

THE ROWE GARDEN

Libby and Michael's garden comprises about two and a half acres of lawn and garden beds on a slope.

Just over four years ago Libby and Michael purchased their Stanley property and have since undertaken extensive house renovation and garden development. Early on they engaged Genevieve Milham of Plane Trees to design the garden. The brief was to provide plenty of car parking; to have access to the sheds; and to establish a low maintenance "parklike" garden which would become elegant and interesting with the passage of time.

A dual driveway was developed and a service road around the perimeter up to the sheds was implemented. However, the two most significant design features were firstly to develop a horizontal and vertical "axis" with a fountain in the centre and secondly to build a 13m round brick entertaining area. This is a great focal point. Also, adding a 3.5m wide verandah to the house complemented the major design works.

They were lucky to have a handful of mature trees (some have been successfully transplanted) including a mature, majestic elm in the turning circle, and two very large weeping myrtles.

The garden is complemented by extensive stonework. Libby and Michael engaged local stonemasons who worked on and off for about 12 months to develop garden beds, the turning circle, retaining walls and the fascia for the new swimming pool.

The perimeter of the garden comprises natives. Inside the driveway and service road are predominantly exotics. Libby and Michael value highly the local birdlife that the natives attract. There are two large hedged areas on the drive comprising Callistemon *Kings Park Special*.

The rainfall, soil and extensive irrigation works by Michael have contributed to the flourishing and rapid establishment of the garden.

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

