

THE HANSON GARDEN

In September 1969, John and I bought our four-hectare property with its superb bushland of spring wildflowers.

We built our house in 1972 with the main living areas taking advantage of the winter sun and views. The many glass walls afford a feeling of being in the garden from the inside of the house, with different vistas created from each room, such as the water garden and courtyard.

After graduating from Burnley Horticultural College, I was fortunate to work for five years with Ellis Stones, one of Melbourne's top landscape architects. His natural style of garden design, with careful placement of rocks and plants, had a profound influence on me. Elements of this natural style include taking advantage of natural contours, creating rooms in the garden, with a surprise as one walks around a corner where a new vista opens up, creating interest by changing levels, and constructing a water feature.

The plants are carefully chosen to complement the area, and as they relate to each other. Very flat ground cover is planted in front of feature rocks, with a tufty plant or two, such as blue grass. The whole garden is designed to flow from one area to the other, from the exotic to the native, water garden, vegetable/orchard area and courtyard – then to merge with the indigenous bush.

All rainwater has been diverted from the roof to fill ponds around the house and also tanks for garden and firefighting purposes. Grey water is used on the south side to benefit moisture and shade loving plants such as ferns.

The Outer Garden

With the help of Manningham Council, we have put much effort into improving this area by removing weeds and arranging a rabbit eradication program involving our neighbours. This has resulted in the ground flora being invigorated, and the area now includes 26 different types of native orchids.

In 1981 the bushland on two of our boundaries was declared part of the Warrandyte State Park and in 1999 we put a covenant on our property with Trust For Nature to preserve the bush forever.

We welcome you to enjoy the garden and the outer natural bush environment. Please feel free to wander, sit at your leisure or have a picnic.

We do ask that visitors please stay on the paths.

Bev Hanson