

KAREN'S GARDEN

Front Garden

The large standard Lillypilly plants (*Syzygium smithii*) guard either side of the front gate. The gardens along the front fence were replanted about five years ago with Crepe Myrtles (*Lagerstroemia 'Tuscarora'*) and Laurustinus (*Viburnum tinus*). There are standard Cumquats (*Citrus japonica*) at each end of the garden. Across the front of the residence is a continuous band of Dwarf Nandina (*Nandina domestica nana*) and the large bowls either side of the front doors are filled with purple Aeonium. A hedge of *Myrtus luma* separates the Front garden from the Main garden.

Driveway

A row of Capital Pears (*Pyrus 'Capital'*) along the fence is underplanted with New Zealand Rock Lillies (*Arthropodium cirratum*), blue Agapanthus and *Convolvulus sabatius*. On the opposite side of the driveway, there are Clivia 'Belgian Hybrids' in the built-in garden beds along the side of the house.

Main Garden

Between the double gates and the gazebo, well established Chinese Pistachio (*Pistacia chinensis*), Evergreen Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) and pink Crepe Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) are underplanted with clipped English Box (*Buxus sempervirens*), Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), *Plectranthus ecklonii*, *Roldana petasitis*, *Loropetalum 'China Pink'*, *Viburnum plicatum 'Lanarth'*, *Daphne 'Eternal Fragrance'*, Bearded Iris (*Iris germanica*), and Agapanthus.

Behind the Gazebo, a large Jacaranda *mimosifolia* provides light shade for several Pride of Madeira (*Echium candicans*) and a Tahitian Lime (*Citrus latifolia*).

Moving along the north boundary, a flowering Hawthorn tree is next to the Gazebo. This area of the garden has an edging of *Sedum 'Autumn Joy'* in front of a selection of *Hydrangea* species. Behind these is a large Rhaps Palm (*Rhaps excelsa*) and an established planting of NZ Rock Lillies under the Lillypilly and camellias along the fence. Possums have been causing significant damage to some of the camellias in this area. A Bechtel's Crab Apple (*Malus ioensis plena*) next to the path to the pond is underplanted with dwarf purple Japanese Windflowers (*Anemone japonica 'Bowles Purple'*) and Bearded Iris (*Iris germanica*) along to the seat. Behind these, three *Caryopteris 'White Surprise'* provide a good contrast to the surrounding foliage.

Around the Pond

The path to the waterfall is edged with *Gomphrena 'Buddy Purple'* in front of two large Bird's Nest Ferns (*Asplenium nidus*) more NZ Rock Lillies, Clivia, various other ferns and *Aspidistra elatior*.

The waterfall is backed by a magnificent Liquidambar tree (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) and the rockwork features perennial *Statice (Limonium perezii)*, dwarf Purple Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum advena 'Rubrum dwarf'*) and *Carex 'Feather Falls'*.

The Garden on the Western side of the path to the pond features a Ginkgo Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*), a White Crepe Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia 'Natchez'*), with an underplanting of various *Salvias* – Mystic Spires Blue, Margaret Arnold (Pink), Cathedral White, with White Japanese Anemone (*Anemone japonica alba*) and *Sedum 'Gold Mound'* and Japanese Iris (*Iris ensata*) along the edge of the pond.

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Crossing the stepping stones over the pond, the garden on the eastern side of the pond features an orange flowering gum (*Eucalyptus ficifolia*) underplanted with a Dwarf Crepe Myrtle, Agapanthus, Dietes, Dwarf Purple Agapanthus 'Poppin Purple' and facing the lawn, Calla Lillies, Salvia 'Hot Lips' and a sweep of three Euryops 'Little Sunray' with yellow Asiatic lillies behind is edged with Catmint (*Nepeta* 'Walkers Low').

At the rear of the garden on the north side of the path is a multi trunked Lillypilly, then a mix of tall Lillypillies and Capital Pears underplanted with Rice Paper Plant (*Tetrapanax papyrifera*), Cordyline Stricta, the large leaved Roldana petasitis and Elephant Ears (*Calocasia*) along the fence. In front of these are planted white Azalea (*Azalea indica* 'Alba Magnifica'), Snowball bush (*Viburnum opulus sterile*), Daphne 'Perfume Princess', White Japanese Anemone, Hellebores, Heuchera 'Lime Marmalade' and native Flame Pea (*Chorizema cordatum*).

