



SECRET GARDENS OF THE DANDENONGS

11 VERY SPECIAL TOURS

17 PRIVATE GARDENS



Tour Programme Call Cloudehill Gardens on 9751 1009 to book

Tickets \$99 per tour

Includes guided tours and lunch
Bookings essential on 9751 1009

Tours will depart from The Olinda Golf Course, 75 Olinda-Monbulk Rd, Olinda where there is ample parking and a cafe. The mini buses will leave at the scheduled time and return between 3.30pm - 4pm. No last minute seats will be available on the day.

Tour 3 - Saturday 15th September

Your Tour Guide : Glenn Maskell
Tour commences at 9.30am

- Australian Native Garden with Shirley Carn
- Gentiana Private Garden with Craig Wilson
- Hillangully with Geoff Barnes
- Lunch at Hillangully
- Highways with Gael Bartlett

Tour 6 - Saturday 6th October

Your Tour Guide : Jeremy Francis
Tour commences at 9.45am

- Schroder Garden with Bill & Maria Schroder
- Mernda Heights with Norma Berry
- Olinda Village
- Hillangully Homestead with Geoff Barnes
- Lunch at Hillangully Homestead
- Cloudehill Gardens with Jeremy Francis

Tour 9 - Saturday 27th October

Your Tour Guide : The Garden Owners
Tour commences at 9.45am

- Longacres with Roger Streeton
- Phillip Johnson's Garden with Phillip Johnson
- Cloudehill Garden with Jeremy Francis
- Lunch in Cloudehill Gardens
- Gentiana Private Garden with Craig Wilson

Tour 1 - Saturday 4th August

Your Tour Guide : Jeremy Francis
Tour commences at 9.45am

- Doshong La with Otto Fauser
- Moulton Park with Steve Vivian
- Allandayle with Viv & Ray Condon
- Cloudehill with Jeremy Francis
- Lunch at Seasons at Cloudehill
- Hancocks Daffodils - Menzies Creek

Tour 4 - Sunday 23rd September

Your Tour Guide : Edgar Wasbutzki
Tour commences at 9.45am

- Mernda Heights with Norma Berry
- Brecon with Margaret & Ron Lambert
- Sassafras Village
- Moulton Park with Steve Vivian
- Lunch at Moulton Park
- Conifer Gardens Wholesale Nursery

Tour 7 - Saturday 13th October

Your Tour Guide : Geoff Barnes
Tour commences at 9.45am

- Schroder Garden with Bill & Maria Schroder
- Rhodoglen Nurseries with Andrew Raper
- Beechmont with Marcia Begg
- Lunch at Beechmont
- Phillip Johnson's Garden with Phillip Johnson

Tour 10 - Saturday 10th November

Your Tour Guide : Craig Wilson
Tour commences at 9.45am

- Longacres with Roger Streeton
- Brecon with Margaret & Ron Lambert
- Olinda Village
- Beechmont with Marcia Begg
- Lunch at Beechmont
- Yamina Rare Plants & Private Garden

Tour 2 - Sunday 9th September

Your Tour Guide : Edgar Wasbutzki
Tour commences at 9.45am

- Cloudehill Gardens with Jeremy Francis
- Doshong La with Otto Fauser
- Ferny Creek Flower Show
- Lunch at Ferny Creek Flower Show
- Highways with Gael Bartlett

Tour 5 - Sunday 30th September

Your Tour Guide : Shirley Carn
Tour commences at 9am

- Phillip Johnson's Garden with Phillip Johnson
- Australian Native Garden with Shirley Carn
- B&T Ferns and Orchids
- Kuranga Nursery
- Lunch at Paperbark Cafe
- Karwarra with Lindy Harris

Tour 8 - Saturday 20th October

Your Tour Guide : Jeremy Francis
Tour commences at 9.15am

- The Nook with Val Jackson
- Gentiana Private Garden with Craig Wilson
- Brecon with Margaret & Ron Lambert
- Moulton Park with Steve Vivian
- Lunch at Moulton Park
- Allandayle with Viv & Ray Condon

