

CECILIA'S GARDEN

Cecilia's Garden is not yet three and a half years old and was established from a bare garden space! Cecilia describes the autumn season in the garden as a 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness.'

There are features following Feng Shui principles throughout this small but lush garden space. At the main front entrance a metal lotus and koi fish and a small water fountain follow Feng Shui principles for balance and good energy. An internal courtyard has a large rock inserted under a maple for stability.

The front side entrance has numerous hanging plants under maples that greet you and a variety of colourful flowering plants. Clivias and sansaquas are under shade at the entrance. A giant taro plant provides a haven for begonias and other rare plants that can survive all year around.

At a street entrance there is another front garden under a huge Buxton Blue rogue gum that happily resides here. It is a challenge to plant underneath, but there is a successful underplanting of leucadendron plants, salt bush and various native plants. Oak leaf hydrangeas are planted at the side of this garden under Manchurian pear trees. Down the sidewalk to the back are small raised garden hothouses for raising seedlings and growing herbs.

Along the fence line of the rear garden are small plants in hanging baskets and pots which Cecilia refers to as her living sculpture.

The main rear garden bed has Japanese windflowers, sunflowers, vivid vincas and through this bed, multiple flowering plants. Chinese lanterns and New Zealand smoke bush provide some height (if possums don't devour it) plus assorted bulbs, ballota dwarf, clary sage, anemone, sunflowers, geraniums, begonias.

Waterhousia trees run from the back side garden and around the pool area. With an underplanting of plectranthus. Colourful flowers peppered throughout the rear garden make a lovely vista from the home interior. There are three rocks for stability in the centre of this garden. A Yin Yang sculpture sits in this garden plus another three rocks for stability.

Cecilia is a watercolourist and poet. Her botanical paintings will be for sale at discounted prices.

She writes: "If you tend the garden as you would a friend it will bring everlasting joy and a longer less stressful life. She will give you tips to encourage your gardening."

My Everyday Garden by Cecilia Morris

*Calluses on palms, dirty nails, aching back,
Insect bites up my arms,
All part of the love of gardening.*

*In spring
Observe the unfurling opening of petals.
The dark red roses deliver rich perfume.*

*Piquant rosemary halts bees
to browse its flowers,
to sip on offerings for their queen.*

*Best of all late summer,
when sunflowers move faces like large clouds,
I am drenched in their yellow.*

*Pungent jasmine hitches itself
on fence palings that
trembles with its weight*

*The mood soon autumn.
Spent buds and leaves mingle into compost.
The air is soft a little sad.*

Quiet lessons continue for the everyday gardener.

Cecilia's Garden is located on the lands of the Bunurong 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

