

The background features a light pink color with several decorative elements: a large dark red circle at the top center, a medium pink circle at the top left, a small dark red circle at the top left, a large circular image of a pink chrysanthemum flower at the top right, a medium dark red circle at the bottom right, a large dark red circle at the bottom center, a medium pink circle at the bottom right, a small dark red circle at the bottom right, a large dark red circle at the bottom left, and a circular image of a pink chrysanthemum flower at the bottom left.

~PROJECT PORTFOLIO~

LANDSCAPE DESIGN

(T)

BY JESSICA TRELOAR

Elements Included:

- Brief
- Process
 - Define the Problem
 - Brainstorm & Analyse Ideas
 - Collect Information
 - Initial design
 - Feedback
 - Improve design
 - Final Design
- Rationale

~Design Brief~

What is the architectural style of the building? (Victorian, Art Deco, Contemporary etc.)

1970 style utilitarian (grey brick, blocky)

Scope of Works - What areas of your property do you want a design for? (Please circle).

Front Garden / Back Garden / Other (specify)

Back of the school garden

What existing elements are there in your garden? (Swimming Pool, Pergola, Significant Vegetation, Play Equipment, Shed etc.)

Edging and Garden, fence, drains (downpipes and gravel path have to stay) Tree and concrete pavement area, shrubs

Which, if any, of the above elements do you wish to retain?

All hardscape edging and path, garden beds.

What Garden themes / styles do you like? (You can circle more than one).

Natural, Native, drought tolerant and bird habitat

Please select the desired elements (keeping in mind your budget)

Alfresco/Entertaining Area, Water Feature / Pond, Water Tanks / Grey Water System, Art / Sculpture Built In Seating and Shade / Canopy Trees

What materials would you like to see in your garden? (Timber, Stone, Render etc)

Seeming as it is, the design is built to be native and habitat friendly, more natural plants and woods would be nice in the garden. However, to contrast cool blacks or whites.

Are there any plants would you like to see in your garden?

Endemic natives #1 Native Plants #2 Small eucalypts

Are there any elements, materials or plants that you don't want in your garden?

No European species

Are there any gardens you have seen or visited that have inspired you?

Native areas: National arboretum, Canberra and Brisbane botanic gardens.

Council Planning: Are there any planning controls on your property that you are aware of? • Heritage Overlay • Significant Vegetation Overlay • Floodplain Overlay • Easements (Stormwater, Sewage, Electricity, Gas etc) • Front Fences (Height/Style etc)

Nothing bigger than 10 meters, Potentially storm water usage underground, Has to be a fence because the wall is above legal height (>0.5 meter)

~Design Process~ Define the Problem

Description

Built-in, the 70s Hawker College, is a Utilitarian design. This means Hawker College was built not to be a beautiful and aesthetic space but purely for educational purposes. Because of this landscape design around the school also bears a dull and bland look. However, this assignment reaches to turn one of the schools most unpopular places into both an aesthetically pleasing and functional area for school students and native animals combined.

This design must exhibit the following restrictions:

- Native Vegetation
- Drought tolerant
- Safe habitat for wildlife
- Modernised Garden
- All Hardscapes, edging and Bedding stays
- Costly added features (water/ seating)
- No Trees taller than 10 meters

Satellite Image of design area:



Brainstorm & Analysis

~ Inspiration ~

As to gain a better understanding of ways other practised landscapes architects overcame the dull Australian greens, I began to collect images from Pinterest.



This design was one of my favourites. However, the structure of the garden seemed to specifically fit around the house. In addition to this, they used many non-drought tolerant plants and exotic trees to bring a lush aesthetic to the piece which was restricted within my guidelines although the tall grasses could come as a nice framing to trees and other features.

I specifically liked this garden for its use of succulents. Another interesting aspect could be seen in the shaping of different beddings. However, this garden looked like it needed a bit too much maintenance in shaping, and as I am working with a much larger area might look a bit empty overall. The white pebbles against the flatter greens made a nice pop.



