

## The Presbytery at Clunes

The Garden at the Clunes Presbytery has had many incarnations since it was built circa 1905. The current garden is largely the design of my partner, Daniel Cronin, inspired by the Arts and Craft movement and consisting of garden rooms with naturalistic planting.

The garden is on several levels and overlooks the township of Clunes, the first Gold town of Victoria. There are intimate garden rooms, a lawned garden that you can picnic on and a monastic garden you can relax in after walking around the historic township and the adjacent creek that resembles a magical woodland.

The intimate garden rooms, though having distinct styles of planting, all retain an old world charm filled with plants inspired by the Royal College of Physicians in London. There are over 100 herb and medicinal plants, many of which have been the source of modern medicines we use in hospitals today. The garden thus has an educational value with laser cut signage and tours focusing on the stories from plant to pharmacopeia.

Plants such as Star Anise (*Illicium verum*) that is traditionally used in Chinese cooking, also produces the precursor chemical of Tamiflu, the anti-influenza drug. *Artemisia annua* has long been used for malaria and its active component has been used to treat Quinine resistant malaria in the 21st century.

Many of the herbs grown have toxic properties, so it is important not to assume herbs are safe and benign. Expert medical advice should be sought before use. Many gardeners are aware of this in regard to their pets and most farmers know not to plant yew hedges near their cattle.

A number of the medicinal plants provide a welcome structure to our winter garden. *Nandina* provides uplifting red and green leaves, evergreen rhubarb provides winter structure, as well as delicious stems for desserts, although both of these plants have toxic properties in their berries and leaves. Other edible plants in the garden include lemons, limes, apples, olives, fennel, garlic, dill and numerous common herbs.

## GARDEN NOTES

Because we also use many of the herbs ourselves in cooking, teas and tinctures, organic principles are followed. From weeding by hand and natural pest control to intelligent garden design, the garden also showcases principles of a low maintenance garden vital for weekend gardeners like us.

A nod to Sissinghurst is to be made, one of the world's greatest Arts and Craft style gardens. Not only is Sissinghurst an inspiration but also the partnership between Harold and Vita. Like them, my partner Dan and I have separate expertise that complement each other with Dan the main landscaper and I plant and maintain the water wise, dry climate garden. Admittedly, a creative tension exists where we overlap in ideas but I think this brings out the best in our creativity.

We hope you enjoy the garden which we have created as a space of beauty but more importantly of peace and healing, in keeping with the original intent of the property.

Kevin will conduct garden tours and talks on medicinal properties of plants during the garden opening.

**These notes can be downloaded from the Open Gardens Victoria website:**  
[www.opengardensvictoria.org.au](http://www.opengardensvictoria.org.au)

## GARDEN NOTES

<b>A list of medicinal plants at The Presbytery Garden</b>		
Agastache <i>Agastache mexicana</i>	Goats Rue <i>Galega officinalis</i>	Pineapple Sage <i>Salvia elegans</i>
Ajuga <i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Ginseng <i>Eleutherococcus senticosus</i>	Rhubarb <i>Rheum rhababarum</i>
Angelica <i>Angelica archangelica</i>	Goji <i>Lysium chinense</i>	Rock Samphire <i>Crithmum maritimum</i>
Apple <i>Malus domestica</i>	Heart Leaf Ice Plant <i>Mesembryanthemum cordifolia</i>	Rocket <i>Eruca vesicaria</i>
Arthritis Herb <i>Centella asiatica</i>	Hazelnut <i>Corylus avellana</i>	Rosemary <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>
Artemisia <i>Artemisia Annu</i>	Herb Robert <i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Rue <i>Ruta graveolens</i>
Balm of Gilead <i>Cedronella canariensis</i>	Hyssop <i>Hyssopus officinalis</i>	Rugosa Rose <i>Rosa rugosa</i>
Basil <i>Ocimum basilicum</i>	Holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Saffron <i>Crocus sativus</i>
Bay tree <i>Laurus nobilis</i>	Kumquat <i>Citrus japonica</i>	Sage <i>Salvia officinalis</i>
Bergamot <i>Monarda didyma</i>	Labdanum <i>Cistus ladanifer</i>	Salad Burnett <i>Sanguisorba minor</i>
Brahmi Memory Herb <i>Bacopa monnieri</i>	Land Cress <i>Barbarea verna</i>	Self Heal <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>
Borage <i>Borago officinalis</i>	Lavender <i>Lavendula</i>	Sorrell <i>Rumex acetosa</i>
Cardamon <i>Elettaria cardamomum</i>	Lemon Grass <i>Cymbopogon citratus</i>	Stevia <i>Stevia rebaudiana</i>
Chaste Tree <i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Lemon Balm <i>Melissa officinalis</i>	Tansy <i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>
Chinese Quinine <i>Dichroa febrifuga</i>	Lime <i>Citrus latifolia</i>	Tarragon <i>Artemisia dracunculus</i>
Chamomile <i>Chamaemelum nobile</i>	Marjoram <i>Origanum spp</i>	Toothache Plant <i>Spilanthes acmella</i>
Colchicine <i>Colchicum autumnale</i>	Marshmallow <i>Althae officinalis</i>	Thyme <i>Thymus vulgaris</i>
Comfrey <i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Mushroom Plant <i>Rungia klossii</i>	Truffle <i>Tuber melanosporum</i>
Curry plant <i>Helichrysum italicum</i>	Mugwort <i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Vietnamese Mint <i>Polygonum odoratum</i>
Date palm <i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>	Mint <i>Mentha</i>	Valerian <i>Valeriana officinalis</i>
Dill <i>Anethum graveolums</i>	Olive <i>Olea europaea</i>	Verbena <i>Aloysia citrodora</i>
Elder Flower <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Olive Herb <i>Santolina rosmarinifolia</i>	Water Cress <i>Nasturtium officinale</i>
Echinacea <i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Oregano <i>Oreganum vulgare</i>	White Sage <i>Salvia apiana</i>
Euphorbia <i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Peppercorn Tree <i>Schinus molle</i>	Willow <i>Salix babylonica</i>
Fennell <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Parsley <i>Petroselinum crispum</i>	Witch Hazel <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>
Fever Few <i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>	Peppermint	Wormwood <i>Artemisia absinthium</i>
Foxglove <i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Pelargonium <i>Pelargonium tomentosum</i>	Yarrow <i>Archillea millefolium</i>
Garlic <i>Allium sativum</i>	Peony <i>Paeonia officinalis</i>	Yew <i>Taxus baccata</i>
Golden Rod <i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Persimmon <i>Diospyros kaki</i>	