



BUSH GODDESS



Backyard evolution

Creating sustainable
resources for
your home and garden






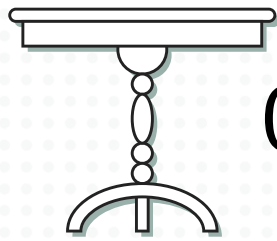
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Our Earth and every system here is in crisis. Solutions require all of us to contribute.

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Be the change you want to see. Personal responsibility requires each of us to step up

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Lowering energy use
What is frugal?
Being creative
Developing confidence

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here are items we love and collect. Being observant is how to define your style

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Start collecting pics, poems, sketches and make your own

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The next few pages are to record your ideas, designs, notes and inspirations. Have fun

WHY DO WE need BACKYARD EVOLUTIONS?

The idea for Backyard Evolution evolved in January 2020 in response to the huge and devastating bushfires which burned for months, from Queensland, the north coast of NSW, burning southwards and then the horrendous scale on the south coast and much of north-eastern Victoria.

The fires came on the heels of what is regarded as one of the worst droughts in Australia's history. The combination of drought, then fires and, in some areas, floods from torrential rains, was instrumental in the threatening and extinction of many species of insects, plants, birds and other animals.



Everywhere, people were reeling from the scale and ferocity of these forces of Nature, inciting strong emotions of fear and helplessness. One of the most frequently heard calls was, "What can I do?"

It is time to reflect on what has caused this series of environmental tragedies with one key question "What role have humans played in causing these catastrophes?"

Record your thoughts below:

Describe your definition of Nature and how you connect to Her.

IT STARTS WITH US

CONNECT DEEPLY

FEEL WHOLLY

LIVE FULLY

CARE PASSIONATELY

ACT COURAGEOUSLY

SPEAK HONESTLY

pennie scott 2020

Do you have a secret list of ideas and activities you've always wanted to initiate and do, but something keeps preventing you from getting started?

There always seems to be an excuse to put it off but, then we feel unfulfilled, incomplete and annoyed with our procrastinating selves.

BELIEVING you are worthy, valuable and potent is so important to realise your roles and all of us are necessary to make changes in our world.

If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.

What do you LOVE doing most of all?
List them:

How do you FEEL when you are doing these activities?

What are the reasons (excuses) you use to NOT start something important?

**DO SOMETHING
TODAY THAT YOUR
FUTURE SELF WILL
THANK YOU FOR.**

*Our actions and decisions today will shape
the way we will be living in the future.*

TOPICS WE WILL COVER

How we connect to our precious planet and Mother Nature is the basis of topics for Backyard Evolution. The most important things to realise and remember is that every living creature on Earth is totally reliant on the generous resources supplied, freely, by Her for our lives. We already know that to get to know someone really well, the only way to achieve that is to spend hours of time with them, to observe their characteristics, nuances, habits, patterns, rhythms and peculiarities. Closeness is key to love and learning about Mother Nature requires the same behaviours as getting to closely know another human.

Biophilia is defined as the love of life and all living things and the innate need for humans to be **IN** Nature - to be nourished, wrapped, comforted and educated by Her for our wellbeing. From this framework, the topics we'll cover in the Backyard Evolution series include -

- Growing some of your food
- What is being frugal?
- Lowering energy use
- Being creative
- Green cleaning
- Finding joy in everything
- Developing confidence and more.....

when was the last time
you did something
for the first time?

What other topics would you like to include?

List any other people and / or groups you'd like to include in your projects (remembering that collaboration is beneficial for everyone).

WHAT IS my STYLE?

First question; **what is style?**

The word style is most often applied to clothing and fashion however, this is just the tip-of-the-style-iceberg.

Style can be defined as a particular way of doing or saying something, or refers to a unique form of clothing or way of arranging your appearance. An example of style is the method by which you prefer to learn which may be kinesthetic, visually or audibly.

The word **style** is usually applied to fashion with other descriptors including mode, vogue, fad, rage and craze. There are distinct **styles** in gardens, interior and exterior decorating, speaking styles, raising children, performance, art, architecture, music, foods, footwear, furniture, fibres, films, literature, cars, kitchen appliances, eras, dinosaurs and a plethora more.

A simple way to determine your style is the following checklist:

Colours: Do you have a favourite palette of hues, maybe neutral / powerful / natural / ocean / forest landscape / carnival / whiter-shades-of-pale? Do colours you prefer in the spaces below.



Hardware and house paint suppliers always have plenty of colour charts and sample cards which are perfect to work out your colour preferences.



Shapes: Strange as it may seem, shapes are critically important to our sense of balance and harmony.. Do you prefer circular shapes without corners, angular creations which create shadows, shapes with multiple textures, irregular and abstract or do you need clean crisp borders?

WHAT IS my STYLE?

What are my personality and learning **styles**?

Put five people into a room and chances are they'll all have different preferences for finding and trusting information (logical / scientific / inspirational / opportunistic / random) which matches their personalities. None are right or wrong but knowing your preference assists in finding and relating to what you love most.