I liked this design as it added a lot of excellent vibrant greens and some native Australian plants. However, the mossy features really brought the piece together, and as I am working with a dry climate that wasn't going to work for me.



Brainstorm & Analysis



I like the bushy plants in this picture and statement rocks. The wooden structure in the background seems like a screen to shelter some possibly unflattering machinery. This would be an excellent design to use if implementing a water tank into my design.

I love the red soils and sands found in rural Australia. The look shows the essence of Australia's vast outback. As well as this the ordinarily dull and greyish green native fauna tends to pop well against the reds. If the gravel were made brighter, it could create a nice contrast and value to the design.



As well as looking at landscapes, other designs were also useful to get different colour schemes and fauna. Pictures like these are also good visual representations of what plants and grasses work well together before completing the final design.

Collecting Information

Covering: Gravel & Mulch



As native greens and blues of native Australian flora tend to be quite dull and pale in colour, I have decided to add a more profound contrast in the garden bedding and soil to help lift and brighten up that native greenery. With the knowledge of not begin permitted to get rid of these gravels or tanbarks, the majority of these tweaks will be covering not replacing.

In addition to this, as to match the budget, white stones like these will only be used in bare areas of land with the hope that other fauna will hide the tanbark.

Rendering

Edging around the garden is worn and splotchy. To fix this, white cement rendering will cover any unattractive worn areas. The timber at the beginning of the garden will be changed to fit the surrounding edging.



Water tank



While the plants within the garden are to be drought-tolerant water may be necessary in some cases. The tank can be hooked up to one out of two drip drains in the corners of the garden for functionality. To make the tank look more presentable within the garden, a wooden screen will be placed around it to give it a more natural look. This screen will fit other wooden hardware within the garden.

Collecting Information

~ Native Trees ~

Corymbia citriodora 'Scentuous' syn. 'Dwarf Pink'

Uses:

Due to its smaller size, it is very versatile, making it great for gardens of all sizes and perfect for streetscapes. The bark and flowers add colour and native habitat all year round.

Mature size: 7x3m

Position & Soil:

This corymbia prefers a well drained soil in a full sun position. As well as being frost and drought tolerant.

"Seeing this from the National Arboretum, the tree provides a great habitat for bird and other creatures as well as providing a cozy atmosphere."



Eucalyptus victrix 'Little Ghost Gum'

Height: 5-8 m

Spread: 3-4 m

Position: Fullsun

Grows in Karijini National Park. Smooth white trunked Coolibah. Open pendula habit, slow growing. Smooth white bark and small creamy-white flowers in Spring and Summer. Tolerates drought and heavier soils. Wind tolerant.

"The White trunk of the ghost gum will enhance surrounding colours."



Corymbia ficifolia 'Fairy Floss'

"This will add extra colour to the garden, acting as a brightening agent. Its abundance of flowers will also act as a great attraction to bees and other wildlife."

Mature Size 6 x 4m

Position & Soil:

This grafted variety likes full sun to part shade and will tolerate most soil types and conditions.

* some of these specifications are facts taken from the websites in the references



Collecting Information

~ Shrubbery ~

Limelight river wattle

Growth Width — 1m
 Growth Height — 1m
 Drought Tolerant
 Frost Tolerant
 Flowering Period — September, October, November
 Light Requirements — Full sun
 Soil Requirements — Special potting mix, Well drained soil



“This plant will be used to cover unattractive features of the garden (fence) while also adding a bright green tone. Furthermore, because of its size, it creates a great space filler and background and perspective to other more colourful plants listed below.”

Grevilla Lady O

Attracts Wildlife: Bees, Nectar eating birds, Butterflies, Other insects
 Clay loam
 Plant Environment: Low maintenance garden, Courtyard, Poolside, Cottage garden, Flower garden, Cold climate, Drought resistant



Poa labillardieri ‘Eskdale’

A long-lived, tussock forming, perennial grass with highly ornamental blue/grey foliage. An Australian native, Poa ‘Eskdale’ will reach full size within one year. Plants need little or no maintenance, thrive in most soils and are drought and frost tolerant. “contrast to the river wattle with their silver blue colour aswell as acting as framing for trees. This idea was inspired by the Aids garden of refection, National Arboretum.”



