

GARDEN NOTES

ROCKLANDS

Embark on a journey through Rocklands, a haven we purchased in 2014. Sitting aloft the Campaspe River, Rocklands is just five kilometres from the historic township of Redesdale. As city dwellers, our foray into gardening presented a substantial challenge, but the rewards have been immeasurable.

Upon arrival, we found a garden yearning for love after a decade of drought, yet it held the promise of good design. Undeterred, we tackled the task during the summer, pumping an extraordinary amount of water into each garden bed. The redesign was underway, accompanied by the installation of a much-needed irrigation system. Little did we know, the name "Rocklands" would reveal itself as we delved into the soil, rocks and stones would arise like Krakens from the deep.

The change in seasons unveils a garden that continually evolves with growing plants, changing conditions, and newfound ideas.

Set on a gentle slope, our home and garden offer large lawn areas with breathtaking views of the river valley.

Pass through the small grove of productive olive trees as you approach the white weatherboard cottage, surrounded by 30-year-old English oak trees that were planted by the property's original owners.

The garden's rock walls, sourced from surrounding paddocks, form the backdrop and edging to each garden bed. Meandering paths invite visitors to explore what lies around each curve. Mass plantings of blue and white agapanthus, pink and white belladonna lily in summer, and purple iris in spring adorn the 1000 sqm of green lawn, creating a vibrant tapestry.

On the north side, a large vegetable garden boasts raised beds with an integrated watering system, fully netted for protection. Hand-built with love, it features a mix of flowers, vegetables and herbs, emphasizing farm produce at its best. The "Zoo area" above, crafted from posts of the property's old vineyard, showcases our commitment to repurposing.

Below, a friendly pebbled fire pit area offers respite during colder months, with sunset reflections on the hills across the river. The house garden showcases a mix of roses, bulbs, and seasonal plants, while a line of fruit trees adorn the shared rock wall, bearing apricots, blood plums, peaches, pears, apples, and pomegranates when in season.

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Despite the inevitable seasonal care, our efforts in pruning, weeding, hedging, fertilizing, and mulching are a gratifying exercise. We take pride in leaving this property well-tended for the next custodians, and our small oasis brings us joy.

Join us on this day to share in the pleasure of what we have achieved – an escape from city traffic, a true sanctuary in Rocklands.

Rocklands is located on the lands of the Dja Dja Wurrung People. Open Gardens Victoria wishes to acknowledge the Traditional custodians of this land 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

