

STONEHILL – Mount Macedon Self Drive Tour

We purchased Stone Hill in 2011 with the purpose of developing a country garden. Our first task was to build a rabbit proof fence around approx..5 acres for the house block and then we engaged Intermode to design and build us a house and Michael McCoy to design us a 'dry' garden.

The previous owner had planted a number of trees and these are up to 25 years old now and are the backbone of the garden.

Michael worked with the architect and builders from the planning stage and his input has been invaluable. Because the house is very contemporary and has strong lines it was decided to develop the garden away from the house as a separate feature that would not distract from the minimalist lines of the house.

The perennial garden was planted in September 2011. Michael laid out the plants and we set to work planting (all 1400). During that first summer we watered them frequently but since then we keep the water to a minimum.

Each August the garden is cut down to approx.. 10cm except for the *Stipa gigantea* and the *Agapanthus* and it is always wonderful to see the new growth quickly develop in the spring.

Peak flowering time is December – February.

The quarry garden was developed in a disused quarry in 2015 and has a foundation matrix of grasses (mainly *Festuca glauca*, *Carex comans* and *Lomandra* "Lime Tuff") with approximately 5000 bulbs interspersed amongst them. These pop up at different times of the year and give the garden an element of surprise and seasonality.

The Macedon Ranges is located on the lands of the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples. 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:

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