Brachyscome ‘White Delight’

“From experience these white delights are always popular with our native bees.”
 Plant Type: Ground cover, Clumping perennial
 Height: 0.3 ~ 0.4 metres
 Width: 0.3 ~ 0.6 metres
 Plant Environment: Low maintenance garden
 Soil Moisture: Well-drained, Moist moderate drainage “this can be managed with tank water supplies”



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Collecting Information

~ Hardware ~



“Hardware, such as benches and structures (birdbaths), will be of a cubic and sharp form to add texture and balance to the garden.”

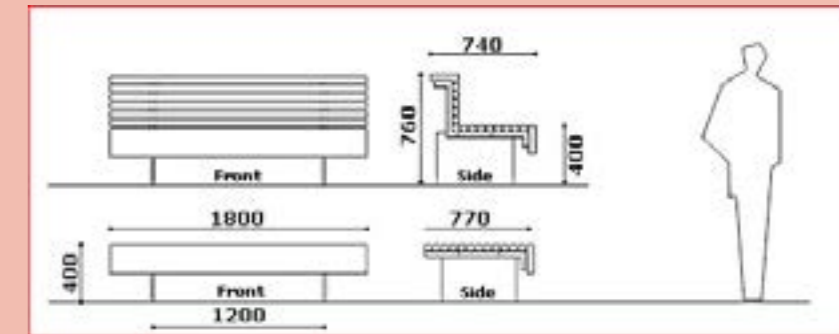
Square Bird Bath

This hardware will provide a contrast of form between irregular (of the native plants) and blocky shapes (of the stone) as well as texture. Using sandstone will complement the sandstone boulders.

Birdbaths will create an attraction for birds and wildlife.

Moon Seat 1&2

height: 400
 width: 760



length: 1800 / 3000

“As this design allows the interchange between chair and slab I can use both as aspects of the garden. As the slabs can be fixed to edging I will place them for extra seating across the left garden. Modifications can be made if seating is too large for the garden.”

Sandstone Random Boulders (Random Shapes and Sizes – Bobcat):

- Bobcat size: 400 – 500mm x random lengths
- Three boulders will be used as statement pieces in the garden. They will be located across the right wall.



Tuscan Path 10kg 10 - 15mm Snow White Quartz Pebbles

“These are to be placed inbetween empty places in the garden to create contrast and brighting to the flora.”

- Permanent coverage for a one time application
- Can be used indoor and outdoor
- Available in 10kg and 1.5kg bags



* some of these specifications are facts taken from the websites in the references below

Garden Design

~ Problems ~



- Design was blotchy and covered in weeds.
- Edging was speckled and worn.



- Too empty
- Colours do not work together at all.
- Makes one feel uncomfortable and incomplete.



