

GARDEN NOTES

GUNDABOOKA

Gundabooka Garden was established on a seven generations farm from 1864. The original homestead on the property is still occupied, and fronts the Great Alpine Road, Everton, taking in views of Mt Buffalo and beyond.

The house and garden were established in 2009. The house was built by a local family builder, who not long after completion, died with his wife in the Black Saturday bushfires of 2009. The design of the house and garden is classic early colonial Australian/French with English formal garden themes.

The rock work seen in the garden has been built entirely from alluvial rock found on the farm. All construction has been done by Elizabeth, with an Edna Walling inspired design of stacked rock and minimal mortar.

Many feature structures have been built over the years such as a lamp base pillar, iron gate piers and a bell tower base. During lockdown, a Sissinghurst inspired wall ruin, with iron window feature, was added.

The water supply comes from a large spring fed dam on the property.

This is a family garden - the four Mason children have had engagement and weddings in this beautiful space.

The garden areas you will see and plantings include:

Boundary Fence Hedge - features Ligustrum Vulgare which is clipped to 90cm high so as to not impede the view. This turns purple in winter, provides 2-3 clippings per year and presents no problem with rabbits.

Entry Fence Line - features a row of pleached Bradford pears with white oleanders that have been hedged and blue agapanthus. The final border is a carpet rose, red.

Driveway - this is a square box garden with miniature blue agapanthus and a white carpet rose. There's an iron urn and plinth for added value.

Eastern lawn - features a 1929 bronze dancing boy statue from an apartment foyer on StKilda Road, Melbourne.

Front Garden - the lawn is turf cultivar, Cynodon Dactylon Hybrid (Green - Lees Park).

French Iron Gates are mounted to farm rock piers. Features a pair of Cypress Glauca and Rugosa Rose, three red Japanese Maples and three Manchurian Pears: Winter Glow, orange gold autumn foliage and a Liriodendron (Tulip Tree).

West Garden Michelia Yunnanensis - features a clipped hedge bordered by mini white agapanthus.

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Iron Urn and Plinth - features a pair of Magnolia Grandiflora (Exmouth), square farm rockbed with white climbing geraniums, three Lombardy Poplars, two white Watsonias (from Nana Dunstan's garden), two climbing roses (Altissimo on black gates) and two yellow Banksia climbing roses.

Rose Garden - features a mix of Old English and Hybrid Tea roses bordered by an English Box hedge.

Lemon/Lime Trees - includes Lisbon Lemon, Tahitian Lime and Meyer Lemon.

North Garden - features a pair of flowering Crab Apples and a Lipstick Maple.

All White Garden - features a row of Cypress Glauca and Stricta, Crepe Myrtles (Natchez), standard Icebergs and Margaret MeTils), Abelia, four climbing roses along the front and a snowball agapanthus.

Vegetable Garden - features Valencia and Washington orange trees and an Imperial Mandarin. All the rock work in this area has been crafted by Elizabeth "Stone" Mason.

The gravel paths you'll see are made with Tarrawingee river stones.

The garden was featured in *Australian Country* in August/September 2022.

"Life is but an hour upon the stage....make it a great performance". Shakespeare

Thank you for visiting!

Open Gardens Victoria wishes to acknowledge the Traditional custodians of this land and we pay respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

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