Working out your strongest personality characteristics is fun and makes understanding others much easier. Try this survey: <https://www.viacharacter.org/character-strengths-via>

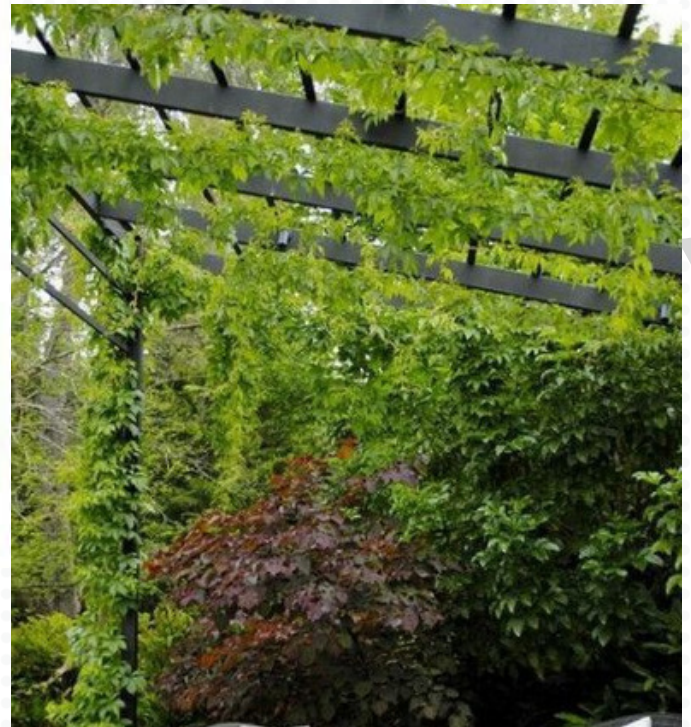
*Style is knowing
who you are,
what you want to say,
and not giving a damn.
Gore Vidal*

Record examples of styles you relate or aspire to:



A typical art deco style lamp

Garden Ideas from Pinterest



HOW DO I START?

Gathering the bits and pieces

IMAGINATION IS MORE
IMPORTANT THAN
KNOWLEDGE



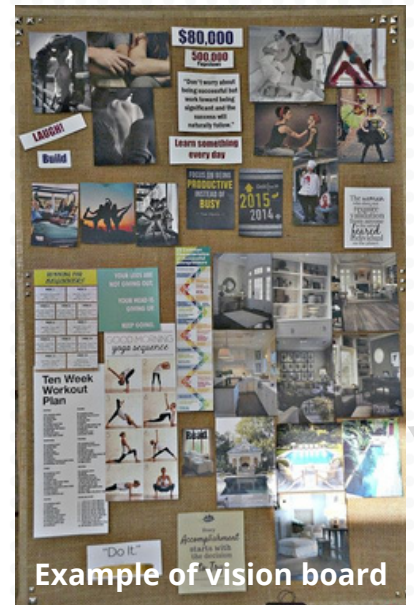
Once you've decided on your (first) project the first step is to collect pictures from magazines, your sketches, Pinterest and books to create a **vision board**. Taking the conceptual ideas from your mind and turning them into a visual record is very helpful to understand perspectives, light and shadows, texture, densities of materials, natural traffic flows and soils if the project is in your garden.

If an indoor project is your first, ascertain any materials which need to be relocated and (excitement) if they can be re-purposed for this, or other projects.

Create an area where everything can be stored together, including tools you'll need so no time is wasted trying to find the bits you need.

If you have willing helpers, ask what part they'd like to play and collaborate as to when their skills are required.

There's no right or wrong - just constant learning 😊



Example of vision board

Make a list of what you'll need:

WHAT DO YOU already Have?

Resources come in all shapes, sizes and timings. When we look with 'new eyes' we can see things which have previously been overlooked and this is the great fun part of designing with purpose and creativity.

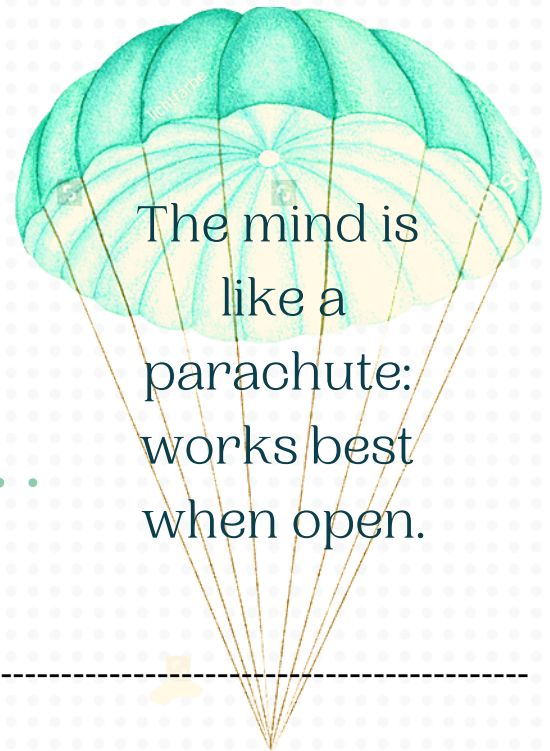
Exercising your imagination is the key to really enjoying and using your skills and re-purposing items into another functional life. Often, children are very creative and involving them in the projects bring more joy to everyone.

Resources:

I have to face it; **Pinterest** is the most amazing resource of ideas from all the clever people around the world! The only limitation is the search you enter as there are thousands of options.

Permaculture is another extraordinary practice with the number one rule to use resources which are available locally. Again, you can join the community of inventive practitioners with ideas from gardens to sheds.

.....
List the resources you already have (include children, pets, parents, friends and the sun plus physical items).



my FIRST PROJECT

This is your list-making-sketching-picture-sticking-colour-testing page for your first project.



notes





notes





notes





notes





notes





notes





notes





notes





notes



reviewing your project

What worked?

What didn't work?

What will I do differently?