- Ugly and Unattractive
- 70's fence
- Rusted and Breaking



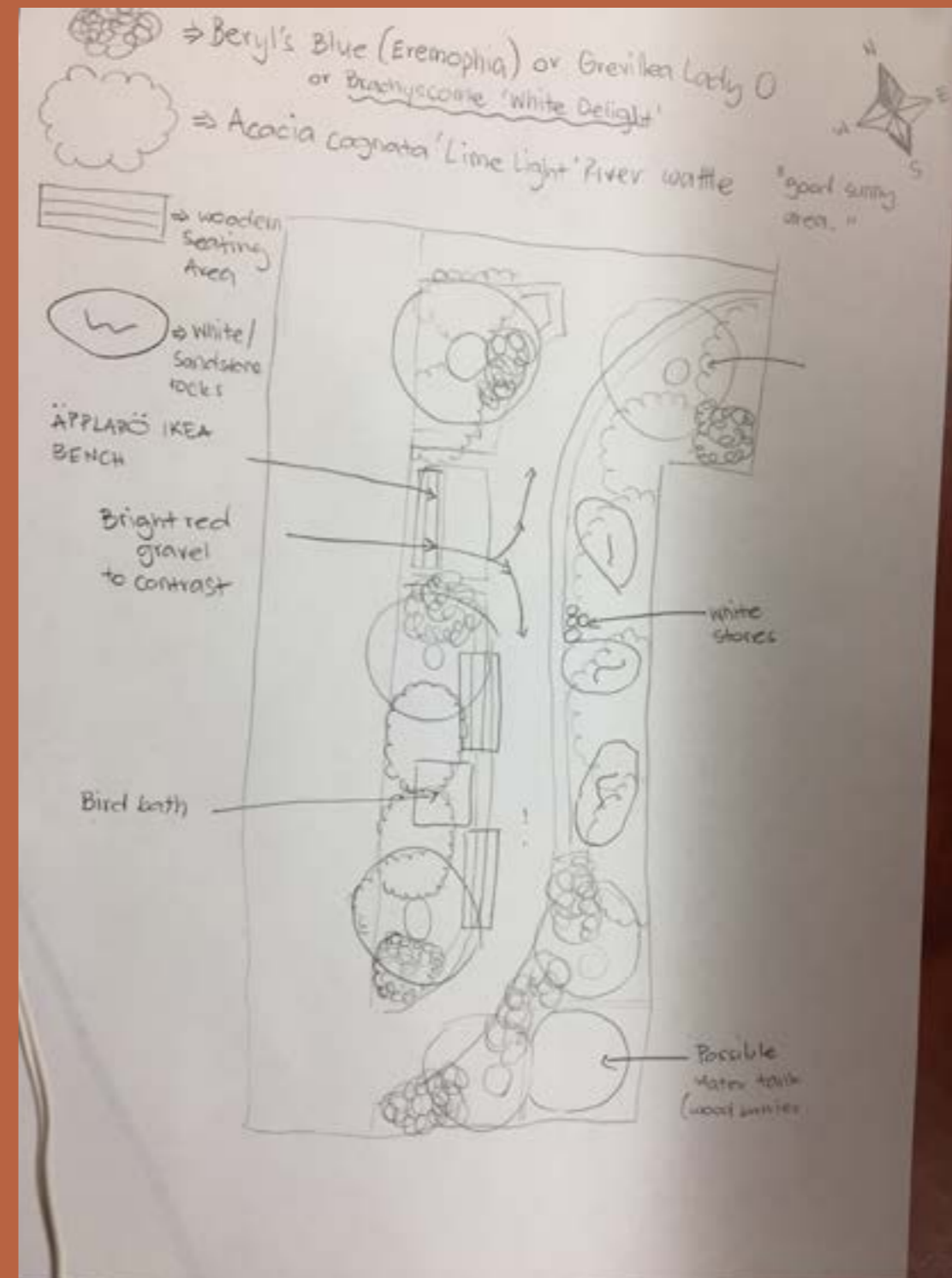
- Two water drains on each side initially placed to provide the garden with water are left unused.
- One beautiful Green Tree in the back dying from lack of water (leaves crumpled and dry)



~Summary~

The garden was not living up to its full potential, the unattractive look and meagre plants meant it was not worth maintaining as weed grow all over. Most importantly, there was no consideration to functionality, and the plant's provided no interest to neither birds nor insects. Most importantly, no one wanted to be in the garden.

~ Initial Design ~



For my design, I took multiple design elements and principles into consideration.

Colour

To brighten the naturally dull and cold native Australian colours, I developed a base of vibrant Australian soil/sand/granite and white pebbles within the plants to brighten them even more.

Value

The red path will give higher value that draws the eye along the garden and not towards the school. The birdbath and white/limestone rocks also extra statement pieces to the garden.

