



Gail and Steve

Revamped Garden

Steve Parker works at the Bridgetown Hospital as a gardener.

The Hospital Auxiliary approached Steve with the idea of redesigning the garden leading to the main entrance of the hospital. Over the years the garden had become a mishmash of different types of plants, some being donated assortments, others just over grown. At the same time the footpath from the car park needed to be made wider to better accommodate the arrival of patients and visitors.

Steve drew up a design which was made up of native plants, with bark chip mulch, timber box borders with reclaimed split jarrah fence posts and rocks giving background, depth and interest to the design.

Steve goes on to explain, “Once the design was decided upon, we were going to get help from the Bunbury Regional Prison to do most of the heavy work, a number of prisoners at Bunbury assist with working on community projects throughout the South-West region, but because of Covid-19 I couldn’t get that help, so the garden took a lot longer than we expected, around a month.

“The front garden was a mix of native and exotic plants, now all the plants which were taken out have gone to make other gardens, the roses that were moved have been replanted in the rose garden.

“Darren Tassos donated the split jarrah fence posts and rocks used in the garden with the Hospital Auxiliary supplying timber mulch, timber boxing surrounds and the native plants used in the revamped gardens.

“Everything used in the garden was locally sourced from businesses in Bridgetown.

“Some of the plants didn’t take, so any spaces in the garden will be replanted soon. The garden looks good now but in a little while when the plants fill out it should be more impressive.

“The next project we will be tackling is an ‘Entry Statement’. This will be a set of murals painted on panels on the brick wall leading onto and through the hospital entry.

The work Steve has been involved in with the gardens has given the grounds around the hospital a new look. He is making planter boxes which are placed outside hospital ward windows giving the patients a view of flowering plants. These planter boxes have been made from recycled timber pallets. There is also a wheel barrow planter, split jarrah fence posts and a parrot to be found in other part of the hospital grounds.

Steve’s beneficial work on the gardens has not gone unnoticed.
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