Tour 11 - Saturday 17th November

Your Tour Guide : John Curtis
Tour commences at 9.45am

- The Nook with Val Jackson
- The Haven with Gerta James
- Pirianda Garden with John Curtis
- Lunch at Pirianda House
- Cloudehill Gardens with Jeremy Francis

Your Guides Meet the experts that will be your guides

SHIRLEY CARN Australian Natives Expert

Shirley has been growing Australian plants for 40 years, converting her own sloping two and a half hectare block into a true native plant paradise. Her knowledge of natives will help you appreciate these wonderful gardens.

CRAIG WILSON Gentiana Nursery

A passionate plantsman, Craig has many collections that are propagated on site at Gentiana where he has been a nurseryman for 12 years. He is also responsible for 5 notable local gardens.

JOHN CURTIS Parks Victoria

Arriving in Australia in 1981, Canadian John Curtis found himself working for Mr and Mrs Harvey Ansell at Pirianda Gardens. John's 44 year career in horticulture has led him to enjoy the study of trees in particular the Paperbark Maple.

GEOFF BARNES Cloudehill Gardens

Winner of a British National Landscape Award in 1994, Geoff Barnes has over 30 years of experience of developing and maintaining world class gardens, culminating in his current position of Head Gardener at Cloudehill Gardens.

JEREMY FRANCIS Cloudehill Gardens

Jeremy Francis, owner of the renowned Cloudehill Gardens in Olinda has experience guiding tour groups through some of the famous gardens of England.

EDGAR WASBUTZKI Cloudehill Gardens

Passionate gardener and flower connoisseur, Eddie ran the Lone Hydrangea Florists in Hawthorn in the 90's and has been with Cloudehill Nursery ever since.

GLENN MASKELL Parks Victoria

Managing the National Rhododendron Garden for 6 years, Glenn has over 25 years experience in horticulture in Botanic Gardens and his own maintenance and landscape business.

Allandayle - Olinda with Vic and Ray Condon

"our son Aaron built many of the dry stone walls that are such a feature in our garden"

We purchased Allandayle in 1980 when it was a very overgrown blackberry and holly-infested garden. The potential was there to create a wonderful garden.

The landscaping at Allandayle was designed by owner Ray Condon and has been done in various stages in an Arts and Craft style.

With son Aaron building many of the dry stone walls that are such a feature of the garden, it is very much a plant collectors garden with many rare Alpine, woodland bulbs and shrubs. It also features 2 glass houses where Viv and Ray raise seeds from overseas.

View Allandayle with Viv and Ray Condon as your guides on:
Tour 1 - Saturday 4th August
Tour 8 - Saturday 20th October



Australian Native Garden - Monbulk with Shirley Carn

"I love Australian plants because they bring birds, butterflies, and bees and I use minimal water"

Previously Shirley owned a bigger garden in Silvan but moved to Monbulk in 2004 where it took her only six months to create her masterpiece of mostly Australian plants.

Shirley, like most gardeners, loves to share her garden with other people. Experience the extraordinary beauty of Australian native plants at Shirley Carn's Australian Native Garden, a flowering masterpiece as seen on Gardening Australia in May 2010.

Enjoy the dainty and colourful nature of Shirley's favourite plant, Epacris impressa as well as Pimelia physodes, Silver Princess eucalypt, Scarlet Blaze wattle, and the blue Hovea elliptica plus masses of daisy-like flower Brachycomes, Dampierieas, Leschenaultia and Darwinias and Qualup Bell. Shirley will also be hosting our Australian Garden Tour on 30th September.