Proportion

By placing the biggest plants at the back, it both covers up unflattering elements of the old design but also creates a gentle slope from the ground up.

Symmetry

In each garden bed, I carefully made my plants match up to great a nice symmetrical piece. This also implemented the principle of Odd Numbers/ Thirds

Balance

As the right-hand side has a larger space than the left, I made sure to equal out the design to make the left side a bit more plant-heavy. As there is also ample space by adding more plants, it creates more balance again.

Pattern

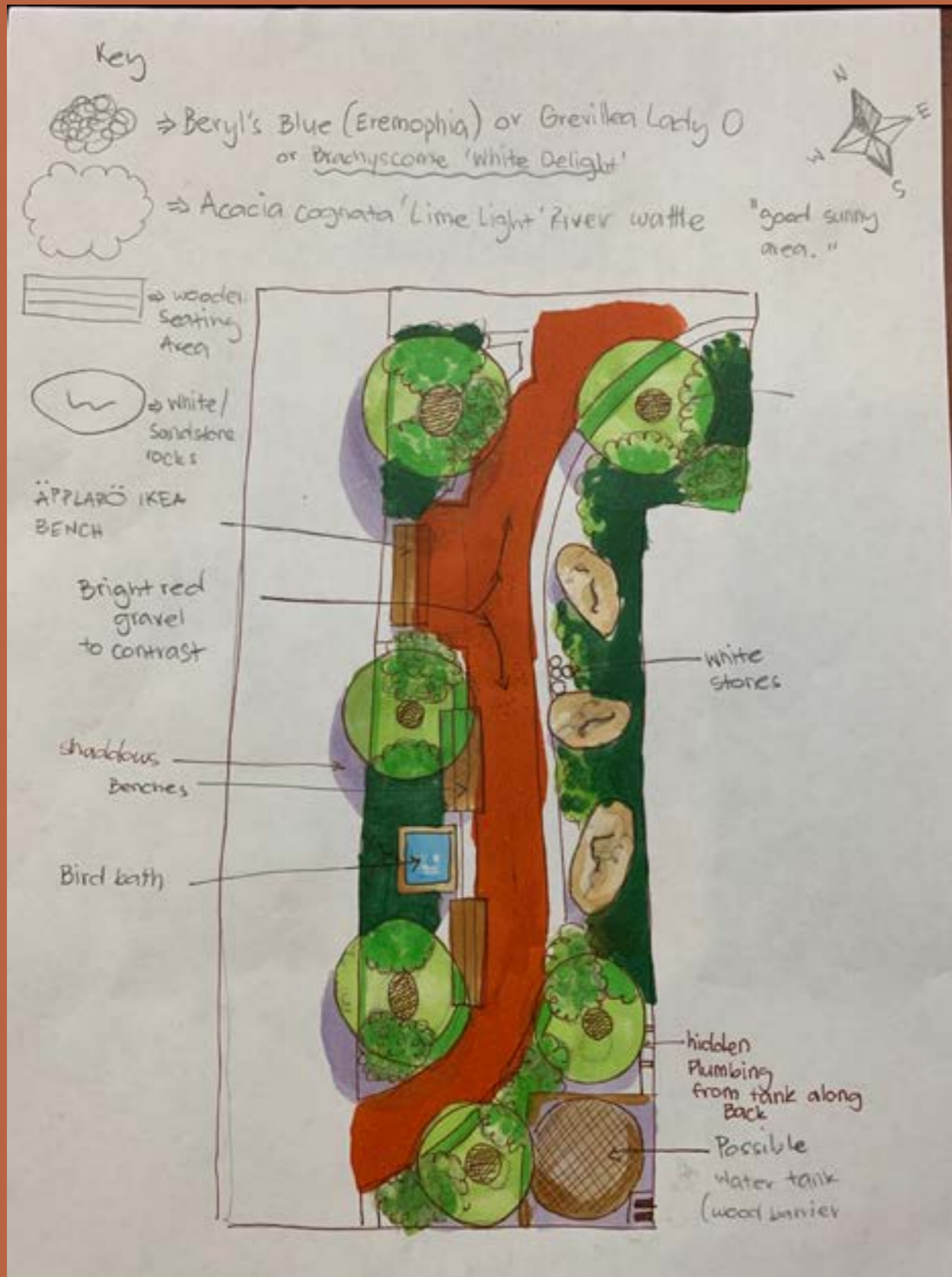
By using only a few different plant species over and over, it creates a subtle pattern to the design. This ends up leaving the garden full but not crowded by unnecessary items.

