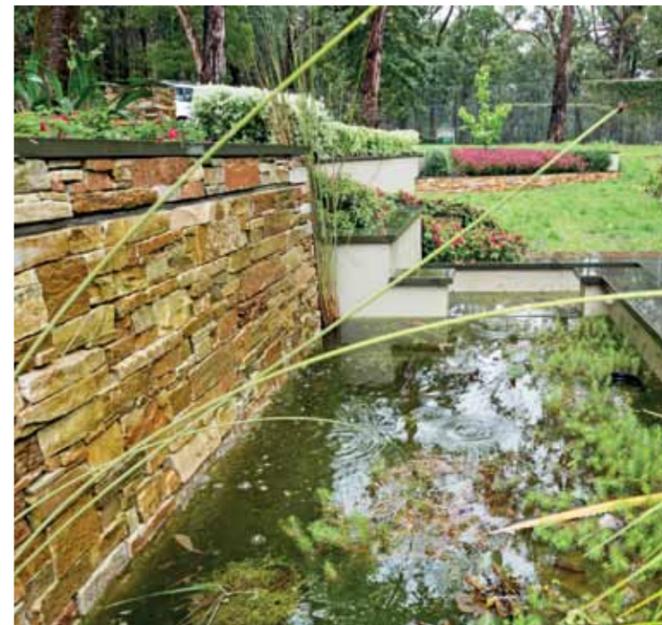


SUCCESS
story

Overflowing with plants and boasting a rich mix of natural materials, this acreage garden has a real sense of place

The tiered water feature is positioned in front of the living room window for maximum enjoyment.



The water feature sits in front of the main living area and boasts a stone feature wall and split-level ponds

There is nothing quite like a water feature to stimulate the senses, and the custom-designed one that graces the entry garden of this newly renovated home is no exception. The feature sits in front of the main living area and boasts a stone feature wall and split-level ponds.

The water feature was just one part of the brief given to Peter Neagoe of Select Outdoor Solutions, who was commissioned to renovate both the landscape and the home. He was charged with creating a landscape that would complement the new look of the home and its bushland surrounds — something that emphasised natural materials and an abundance of plants.

This acreage property gave Peter plenty of scope, starting with the driveway which was edged with rustic bluestone pitchers. His team also installed new double gates, which were set between entrance piers clad in stacked stone and capped with bluestone.

Merbau timber was used to build the steps and boardwalk-style path that leads to the front of the home, as well as the decking in other parts of the garden. Merbau was chosen as the home is located in a bushfire-prone area with a Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) rating of 29. This requires the use of timber that is inherently bushfire-resistant, which merbau is, or timber which has been fire-retardant-treated.

In the front garden, sandstone pavers, interspersed with rosemary, were placed in a grid pattern in front of the water feature while all retaining walls were built using core-filled concrete blocks, which were then either rendered or clad in stacked stone to reference the external stone cladding on the house.

The owners asked Peter to include lots of plants, especially flowering species, and the new bluestone-capped garden beds are full to overflowing. The planting palette ranges from exotics (azaleas) to Australian natives (kangaroo paws) and each garden bed has a drip-irrigation system supplied by rainwater tanks. For the lawn, Sir Walter turf was used as this does not need a lot of water to thrive.

For Peter, a successful landscape is one that not only complements the home and is easy to care for, it's also a place where people want to spend time. Here, Peter has succeeded on all counts. ❀

Landscape design and construction

Select Outdoor Solutions
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OPPOSITE TOP The stone cladding that was used on the house was used in the garden, tying all elements together.

ABOVE The water feature incorporates a textured stone backdrop and a flourish of healthy aquatic plants.

OPPOSITE BOTTOM The colour of the merbau timber steps and decking works in harmony with the stacked-stone walling.

BELOW The driveway features new double gates as well as stacked-stone-clad entrance piers and walling.