View the Australian Native Garden with Shirley Carn as your guide on:
Tour 3 - Saturday 15th September
Tour 5 - Sunday 30th September



Beechmont - Olinda with Simon and Marcia Begg

"with sculptures, water features and quirky statues, we wanted to make visitors smile as they wander the garden"

There are surprises around every corner in this beautifully landscaped 10 acre garden, including a key-hole view to the Mornington Peninsula on a clear day.

Sculptures, water features and quirky statues are designed to make visitors smile as they wander or sit among the collections of Daphnes, Southern and Northern Hemisphere Beeches, Cornus, Wollemi Pines, and other treasures. Vireya Rhododendrons are a special feature and hundreds of species and hybrids can be viewed growing in the garden and shade houses.

Formal parterres, hedges, walled garden and informal native gardens appeal to everyone who enjoys a tranquil retreat. A serpentine rill connects to a reflective pond set in sweeping lawns.

View the garden with Simon and Marcia as your guides before enjoying lunch here.

View Beechmont with Simon and Marcia Begg as your guides on:
Tour 7 - Saturday 13th October
Tour 10 - Sunday 10th November



Brecon - Olinda with Margaret and Ron Lambert

"We work as far as possible with the climate, planting shrubs and trees we know to succeed in this environment"

After a great deal of cleaning and clearing work, the garden at Brecon was commenced in the Spring of 2008. The land was steep (in places inaccessible) and strewn with old, dead and dying trees.

This is essentially a young garden on a 2/3 acre block. The site is narrow, long and awkward. Much re-arranging of rocks, some very large, and work with a bob-cat and chainsaw enabled the bones of a garden to be established by the summer of 2008/9 with defined garden areas and walking paths. Only a few old trees and shrubs remained from earlier times still in good health. The garden is unusually sunny for Olinda, most of the spaces receiving some sun for much of the day enabling a fairly wide selection of plant material including roses, lilliums, iris, peony and mollis azaleas. Trees such as magnolias, cornus, enkianthus, parrotia, styrax and maples also thrive. All water for this garden and house is provided from tanks. We have never used mains water.

View Brecon with Margaret and Ron Lambert as your guide on:
Tour 4 - Sunday 23rd September
Tour 8 - Saturday 20th October
Tour 10 - Saturday 10th November



Cloudehill Garden - Olinda with Jeremy Francis

"the great privilege of working in Cloudehill is that much of what we have has been here for a generation or two"

Cloudehill is made out of a historic 10 acre 'working garden' pioneered by the Woolrich family in the 1890's and in 1992, Jeremy Francis started working on what you see today.

Cloudehill Gardens and Nursery needs little introduction - however this is a chance to explore the garden at the height of spring with Jeremy Francis himself as your guide.

"Cloudehill: A Year in the Garden" was launched in October of 2010 mentioning some of the history and ideas behind this well-known garden. However, during these tours, all are welcome to come along to tease out the details of the joys and irritations of serious gardening with Cloudehill gardens in full Spring glory.

View Cloudehill Gardens with Jeremy Francis as your guide on:
Tour 1 - Saturday 4th August
Tour 2 - Sunday 9th September
Tour 6 - Saturday 6th October
Tour 9 - Saturday 27th October
Tour 11 - Saturday 17th November



Doshong La - Olinda with Otto Fauser

"my earliest memory at the age of 3 is of Anemone coronaria in blue and red flowering in the wild"

I named my home 'Doshong La' after a mountain pass in SE Tibet, where the plant collector, Kingdom Ward, found 19 different dwarf Rhododendron species - some of which are growing in my garden.

I have been interested in plants, in particular alpine plants and dwarf bulbs since early childhood. I have been collecting and growing plants ever since, and specially since moving to a vacant hillside block in Olinda in 1975 which was then overgrown by blackberries and other weeds. A steep site, part of it I built into a rock garden over several years, using local and imported rock, to provide a suitable environment for my plants, originating from all 5 continents.

My large collection of hardy dwarf bulbs originates mostly from the Mediterranean region, Asia Minor, Central Asia and Nth. America, raised from seed received from various Botanic Gardens overseas, private gardens, plant collectors and some imported as live bulbs and plants.

