

BRAEBURN HOUSE

Built in 1881, the house and grounds are situated on five landscaped acres, amidst a garden of intrigue and beauty. Many years of work and love by an artistic, skilled horticulturist who doesn't take himself too seriously, created this garden. Enjoy your time here. Sit awhile and soak up the beauty and ambiance - then leave inspired.

As you enter via the formal garden, note the two mature Canary Island palms. Planted in the 1800s, they stand guard over the property and draw the eye to the magnificent Art Nouveau gates that herald the bluestone homestead beyond. This formal area of the garden contains box hedges, rose beds, perennial borders, elegant pines and a beautiful Golden Ash of some age. The kikuyu lawn was also planted in the 1800s and is a testament to the genus.

The driveway entrance, lined with Manchurian Pears, leads you to an area of the garden that is artistically laid out with rocks, succulents and yuccas, all of various shapes and textures and dotted with rustic, rural sculptures that lend an ambient touch. Many of the species in this part of the garden are water efficient plants chosen because they blend harmoniously with the rust laden garden art.

To the east is an Asian inspired garden containing many rare and unusual plants with a large red moon gate creating a vista to the surrounding paddocks.

The odds and sods garden as I call it contains many different species of trees, shrubs, roses and perennials, as well as a perfumed pleasure for the proboscis - the Forest of Smells! Beyond this part of the garden lies the old orchard. The orchard is home to a number of old species apple and pear and boasts a beautiful stone lined well of historic significance. You are welcome to explore this area but watch your step.

Next you will come across the 'Cook and Chook' area of the garden. This kitchen garden abounds with life and art. Or is that just a furphy? Vegetable beds are alive with organically grown produce and the area is bordered with beds of succulents, lavender and geranium, an unusual mix that work well together. Located beyond the vegetable garden are the resident manure makers. Aside this area are a various array of old sheds which are still in use, and an old peppercorn tree.

The wisteria covered pergola bordered by bluestone cobbles is an area that lends itself to quiet contemplation - if you can think outside the square. Here various pieces of container equipment have been welded together to create a bright and thought provoking area to the garden. The outhouse remains. A reminder of the way things were.



GARDEN NOTES

Braeburn House was awarded The Heritage House and Garden Award for 2010 from the Colac Otway Shire.

There will be plant sales and a stroll through the garden with the owner at 11.00am and 1.30pm to discuss the progress of the garden.

Enjoy your time at Braeburn House - an inspirational and eclectic mix of the old and new!

Braeburn House is located on the lands of the Eastern Maar 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**

