



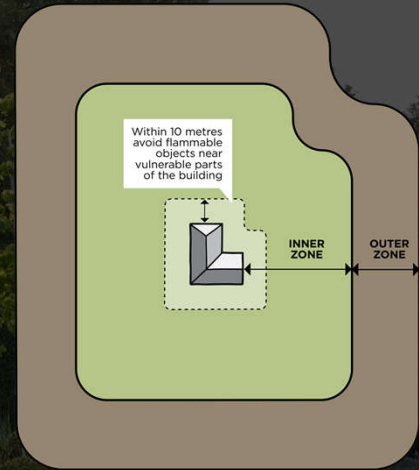
LA and Hort – working with Sarsfield – not a fire ecologist, but am a designer who is used to working with constraints and thinking about how to achieve what you need while still working with them

Going to talk about Landscaping for Bushfire

This is a big topic, and we have limited time. There are some great resources out there – so what I want to do is raise some key ideas, point you in the right direction for more information and then we can sit back and look at some beautiful pictures of gardens that show some of the bushfire wise characteristics. These gardens are not perfect by any stretch – but they show the principals at work and hopefully will show you that you don't need to despair of having a garden.

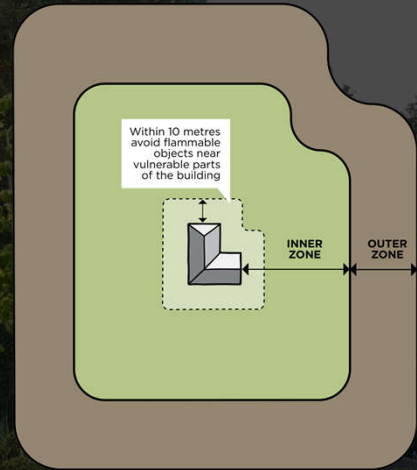
General Principals: Site Design

- Design is site specific – each garden and house is different
- Do your research and get advice
- Know where the most likely fire front is
- Provide good access for emergency services and for you to leave
- If building - site the house to allow defensible space between it and the fire front
- Provide access to water for fire fighting
- Have a defensible space free of flammable objects (including plants)
- Make sure the garden suits you and your family



