

## CAELUM

*(Latin for heaven)*

Caelum, Latin for heaven, is just that. It is impossible to walk through this garden without feeling at peace. Grant Saltmarsh Caelum initially designed the garden as one of his first entries into landscaping and we believe one of his best. Grant's love of plants is evidenced in the design as one space peacefully flows into another. It speaks to his character as a designer long after his passing. Caelum has been an award-winning garden under the tutelage of Margaret and Mal Pisaro who have become good friends of the current owners, Dale Simpson and Jon Hazelton. Dale and Jon last opened the garden in 2019 and are thrilled to open again.

The private gardens of Caelum sit on over 1.5 acres and were originally created back in 1994 from a blank canvas. Dale and Jon fell in love with the fruits of the Pisaro's labour in 2015. They have continued the labour of love, incorporating the native area seamlessly into the rest of the garden with the inclusion of rare palms and a walkway. There are places to sit and enjoy the vistas.

The large stone pond and fountain make for a peaceful place to sit and meditate. This provides the setting for a walkway to the covered vegetable garden and its grapevines and triple grafted apple tree. On the upper level there are echiums and buddleias that provide a sea of colour and butterflies.

This garden has an abundance of rare maples and other plants that have been supplied by Stephen Ryan's Dicksonia Nursery located at the top of the mountain. Stephen has been a wonderful source of advice and guidance for its current owners. As a plant hunter, Stephen has ensured that Caelum has benefited from his many travels. Both Stephen and Dale sit on the Plant Trust, a group devoted to the preservation of species both native and exotic.

There are hidden treasures around each corner, including plants from all corners of the world adapted to this Mediterranean climate. The barriers are pushed with plants from other regions including sub-tropical South America.

Caelum is now becoming renowned for its amazing collection of maples (genus *Acer*) which is a particular passion of the current owners. There is something to see in any season from the drifts of spring bulbs through to the summer abundance of perennials and shrubs to the autumn splendour of the maples and other deciduous trees and finally, the silhouettes of winter. It is truly a garden for all seasons.

What is lovely about this garden is that it entices you to go home and try it for yourself as it presents multiple and varied plantings, as each corner tempts you with its possibilities.

***Caelum is located on the lands of the Wurundjeri 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](http://www.opengardensvictoria.org.au)**