Form

To create another subtle contrasting effect, I used the design element of form. One way I singled out my use of form was by giving my plants freedom to be irregular and complimenting them with hardscapes of very blocky form and shape.

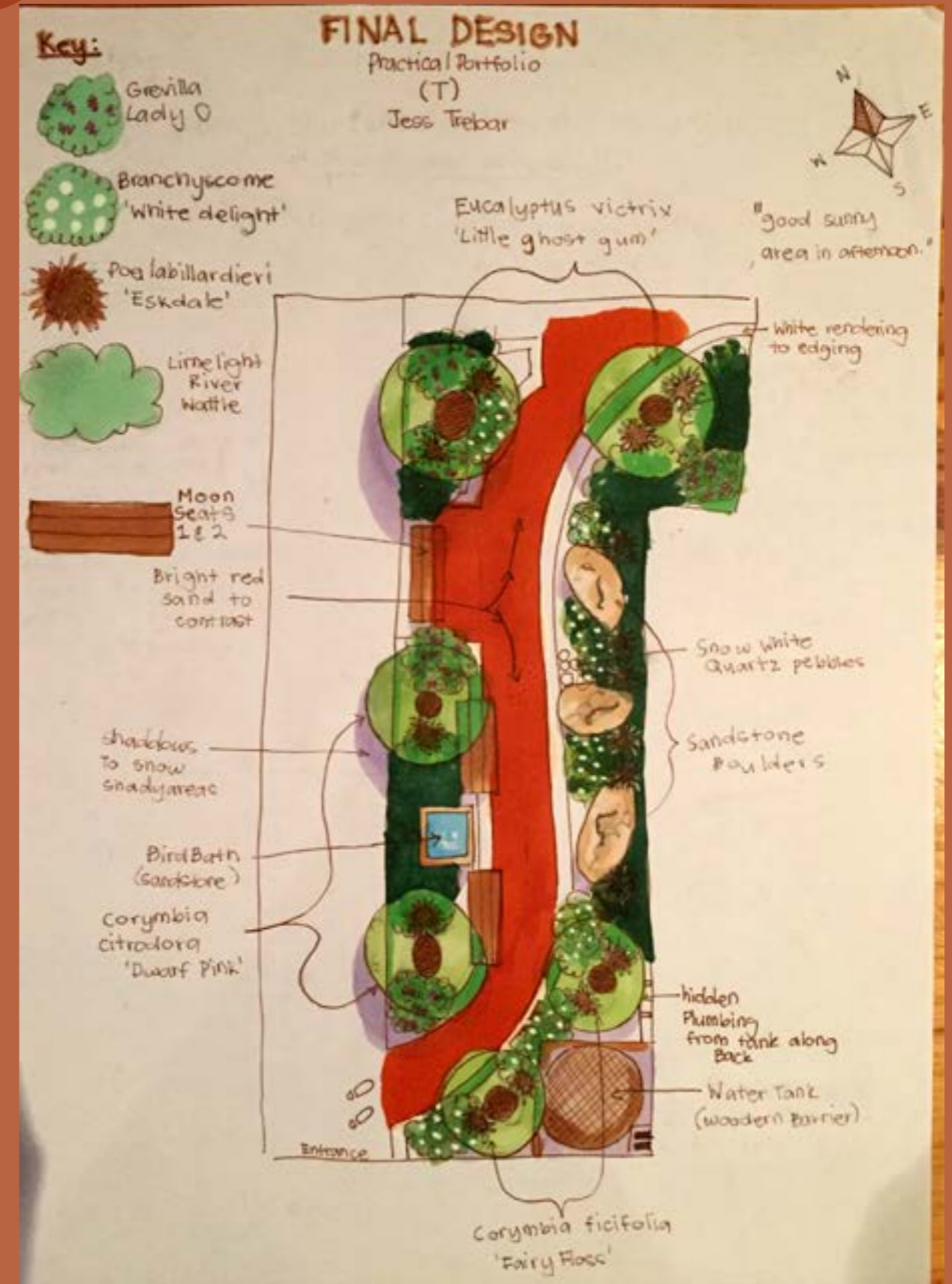
~ Improve Design ~

After gaining positive feedback to move more in-depth with form, I begin to finalised my design by colouring and adding a few extra details.



Plumbing was added from the water tank travelling behind the shrubs to supply watering to any vital areas. As even though these plants are drought-tolerant, we do still see rising heat levels and droughts through the last few years. Shadows are also added to show an extra representation of which areas would be suitable for human use in summers. The plant types now need to be narrowed down and given placing to finish the design.

~ Final Design ~



There were a few mistakes in the colouring as the eskdale is more of a green than brown. As well as this the photo is a little blurry so its hard to make out as I do not currently have access to a better camera. However, overall I'm pretty happy with how the final design came out.

~ Final Design ~



This elevation view shows further interaction between students and native nature i.e birds, bees and trees. As you may see I have added bees and birds around the garden to further emphasise this point. Allowing the client to fall inlove with the garden before committing to the long building process.

~ RATIONAL ~

By Jessica Treloar

Knowing how to create an aesthetically pleasing and functional space is the first step in landscape design. However, the critical factor in designing effective and comfortable spaces includes the application of problem-solving skills, as not every design starts with a clean slate. For our term one major assignment, we were given one of our schools least popular gardens and told to create a native and functional space. We were to follow the “Design Process” as explained in class and incorporate the design elements and principles.

As Hawker College was built during the 1970s, an infamous time for bland architecture, the Utilitarian style school was only designed for educational purposes, therefore leaving an unattractive appearance. This meant other aspects of the school, such as gardens, also bore that dull and unused feel.