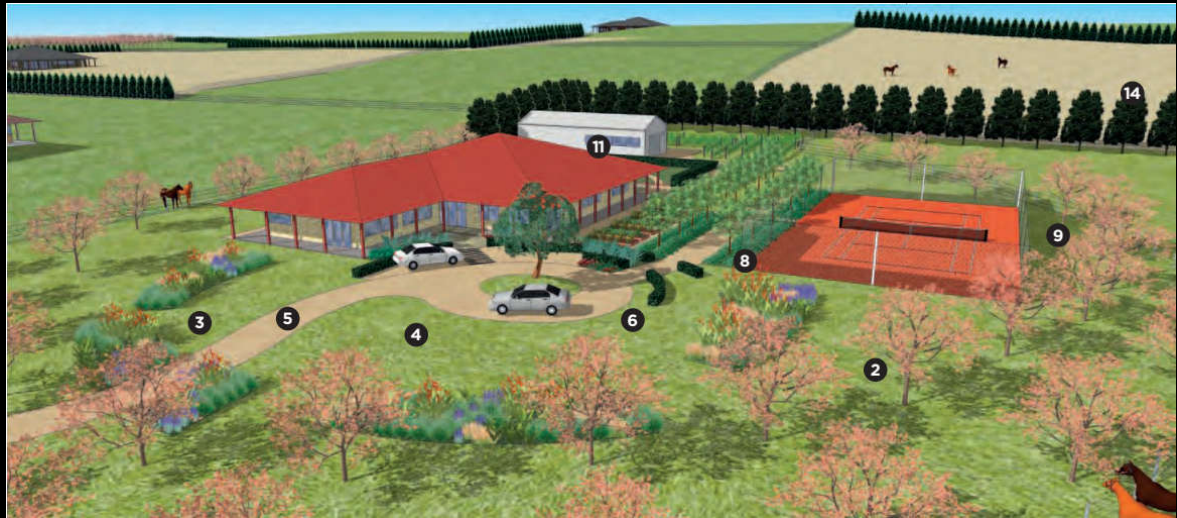
General Principals: Garden Design

- Provide separation between plants vertically and horizontally. Break up beds with lawn and paths
- Use gravel mulch
- Keep your garden irrigated – moist plants are less flammable
- Have trees in lawns and pruned at least 2m high
- Choose fire wise plants
- Fire wise trees, set back from the house can reduce ember attack
- Place pools, tennis courts, dams etc. between the house and fire front
- Have furniture, awnings, clothes line, storage, BBQs, sheds etc outside the defendable space and access routes

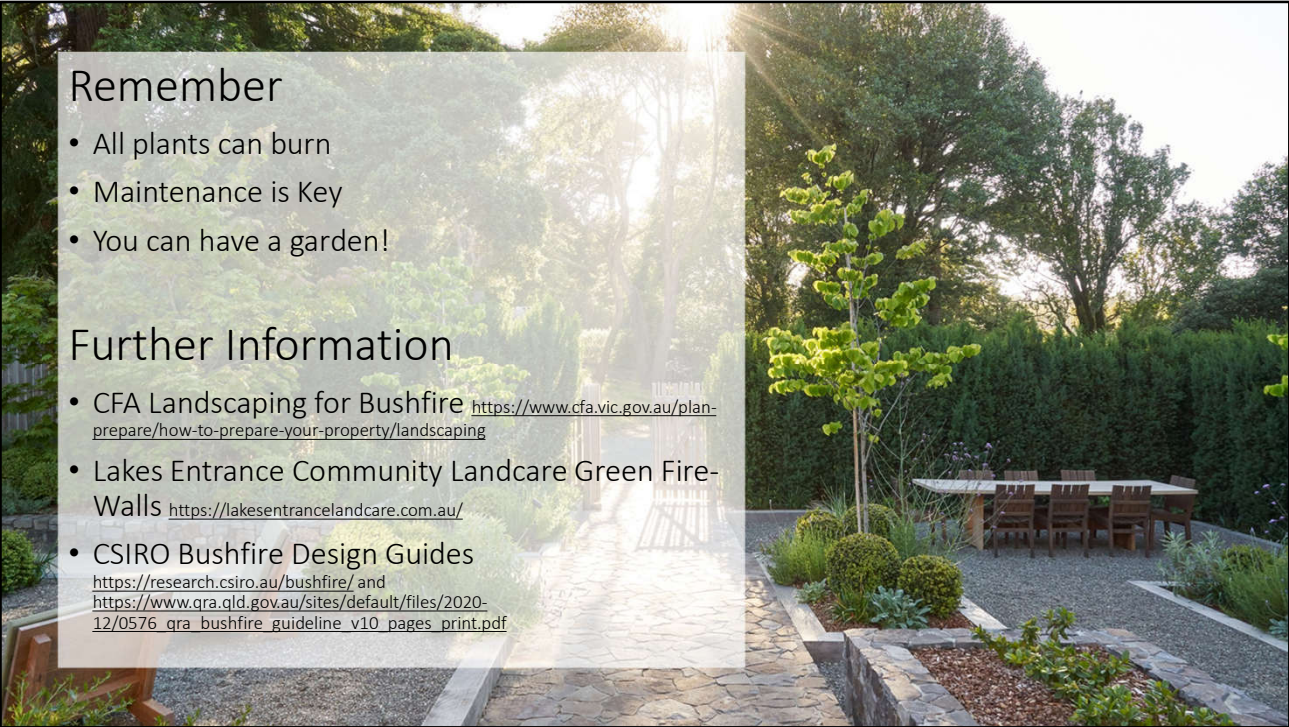




Focusing on the Rural Example as it's most applicable. For more information see the CFA landscaping booklet mentioned in slide 6



For more information see the CFA landscaping booklet mentioned in slide 6



Remember

- All plants can burn
- Maintenance is Key
- You can have a garden!

