

## GARDEN NOTES

### BIG HILL

Big Hill is located at the entrance to Victoria's Yarra Valley wine district. The property is positioned to take in views of the entire valley and is known to be the highest peak along this ridgeline.

Big Hill is an amalgamation of garden, home and natural bush surrounds. The plant palette is approximately 70% native, 15% indigenous and 15% exotic as a nod to Big Hill's earlier garden history.

Garden rooms abound and are defined with the use of large, recycled wharf timber to create walls, veggie garden and the like. The buildings of mudbrick, timber and iron collaborate to further develop individual and private spaces.

Water sits at the heart of this garden and is used to give cool relief in the summer months creating habitat for and attracting local wildlife. Four ponds and a natural swimming pool, edged with large flat basalt rock, are surrounded by mass plantings of Westringia "Grey Box, Allocasuarina verticillate, Acacia "Mini Gog", Dianella tasmanica and many more.

The main dwelling is cloaked in Wisteria floribunda (white) and Vitis coignetiae "Japanese Glory vine". Adjacent to the natural swimming pool quietly sits a monumental granite table beneath a rustic pergola enveloped with white Banksia Rose and Wisteria "Shiro noda".

A west facing succulent garden soaks up the scorching afternoon sun on many a summers day, as the very old Opuntia (Prickly Pear) yields loads of fruit annually. Another fruit bearer in the garden is the native Macadamia integrifolia. Established over the last ten years, it now produces an abundant harvest of delicious nuts.

The hard-landscape elements include large basalt rocks, wharf timbers and re-homed historic nautical objects, featured with extraordinary sculptures such as "Death of the White Goods" by acclaimed sculptor Alexander Knox along with a rusted "Staircase to Heaven" by inspirational sculptor Jacki Staude.

Big Hill sits modestly amongst its natural bush surrounding, sharing the space with unpretentious plantings, unique hard landscape materials and the alluring and contemplative sound of water.

***Big Hill is located on the lands of the Wurundjeri people. Open Gardens Victoria wish to acknowledge the Traditional custodians and we pay respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.***

**These notes can be downloaded from the Open Gardens Victoria website:  
[www.opengardensvictoria.org.au](http://www.opengardensvictoria.org.au)**