

RECEIVED MONA VALE

- 7 NOV 2013

CUSTOMER SERVICE

We worked with an hydraulic engineer to create channels and mechanisms to disperse all the water that runs underground down from the houses on Cheryl (and above) and take it to that previously discussed side drain.

The middle wall's foundations go down into the rock. It is now covered in ivy which has integrated it into the garden rather successfully but when it was first completed it looked huge. And rather beautiful. People complemented us on our wall!

When we bought the house back in 1993, we were told it had once been owned by a very serious gardener who had won prizes for his work. Even though we were quite intimidated by it, the garden was definitely one of the attractions for

There is a large rainwater bladder under the deck, under the house. It collects water from most of the roof and we used it to water the garden in summer.

There are three taps to it: one down on the lower level area in the garden, one beside the pillar where the hose is and one up at the corner of the garage on the rear driveway. The handles are removable so hopefully the tenants have not rendered them useless by not leaving them for you.

It has a small pump that pushes the water to all three of these taps. You access the pump through a (heavy) gate which is in the wooden wall at the bottom of the stairs that go down onto the lawn.

The water main is down, behind the dry stone wall on Goodwin Rd. If you go down there and stand with your back to the sea and facing the house, it is on the left hand end, about half a meter back in the garden, behind the wall.

Very little of the house we bought that day remains. We renovated 3 times:

In the first renovation in 1995 we created most of what you now see on the ground floor. We created the living room/kitchen space, put on the verandah and balcony, constructed the wardrobe in the large ground floor bedroom (it was the main bedroom at that time) and replaced the old tile roof with the galvanized metal you see today. Basically, on the kitchen / living room side of the house, the only thing that remains from the original house today are the floorboards and the outside of the south wall. Everything else was ripped out. (We have photos of it completely roofless.)

In the second construction in 1999, we dug out the back garden, put in the retaining wall to create the rear courtyard and added the playroom (and put in the bunks). We also put in the large mid garden retaining wall, landscaped the garden and put in the storm water drain that runs down to Goodwin road on the south side of the property. (It may seem strange to mention this unremarkable drain but prior to putting it in, all the storm water from approximately 7 houses to the north and south and behind on Cheryl Crescent, would collect on the rear driveway and then rush down through our property. The soil under the house was always wet so we put in that drain to divert this water. (Putting it in also made constructing the storage room under the house possible). The rear retaining wall has a lot of clever water diverting engineering built into it and that side drain whisks the water away before it can collect and do any damage. It worked very successfully – but that drain cost us \$20,000).

And the third construction happened in 2007 when, having had a few kids, we belatedly realized we'd need more room. So we put the parents retreat / master bedroom and bathroom on upstairs and created the storage room and small deck under the house. We also put a rainwater bladder in under the lower deck so we could water the garden in summer.

It was a lot of work and we spent an awful lot of money doing it.