

Tranquillity Garden Notes

Welcome to our garden.

The property was purchased in 1990 when the garden was in its infancy. A few trees and garden beds had been planted and the crab-apple walk consisted of three archways made of PVC pipe. The dam wall was a mass of weeds and blackberries.

The garden has evolved over the years with no specific plan in place. One of the first priorities was building a rabbit proof fence which encloses the entire property. Even so, a few baby bunnies seem to squeeze through in the spring

On the east side of the property, between the paling fence and the chain link fence, stood a row of mature cypress trees, these were removed in 2002. This area became the site of the existing orchard area where there are a variety of fruit trees, apricot, plum, apple, orange, grapefruit, lemon, strawberry guava, pineapple guava, 2 figs and a lime.

In the garden behind the house, where the clothesline is located, there are two finger limes and a mature 'Reed' avocado, which produces prolifically one year and has a rest the following year. This year it is having a rest!

'Young' berries are planted in the chook run for protection against birds. Black currants and two Japanese seedless mandarins and a tamarillo are also located behind the gazebo. Hidden in the garden beds are two persimmons and a pomegranate.

The garden beds have a mixture of hardy, easily managed perennials, amongst the roses. As the years go by, I am leaning towards easier maintenance. Kate and Daniel help me out on a monthly basis. I am very appreciative of their hard work.

The chooks have their pen at the back of the property and have their special tunnel which takes them past the vegetable garden through to the orchard area for their daily 'R' and 'R'.

The dam was constructed about 60 years ago when its capacity was one and a half million gallons. It was dredged and built with the overburden from the former quarry site which was located to the east of the property. The original purpose of the dam was to irrigate crops and to provide water to the stock in the valley below. In later years it was used as a settling pond for quarry activities. When first built it was 15 foot deep but would be considerably less now due to the build-up of silt.'

There are no fish in the dam, as soon as it is stocked, word goes out on the cormorant internet and within days the dam is fished out! We do, however, have many waterbirds, eastern snake-necked turtles and lots of frogs. The waterlilies were planted around 2005 and are busy relocating themselves around the dam. The dam supplies water to the garden via a pump and a system of irrigation pipes.

Planting of the dam wall started in 1994. It was a disaster. I planted native species to attract the birds; the birds deposited blackberry seeds and the resulting tangle of blackberry bushes and shrubs became uncontrollable. These large shrubs, grevillea mostly, have now been removed and replaced by other varieties.



GARDEN NOTES

For the majority of the new plantings, I chose Melaleuca 'Green globe' and Agonis Flexuosa 'Nana'. The border of the dam is also planted with Agonis flexuosa 'Nana'.

The view from the house is towards Dandenong. On a clear day Port Phillip Bay is visible with the boats coming into Melbourne. The You Yangs are in the far distance.

I hope that you enjoy your time here at Tranquillity. You are most welcome to bring a picnic to enjoy on the lawn.

(The toilet is accessed from the back of the house).

Tranquillity 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:
www.opengardensvictoria.org.au**