



GARDEN NOTES

DUNEIRA

First established in 1872 by pastoralist Suetonius Officer as a country retreat, Duneira offers visitors a unique insight into the lives and ambitions of the wealthy during colonial times in Australia.

Having survived the devastating bushfires of 1983, its grand residence and significant gardens have remained surprisingly intact. It is considered to be the 'jewel in the crown' of the small collection of original 'Hill Stations' developed by 'men of wealth and commerce' during the 1870s.

The S R Stoneman Foundation was established when Duneira's sixth owner, Stuart Stoneman, passed away in 2002. Mr Stoneman wanted his estate to be accessible to all, and consequently the garden is now open to the public on a regular basis.

The property consists of 38 acres with approximately 16 acres under garden – the remainder given over to the production/farming area. The famous Dutch Elm Avenue, now under-planted with a carpet of bluebells, is thought to be the longest in a private garden in the southern hemisphere.

The stately English Oak avenue running north to the top paddocks was also planted in the early 1870s along with many of the giant conifers seen throughout the garden. Two Norway Spruce and a magnificent Caucasian Fir (now approximately 50 metres high) grace the front lawn.

The garden reached its pinnacle of development from 1890–1940 when its second owner James Smith Reid introduced a staggering variety of exotic trees and shrubs. This was the era of the plant-hunters and collectors and the botanical diversity throughout the garden reflects this. Plants such as the Cut-Leaf Walnut (*Juglans regia* 'Laciniata') at the western corner of the house and the Himalayan Holly (*Ilex kingiana*) below the circular drive are still extremely rare in cultivation.

Other significant trees include the 140-year-old weeping cherry in the Secret Garden below the stables and the grand old Weeping Elm on the rear house lawn.

Horse Chestnuts, lindens, various oaks, elms, maples and liriodendrons grace the vast lawn areas below the house. Spruce, cedars, sequoias, firs, cypresses, *Thuja* and yews are all here, along with orchards of stone fruit and groves of hazelnut and chestnut to the rear of the property where the llamas reside.

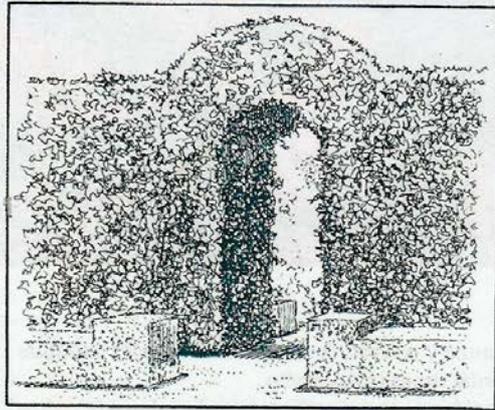
Over 150 named varieties of rhododendrons, along with *Mollis* azaleas, dogwoods and a vast collection of holly species are present. Bulbs include bluebells, muscaris, crocuses and daffodils.

These are just a few of the highlights of this magnificent garden!

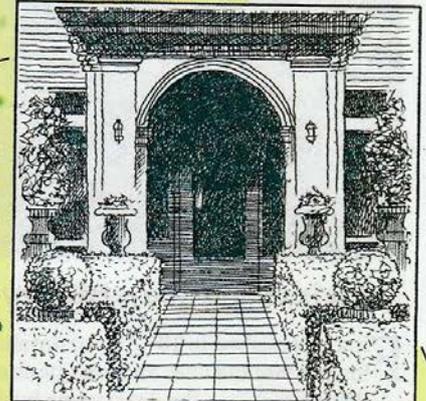
Pip Shannon – Head Gardener

These notes can be downloaded from the Open Gardens Victoria website
www.opengardensvictoria.org.au

Open Gardens Victoria is a not-for-profit organisation that promotes the benefits of gardens and gardening by assisting garden owners to open their private gardens to the public. Monies raised at the gate are shared between OGV and the garden owner – whose share is often directed to charity. Surplus OGV funds are allocated to horticultural, educational or community projects.



