

2014 International Year of Family Farming

Feeding the world; Caring for the Earth



enviroed4all® - Family Farm Snapshots

<http://familyfarms.enviroed4all.com.au/>

Herb pots in the backyard, Horsham

Our Family

What can you do on in a **small suburban backyard** to grow food? My husband and I live on our small block in Horsham, a regional town in the Wimmera, but we have a food garden here. **I do most of the work** caring for the plants, but my **husband** does the lifting and shifting - the **heavy work**.



Our Farm

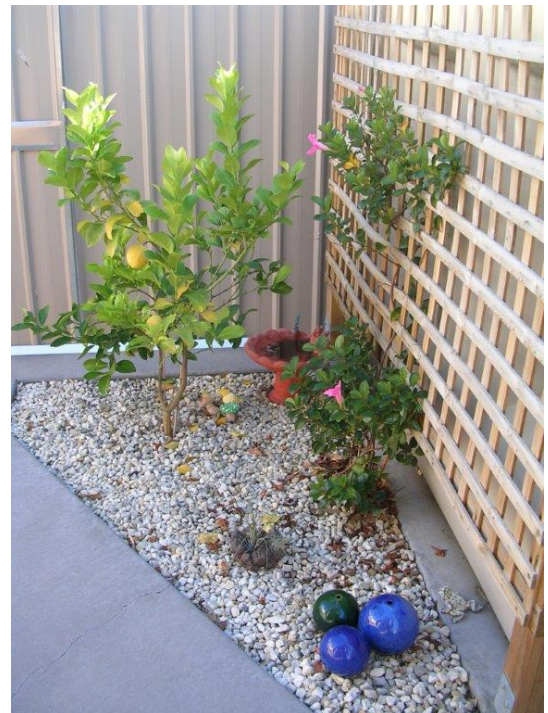
Ours is a **part-time, very small family farm, of herbs and some citrus**, only a **couple of square metres** in size. The native vegetation was fully removed when this land was urbanized. We put in all the plants. The land is flat, above the Wimmera River. The climate has hot dry summers with most rain between April and September, but **plants are sheltered in the yard**.

Our produce - 'Feeding the world' means 'Feeding ourselves'

I love watching the yearly cycles in my garden. Despite our small size, we have trees and herbs:

- grafted **lemon/lime tree**, (photo right)
- a little **bay tree** (last photo next page centre back)

How many different herbs can you put in a garden?



Herbs are my great interest! I love using them in my cooking! I have eight. They do well in **pots**, so you can have a herb garden anywhere, like in the garden in this photo below right.

On the left from front to back:

- **Basil** ,
- **Coriander**
- A **mint**
- Near the centre:
 - **Rosemary** – on the left
 - **Thyme** – on the right
- On the right from the front to back:
 - A second **mint** variety
 - A **parsley**
 - **chives**
 - a second **parsley** variety



Pots fit in tiny spaces! Vegetables can fit in pots too. I have two along a fence - in the photo to the right, **rhubarb**, left and **spring onions** right. *Do you see these leaves elsewhere in the garden photos?* Yes, right in the middle of the main garden above are two magnificent **rhubarb** plants which bear all the year round... for my cooking!



Sustainability - 'Caring for the Earth'

Use the space you have to grow some food.

Pots create space for food in small spaces.

Looking after our environment

I spent my early years on a grapes and citrus trees property. My forebears were dedicated land men. I learnt, through example, how important it is to **protect** our most precious commodity – the **environment**- and to not overtax it by our uses. Later, as farmers in the Wimmera, we tried to meet our immediate needs, with an awareness of preserving **water, soil, energy, habitats for the future**. Now 'retired' in town, we just do what we have always done and look after 'our part of our world' - **small players in a large picture!**



Written from interview with LP by J. Clark, photos from LP, map by J. Clark. edited by J. Clark.

Permission to use this information and the photos has been given by LP to J. Clark

For more information about the IYFF go to:

<http://familyfarms.enviroed4all.com.au/> for more in this series of snapshots

2014 IYFF family farm snapshots Herbs in pots in the backyard- Horsham,
at <http://familyfarms.enviroed4all.com.au/snapshots/herbpots-Horsham>

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