

## GAYTHORPE GARDEN

Hello and welcome to my garden! I purchased this land about 25 years ago when it was just a paddock. I had always wanted to plant a garden here in Olinda since my grandparents had done so decades earlier. They had created a beautiful garden full of interesting plants and I was inspired to do likewise. The weather and soil in the Dandenongs almost guarantee success.

My initial plan was to plant those trees and shrubs which would take years to flower such as the Dove Tree (*Davidia involucrata*), certain magnolia varieties and *Rhododendron grande*. I am still waiting for some of these to flower! As I didn't want any lawn, I created paths throughout. I use sawdust on them as it is a good weed suppressant and is soft underfoot.

I have always had an interest in plants and was keen to plant a wide diversity so that there would be something in flower at all times. Over the years I have kept adding more plants as it adds interest to continually try out new varieties. I like to use annuals as there are so many to choose from and you can change them for something different each season. Not to mention they flower endlessly.

Having a garden for so long you realise that they never stay the same. When I look back at old photos it is hard to believe how it was. Plants that were in full sun are now in shade. Every year I find myself needing to move plants or pruning back larger ones. It has become the main task now, whereas weeding was the never-ending task in the early days.

Opening in late spring there will be lots of flowers to enjoy. The *Davidia*, *Laburnum* and *Chestnut* should all be putting on a show. Deciduous azaleas, rhododendrons, as well as varied shrubs, will also be in bloom. I have two different oak trees that have golden leaves in spring which are remarkable. Lilies and clematis are two of my favourite plants and you will see why. There will be countless other plants in flower as well as other decorative shrubs. Be sure to come up and ask me any questions you may have.

I hope that you enjoy the diversity of planting in my garden and find some plant that you admire and are unfamiliar with. Gardening has given me infinite joy and I hope that you can feel the peace it gives me.

*Simon Gaythorpe*

***Gaythorpe Gardens 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)

