

GARDEN NOTES

PEACEFUL HEART

"Peaceful Heart" began with a vision of lush greenery enveloping the yard in a suburban street, where every element is sculpted, nurtured, and meticulously trimmed.

Lee (Surakarn Purgpewwong), a generous, affectionate, and gentle soul originally from Thailand, initiated the design in 2010. It features slender brick walls with wrought iron details as a perimeter, with fishponds, there is the soothing sounds of flowing water, trees elevated above the earth with their roots bared, seemingly dancing around the garden, all harmonised by the precisely arranged ground cover.

Lee began with propagating four Echeveria succulents and soon lost count after reaching over 400, he is a real green thumb. Upon entering the gates, the gorgeous weeping Mulberry tree encapsulated by a stunning circular garden seat, catches your eyes. Oversized cut-leaf bonsai, elevated with succulents at its base, that really stands out. Then the lime-green Buxus columns line the pathway around the pond, weaving through the garden. Spikey spotted Cyads burst out from pots in shades of blue and copper, contrasted by striking whitewashed river pebbles and Lee's own handmade sculptures throughout.

Further down the path, a Ligustrum golden privet has been sculpted into a rectangular base with a one-and-a-half-meter lollipop centre, while the baby tears carpet the ground in the shaded areas. There is an assortment of native grasses, tree ferns and black bamboo that are tucked away throughout the property. Everywhere you look it is a showpiece promoting Beauty, Peace, Love, but the standout is on your journey back, the cloud-shaped topiary Myrtle (*Luma Apiculata*), which gives the illusion of a tree gracefully dancing above the whitewashed river pebbles with the roots exposed, absolutely stunning.

Quality is Lee's top priority in life; he established a successful engineering business renowned for producing the highest quality products globally. On the other hand, Lee is a kind-hearted man who gives back whenever possible. Starting at the young age of 18, he began donating blood and plasma, recently reaching the milestone of 600 donations, with his beloved wife also contributing significantly, having made over 200 donations. Lee would like to donate all proceeds from the event to Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre to aid in the fight against cancer.

Better Homes and Gardens Graham Ross, a presenter for more than 50 years is on Better Home Ideas - YouTube 39,000 views for show casing Lee's Garden titled "Topiary Inspiration": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIBqPJR9IW0>

Lee would really love to share his beautiful garden with you.

Peaceful Heart is located on the lands of the Wurundjeri People. Open Gardens Victoria wish 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