SECRET GARDEN



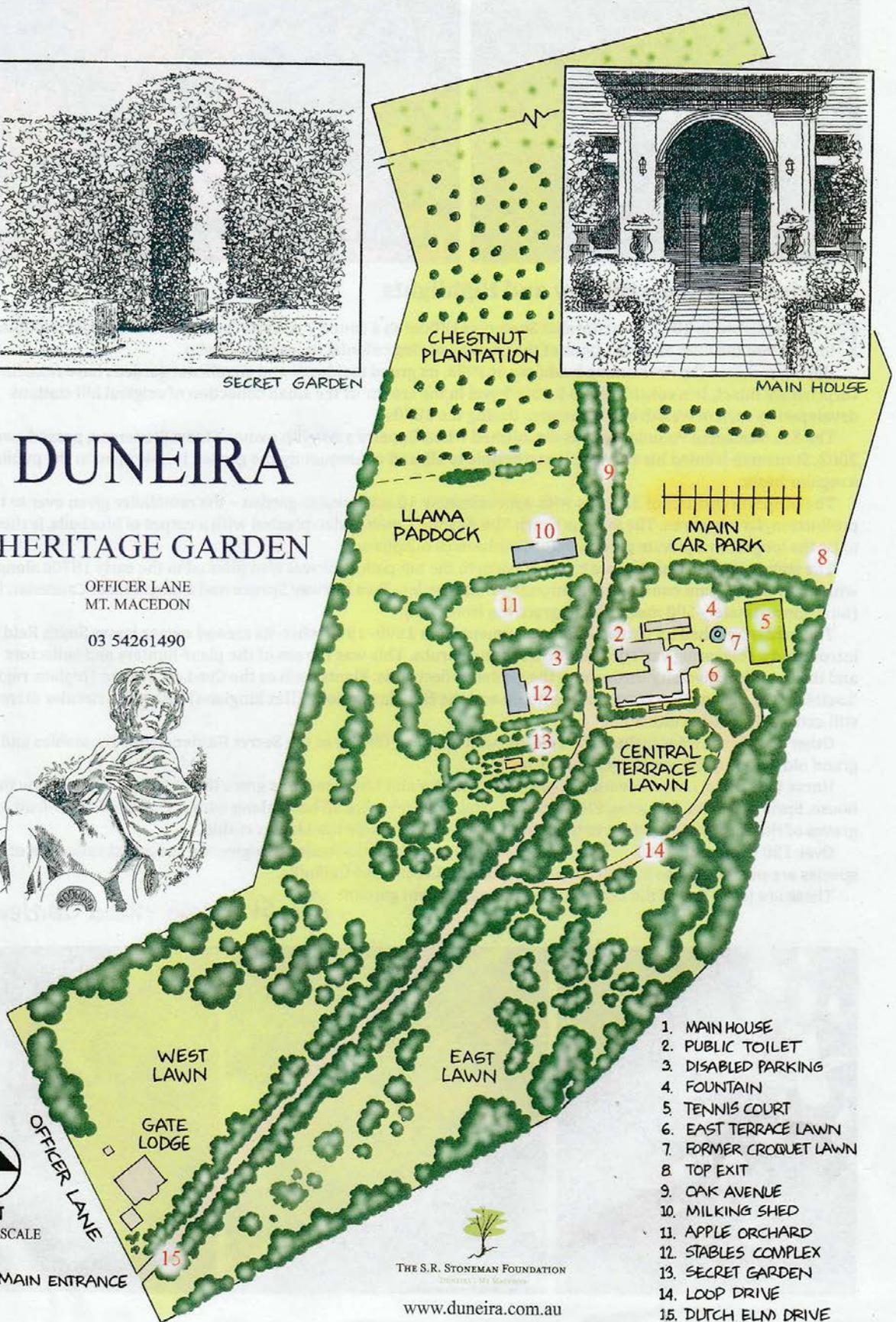
MAIN HOUSE

DUNEIRA

HERITAGE GARDEN

OFFICER LANE
MT. MACEDON

03 54261490



1. MAIN HOUSE
2. PUBLIC TOILET
3. DISABLED PARKING
4. FOUNTAIN
5. TENNIS COURT
6. EAST TERRACE LAWN
7. FORMER CROQUET LAWN
8. TOP EXIT
9. OAK AVENUE
10. MILKING SHED
11. APPLE ORCHARD
12. STABLES COMPLEX
13. SECRET GARDEN
14. LOOP DRIVE
15. DUTCH ELM DRIVE