View Doshong La with Otto Fauser as your guide on:
Tour 1 - Saturday 4th August
Tour 2 - Sunday 9th September



Gentiana Private Garden - Olinda with Craig Wilson

"one of the fabulous aspects of living in the Dandenongs, apart from the incredible top soil, is the seasonal changes"

The garden is a testing ground for many plants sold in the nursery so you will find a profusion of plants species and we have tried to unite them with some formal touches to create a sense of cohesion.

We have planted our garden largely with deciduous trees, shrubs and ground covers. Drifts of pale blue anemone nemorosa and dicentra formosa punctuated with clumps of deep blue pulmonaria and soft pink trillium will greet you. Bulbs will be surfacing all over the garden, the more subtle species such as cyclamen coum, galanthus and fritilaria. A large number of epimedium species and hybrids these are scattered throughout the garden sheltered beneath the trees and shrubs. The deciduous shrubs follow the woodland plants and these include pure white viburnum, cream dogwoods, white and pink magnolia and deciduous azalea. We are graced with four mature copper beech, one big old tri-colour and a couple of green beech.

View Gentiana Private Garden with Craig Wilson as your guide on:

Tour 3 - Saturday 15th September
Tour 8 - Saturday 20th October
Tour 9 - Saturday 27th October



Highways - Sassafras with Gael Bartlett

"the paths have been designed to encourage exploration of the shady woodland areas"

Magnificent deciduous trees are a feature of this very interesting and old rambling hills garden.

Magnificent deciduous trees are a feature of this 1.5 acre, rambling hills garden surrounding the beautiful English-style house. Paths encourage exploration of shady woodland areas which open onto mixed borders planted for year-round interest.

A hot border; stone-walled sunken garden and a rock-edged pond make for an interesting and old "hills" garden.

View Highways with Gael Bartlett as your guide on:

Tour 2 - Sunday 9th September
Tour 3 - Sunday 15th September



Hillangully Homestead - Olinda with Geoff Barnes

"after 8 years of neglect, many would have fled in terror but to Geoff it was a challenge too good to miss"

The crowning glory of the property is its 2 acres of rainforest with a beautiful creek running through the middle of it. They have set about restoring the area to its natural state for all to enjoy.

The Homestead was established in 1969 when the Hayes family sold 25 acres of Hillangully Farm to Olinda Nurseries, the remaining 5 becoming their home. They left the in 1998 and it remained derelict until 2006, when Geoff and wife Jane bought it. Eight years of neglect had resulted in a forest of weeds, mountains of blackberries, hundreds of sapling trees and thick carpets of ivy. Weeds were cleared, paths and steps uncovered, weed trees felled and burned, and the old garden revealed itself in all its glory. Large stands of rhododendrons, azaleas, magnolias and weeping cherries produced a magnificent display in springtime. Geoff has spent the last few years creating new beds for summer colour, new garden features such as a pond, a gazebo and sculptures.

View Hillangully Homestead with Geoff Barnes as your guide on:

Tour 3 - Saturday 15th September
Tour 6 - Saturday 6th October



Karwarra Garden - Kalorama with Lindy Harris

"the garden provides habit for local wildlife including many different types of bird, butterflies, insects and frogs"

Numerous garden beds give boundless inspiration for those looking to create their own gardens, using Australian plants, regardless of the style or the size of the garden they have chosen.

Set on two hectares Karwarra displays the diversity and beauty of Australian plants in a landscaped setting. At any time of the year there is plenty to see and enjoy, with many plants flowering in each season. Designer Kath Deery guided Karwarra's early design and the garden includes a rockery by Ellis Stones. Karwarra has been undergoing renovations over the past three years, with garden beds rejuvenated, a new entrance and signage and access paths for visitors with prams, wheelchairs and walkers. Karwarra Garden is responsible for the GPCAA Telopea (Waratah) and also the Boronia collection and displays many plants suitable for shady dry gardens. There is also has a small retail plant nursery with plants available for sale.