The garden had multiple fixes to be made, one of which being of its dull demeanour. The colours of the pale red gravel and light brown tanbark were so similar that they made the garden look washed out. As the base of the garden, the gravel and tanbark needed to be reconstructed so that the cool native greens would pop in contrast. To fix this issue, I decided to cover the dull red gravel with the bright red sands and soil. Adding the brighter pathway created sharper and stronger lines, drawing the eye through the garden, avoiding any views of the unattractive school spaces to the left of the garden. Furthermore, I added white pebbles to any bare tanbark area that was not already covered by plants to act as a middle ground between the red and the green.

To add symmetry to the design, I implemented the principle of odd numbers adding a natural and satisfying perspective. By using only a few different plant species over and over, I created a subtle pattern to the design. This ends up leaving the garden full but not crowded by unnecessary items. This contributed to the use of balance within the design. As there is negative space next to the left garden, I added more plants to that space in order to equal out the negative. To create another subtle contrasting effect, I used the design element of form. One way I singled out the use of form was by giving the plants freedom to be irregular and complimenting them with hardscapes of very blocky form and shape. Strategising, I used large shrubs to cover up any unattractive features of the garden such as the fence and tanbark. To create form and perspective, I placed the largest shrubs at the back and moved the smaller plants to the front in a pleasing staircase form. To again create perspective and manipulate the viewers’ line of sight, I placed the smallest trees at the front and the larger trees to the end of the garden. This creates an elevating line out of the garden to negative spaces. Value pieces within the garden consisted of the birdbath and white/limestone rocks added contrast in shape and texture. By implementing these techniques the garden is now both functional and attractive.

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