of green – this will ensure your garden looks good year round. You can throw a pop of red in there too, like a Japanese maple for a focal point.

5. Why have an unsightly shed when you can turn it into a 'cottage among the trees'?

AT A GLANCE

DESIGNER
Sandra McMahon
Gardenscape
Design

LOCATION
Kilsyth, Victoria

SIZE
Half-acre



Anigozanthos 'Bush Pearl'



Use a multi-hued array of plants and textures to



4

country *urban*



5

Visit the gardens

Held biennially in spring, Garden DesignFest is a charity fundraising initiative by the Rotary Club of Kew, and takes place in Victoria. This year, Garden DesignFest showcases 28 spectacular landscapes by top garden designers. Eight of the gardens will be open to the public – four on the Mornington Peninsula (Saturday and Sunday), plus another four in the Euroa area (Sunday only). The designers will be on hand to chat to visitors – it's a chance to meet these talented landscapers and get a few ideas for your own garden. 15-16 Nov, 10am-5pm. Cost: \$45 general admission, or from \$8 (single garden entry). For more info on tickets and locations, visit gardendesignfest.com.au

screen off areas and conceal dated outbuildings