Further Information

- CFA Landscaping for Bushfire <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property/landscaping>
- Lakes Entrance Community Landcare Green Fire-Walls <https://lakesentrancelandcare.com.au/>
- CSIRO Bushfire Design Guides <https://research.csiro.au/bushfire/> and https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-12/0576_qra_bushfire_guideline_v10_pages_print.pdf



Example Gardens. These aren't perfect but they show some great examples of the principals at work. Mostly I've ignored whether the plants are firewise as there's plenty of information on that and the arrangement of plants can be even more important than the type – what I'm trying to do is show that it is possible to have a garden, especially on rural and lifestyle properties like Sarsfield. Note: residence design isn't covered and some of these houses have some highly vulnerable features that any amount of good landscaping won't correct "weakest link" – I'm focusing on the gardens

Trees in lawn – stone pots – garden beds a broken up by lawn areas



Lawn against house, low planting, vertical separation on trees, garden beds broken up (hammocks not good)



Tree with smooth bark and good separation with firewise plants beneath (Rhagodia – salt bush)



Garden beds broken up by stone mulch, trees pruned upwards with (mostly) good separation – some plants are too tall but mostly pretty good



Classic Australian circular drive – provides good access and lawns near the house (just ignore the planting against the veranda)



Same again



Stone wall, trees in lawns, water features



Stone walls, steel pool fence, lawn, vertical separation of trees and planting



Spain – climate with strong fire risk: Stone seat, broken up beds, trees in lawn and with good separation, irrigated lawn



Spain: paving against house, low planting, stone wall, separated planting, stone mulch
(tree placement could be better)



California – also has a strong fire risk. Separated plantings, trees in gravel, stone walls



Paving and lawn against house – steel screen (creeper and tree not good but other principals show how you can use different materials paving, grass, steppers in gravel to keep things fire wise but make it interesting



Same garden (ignore tree) planting in mulch and back from the house – know a lot of people like fuller garden beds though than these examples



Very good except for planting against the windows



Furniture – it doesn't need to be near the house. Probably more than 10m from your kitchen to lounge anyway – push it further away. Also BBQs, clothes lines etc. Can be really lovely set away from the house



Away from house – pool, steel pergola without climbers



Broken up beds, furniture away from house



Steel furniture



Break up beds, wind break, stone paving, gravel, table and chairs away from house.
Vertical separation with time



Paving against the house and garden pushed away from it – note house has some serious vulnerabilities



