

## GARDEN NOTES

### LAKITHI

Lakithi is a large country garden, designed and created by Gail van Rooyen, from a bare paddock in 1999, to the current 3Ha garden. It is a blend of formal and informal areas with hedges and stone walls creating several garden rooms and open parkland spaces.

From the main stone gate, a long driveway of Lombardy Poplars is followed by an avenue of Pin Oaks, flanked by Rose and Clematis covered post and rail fences. A copse of Crataegus Carrierei lead you into the garden proper. The bed on the right was completely replanted with Iceberg Roses, interspersed with Lilacs, this widens into a long bed of alternating Hydrangea Arborescens, Shasta Daisies, baby white Aggies and edged with Lambs Ears. Below this is the Marquee Lawn, bordered by a dense planting of perennials in varying shades of purple and blue. A large Pin Oak and Scarlet Oak shade the turning circle, which is flanked by espaliered Royal Gala apples with Altissimo roses at every post, and purple Clematis climbing throughout.

A rose covered arbour leads you onto the cool green front lawn, which is hugged by deep shrub and perennial borders filled with Gail's favourite plants.

From here the eye takes you down wide stone steps, flanked by a double row of cascading Lavender Dentata, deep pink Rugosa roses and onto the fountain which in turn is supported by two box lined lavender beds, punctuated by four Rosa Nevada. This is also home to reflecting plantings of burgundy birch Royal Frost, underplanted with pink daffodils. The whole fountain area is framed by a hedge of Viburnum Tinus interspersed with Washington Thorn trees, splendid with autumn colour and laden with berries.

The Cherry Yukon walk.....mass planted with Hellebores leads down to the Spirea hedged dam. On the right, before the gate, is a grove of Medlars and Stipa Gigantea. A rustic fence is covered with pink Roses, Clematis and Nerines. Under the one old Eucalypt, is the native garden.....stylised and repeat planted with Eriostemens, Westringia, Corea, Waratah and Thryptomene. The second Eucalypt provides the necessary shade for Rhododendron pink and white pearl and Camellia Setsugekka. A large planting of Malus loensis, Dogwood and Smokebush provide autumn colour and in spring delight with hundreds of daffodil Ice Follies.

Then on through the iron gate to the Summer House. This area is heavily planted with orange roses, Pat Austin, Mrs Oakleigh Fisher and Summer Song, along with blue Caryopteris and Salvia Azurea. The paddocks are viewed through a window of grasses, Karl Forester, and beyond that through a gate surrounded by balled Myrtus Luma. The dam bank is home to Pistachio Chinensis, red stemmed Dogwood and massed planting of mixed grasses.

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From the dam, one heads up the slope through an arboretum of exotic trees to a granite outcrop where Lavenders, Echiums and Olives form a silvery haze. Further round is a copse of 25 birch, which in spring delight visitors with a carpet of Bluebells. In autumn, the red and white mushrooms are an added bonus.

The orchard is on the left, on the right a mixed planting of deciduous trees, 25 of which are Prunus Elvins heavily underplanted with pink Daffodils, Pink Charm and Shirley Anne. A small planting of Smokebush, Rosa White Wings and Anthriscus Ravens Wing fronts the barn, which is framed by eight regal Pencil Pines. A copse of Maple October Glory, seduce with their autumnal colour, and in spring with the daffodils below.

Back at the house, a magnificent English Oak tree stands sentry on the eastern lawn, surrounded by a stone wall which forms the rose terrace, with roses and bearded iris leading round to the steps behind the house, where the vegetable garden is situated.

Above the vegetable garden, up the stone steps is the recently built (The Covid Project!) picket fenced picking garden. It is always a blaze of colour, with seasonal flowers constantly providing much pleasure and a lovely source of flowers for the house and friends.

We hope you enjoy the garden.

***Lakithi is located on the lands of the Taungurung People. 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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