



Our Story...

The Creative Garden Journey

I am a local Ballarat Artist, who has grown up here and have become aware of the evolving changes throughout the past fifty years. There is much to inspire around us. I have grown with the environment, and have always been fascinated by nature. The wildlife, plants, trees, the little creatures, and all the detailed connections that we don't always see at first.

I live in Mount Pleasant with my husband for the past twenty years. When we first moved here, there was no garden. I wasn't much of a gardener back then, but I became interested in creating a vegetable garden. So began to grow what I could. I learnt about the how, when, and what to plant. It was trial and error, but kept working and learning. My husband built raised beds, we adopted a little kitten named Bernie, and off we went on creating the garden journey. Our secret little garden space soon became a thriving diverse part of earth. I learnt much about the wildlife, insects, soil, when solstice and equinox occurred and the position of sunlight throughout the garden at these times of the year. I observed every changing pattern, light, the behaviours of little creatures, growth, death, life. I encouraged all, and soon realised how amazing life can evolve when we encourage and support it. Bernie and I would go down to the garden every day. He knew every part, the best spots to observe and the creatures that visited. He would quietly sit in one of his favourite spots and just watch all, including me. While I potted away, I would turn my head occasionally to check on him, and he would be gazing straight back at me with a contented slow blink. As if to say, it's all ok, I'm supervising. And that he was, Garden Supervisor. He was my best friend.

Our mate passed on May 15th 2024. He had a happy life here with us, and I am grateful to have known his unique soul.

I have always been creative. I have been creating artworks for sale over forty years. Bernie and our garden journey has further inspired my creativity, and brought a deeper understanding, of not only his unique nature, but also the broad spectrum of life connections, and my natural wild self, the inner child. I see more details with learning behaviours of others and nature's connections. My senses are more in tune. After dealing with loss, and chronic pain for the past few years, where my every day life was a challenge, including being creative, there is much that needs to regrow from my soul. I am still in progress of healing, and this journey has taught me how to listen to the way I flow through life. It has broadened my perspective upon the details of natural processes and behaviours, how we interact with them, and has helped me find a path that is wild and untamed, rich with diversity and full of expression. It has enriched my mental health and also helped with healing. I am eager to share this journey with others.

As I sit in the garden now, I see so much life. There were never so many birds when we first came here. There was not much habitat for them. The garden is now dense with various edible plants, natives, trees. And most recently, we have come to witness a new family of Superb Blue Wrens, that play about in the dense Wormwood bush, flutter in the bird bath, and where Bernie lays to rest. Garden Supervisor always watching over the garden. Wrens, Spinebills, Thornbills, Currawongs, Ravens, Rosellas, Parrots, Sparrows, Blackbirds, Wattle birds, Butterflies, Bees, Wasps, Beetles, Mollusks, Possums and so many other little creatures visit and nurture our part of earth. We have helped grow a garden for all, and in turn, my soul is nourished. As someone who is focused on the details, the garden journey has brought about many creative paths in every day life. I'd like to bring these details into light, and express them through illustrations, written works, and images, and hope that this may inspire others to observe, learn, and create their own path and journey.

The deepest knowledge we can learn, is interconnectedness.

Please come and wander down the garden path with us...

Michelle Imrei