At the front of the gardens on the north side of the pond path, the planting features a Callistemon salignus 'Great Balls of Fire' clipped to feature its spring foliage colour, a yellow flowered Cape Honeysuckle (*Tecoma capensis*), a Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*), Dahlias, a young White Wisteria being trained as a standard and then a long sweep of Plectranthus 'Velvet Elvis' (Purple) alternating with Plectranthus 'Velvet Lady' (Pink). Echinacea, Impatiens and Marigolds provide the border.

The Potting Shed

The path to the Potting Shed is bordered by clipped Golden Diosma (*Coleonema pulchellum* 'Aurea') and a pair of Fuchsia 'Coralie'. On the left hand side is a large, brilliant, hot pink Irisene. To the right at the back of the potting shed is a magnificent Silky Oak Tree (*Grevillea robusta*). In the garden to the right of this are three large Dwarf Date Palms (*Phoenix roebelenii*) and a tall Chinese Windmill Palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) underplanted with Hydrangeas and bordered with *Ajuga reptans*. Behind the cast iron seat is an Olive tree (*Olea europaea*) and a Double Pink Hibiscus (Mrs George Davis). To the right of the seat is a large peach/pink flowered Angel's Trumpet bush (*Brugmansia*) and then a young upright Buddleja 'Buzz Velvet', two yellow and green variegated Coprosma, Hydrangeas and a low planting of Bearded Iris, Calla Lillies and dwarf Dark Blue Agapanthus 'Sea Storm'.

Vegetable Garden

Entering through a pair of standard Cumquat trees, the key to this area of the garden is the magnificent standard White Wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis* 'Alba') at its centre. Surrounding the vegetable garden is a hedge of Roses (including Iceberg and Bonica) on two sides, a hedge of Lavender and along the fence a mix of Standard Portuguese Laurel (*Prunus lusitanica*) and young Cream Fairy Magnolias (*Michelia* 'Cream Fairy') underplanted with Nepalese Iris (*Iris nepalensis*).

Island Beds in the Lawn

The two beds on the edge of the entrance to the terrace feature weeping Cherry trees (*Prunus subhirtella* Pendula) underplanted with young plants of Derameria 'Dream Weaver'. The Island bed under the large ornamental Pear (*Pyrus* 'Chanticleer') is heavily underplanted with spring bulbs. After the bulbs finish, the groundcover of Lamium 'Beacon Silver' provides interest for the rest of the year and is edged with Black Mondo Grass (*Ophiopogon planiscapus nigrescens*). The island bed towards the front of the garden surrounds a mature Japanese Elm (*Zelkova* 'Green Vase') underplanted with New Zealand Rock Lilies, Polygala 'Little Charmer', Nepalese Iris, Lamium 'Beacon Silver' and a magnificent band of Sedum 'Autumn Joy'. Various bedding plants and spring bulbs provide a colourful border.



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The garden bed at the end of the Myrtus Luma hedge is planted with an eclectic mix of plants. The large standard weeping rose is the variety 'Seafoam' and there are plantings of perennial Wallflowers (*Erysimum x linifolium*), dwarf Fuchsias, Salvias, Bearded Iris, Pelargoniums, Dianthus and Baby Sun Rose (*Aptenia cordifolia*).

Terrace

The gardens around the terrace are edged with Dwarf Mondo Grass (*Ophiopogon japonicus nana*) in front of a planting of dwarf Shasta Daisies (*Leucanthemum 'Madonna'*). Standard White Flower Carpet Roses, *Choisya ternata 'White Dazzler'*, *Salvia 'Cathedral White'* and *Cistus savilifolius 'Snow Mound'* provide the background planting. A Flowering Cherry (*Prunus 'Shimidsu Sakura'*) and an Orange Tree (*Citrus sinensis*) mark the inner corners.

Karen's Garden is located on the lands of the Bunurong people. Open Gardens Victoria wish to acknowledge the Traditional custodians and we pay respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

**These notes can be downloaded from the Open Gardens Victoria website:
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