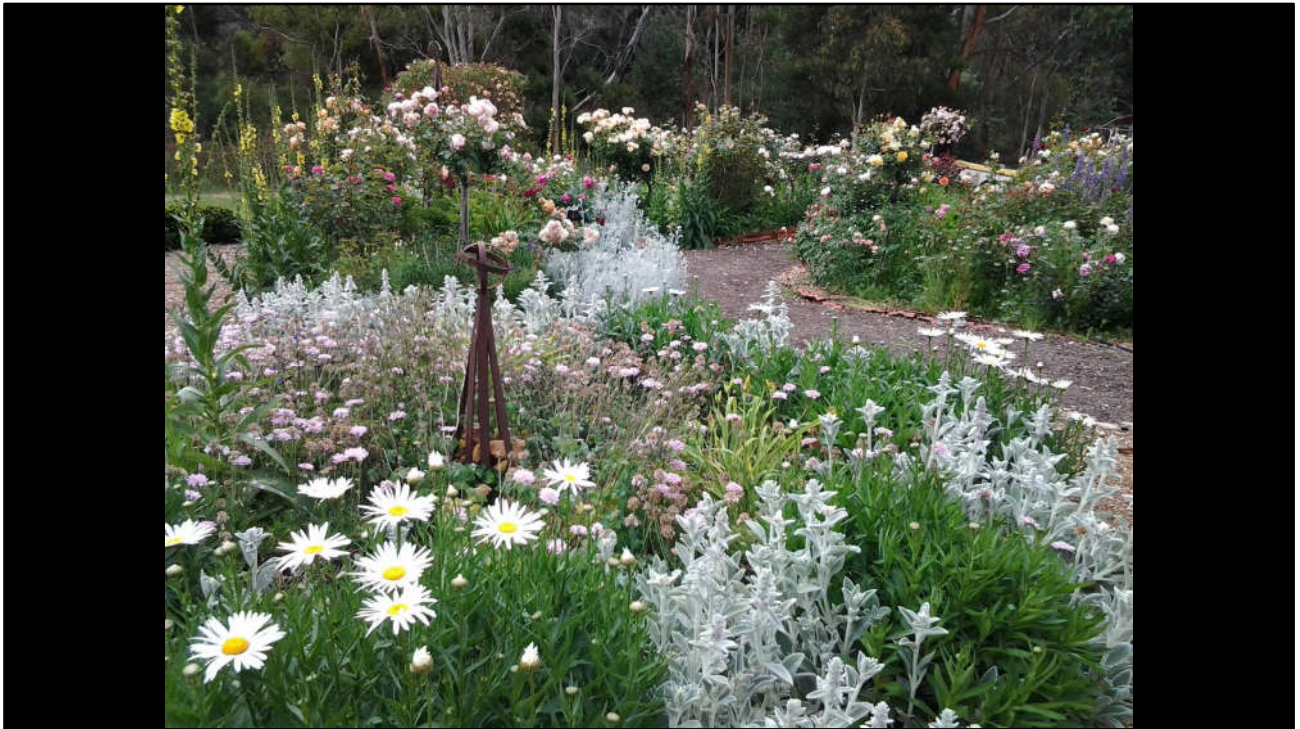
This is a friend's garden – they apologised for it looking gappy at this time of year, but it's a regular normal garden (note house has some serious vulnerabilities)



But it's actually set back from the house with stone and grass providing separation and pots which can be moved



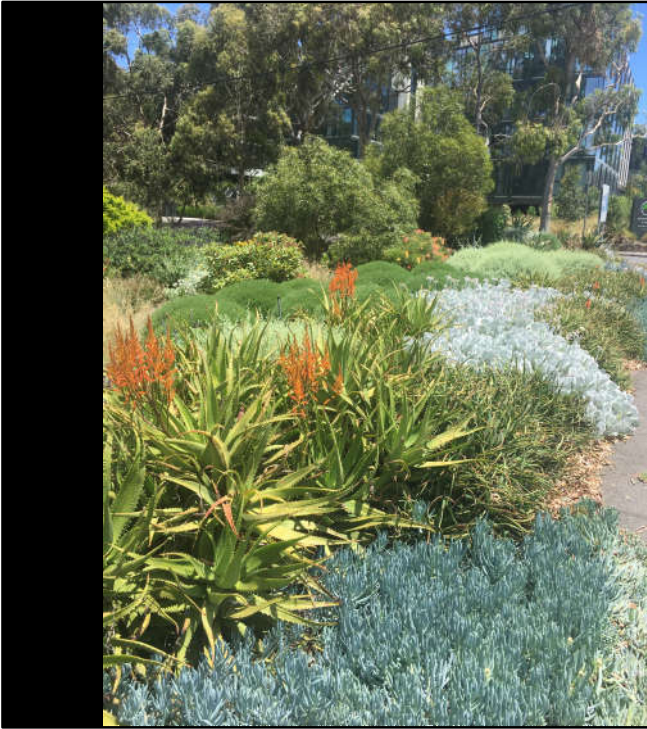
NZ – separation, water in direction of fire trees would provide some ember protection but better if in lawns



Gravel path breaking up beds, steel sculpture, plants with good moisture retention – lawn behind providing separation from bush



Actually some fire wise plants in this one... trees not great but we have screening planting, stone walls and beds separated by lawn and lots of succulent planting



Finally – some lovely firewise planting – didn't check all correctly but most if not all plants here are fire wise



What I hope I've done is point you in the right direction for more information, and give you a taster that it is possible to have a garden