View Karwarra Garden with Lindy Harris as your guide on:

Tour 5 - Sunday 30th September



Longacres - Olinda with Roger Streeton

"after 15 years of reconstruction the buildings and much of the original garden have been restored"

An espalied apple walk, inspired by the one at Prince Charles' Highgrove, has been completed and the buildings and garden are classified by both Heritage Victoria and the National Trust of Victoria.

Sir Arthur Streeton purchased 5 acres at Olinda in 1921 and by 1923 completed his garden studio and in 1924 commissioned a two storey weatherboard house. He planted European and North American conifers; birch; oaks; tulip; and linden including the rarer broad leaf linden Americana, intermingled with existing blackwoods and mountain ash, as well as significant plantings of conifer hedges and perennial borders. Streeton died at Longacres in 1943 and in 1996, Roger Streeton purchased the property, which was overrun with blackberries, holly and sycamore. The buildings also suffered substantial deterioration. The restoration has included new plantings of 'exotic' trees together with much of the original rock garden below the garden studio.

View Longacres with Roger Streeton as your guide on:

Tour 9 - Saturday 27th October
Tour 10 - Saturday 10th November



Mernda Heights - Olinda with Norma Berry

"enter through a drive lined with rhododendrons and search for vivid Mollis Azalea Garden and the Magnolia lawn"

The installation of a fire bunker, with new landscaping around it and beautiful stone work by a local team makes an exciting and unique feature in the garden.

In 1937, F.G. Coles, a foundation member of the Australian Rhododendron Society, purchased a hillside covered with bracken and blackberries known as Mernda Heights. Four generations later the family still care for the six acres that boasts glimpses of Western Port Bay.

Today, this extensive garden has an important collection of older varieties and species of rhododendrons, a mollis azalea garden, a large Mt Fuji cherry tree of ancient contorted habit, mature maples, an excellent collection of magnolias and daffodils and a fire bunker, cleverly disguised with exquisite rock walling by Aaron Condon. Norma Berry, Mr Coles daughter, will show you around the classic 'hill station' garden.

View Mernda Heights with Norma Berry as your guide on:

Tour 4 - Sunday 23rd September
Tour 6 - Saturday 6th October



Moulton Park - Sassafras with Steve Vivien

"experience cyclamens, hellebores, bulbs and other woodland treasures amongst the sweeping lawns"

Journey through the front gate framed by formal hedging past the original Gatehouse to the historic homestead.

Nestled on the top of Moulton Hill in Sassafras, Moulton Park Estate, circa 1910 is one of the original farms of the area.

First time opened to the public in recent times, journey through the front gate framed by formal hedging past the original Gatehouse to the historic homestead.

Boasting almost 3 acres of established gardens featuring many mature exotic trees, which shade beds of rhododendrons, hydrangeas and azaleas. Experience cyclamens, hellebores, bulbs and other woodland treasures amongst the sweeping lawns.

View Moulton Park with Steve Vivien as your guide on:

Tour 1 - Saturday 4th August

Tour 4 - Saturday 23rd September

Tour 8 - Saturday 20th October



Phillip Johnson's Garden - Olinda with Phillip Johnson

"design a garden that will last a long time; work with the environment, not against it; create a habitat for local fauna"

Phillip's own back yard is a contemporary rock garden on a grand scale, complete with waterfalls and billabongs.

Award winning Phillip Johnson is undeniably one of Australia's most passionate and recognised Sustainable Landscape gardeners. Most recently Phillip has won the Sustainability Award, a Gold Medal in the Show Garden category and Silver Medal in the Outdoor Exhibit category at the 2012 Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show.

His own back yard is a contemporary rock garden on a grand scale, complete with waterfalls and billabongs made in a forest clearing amongst mountain ash and tree ferns. It happens to be rather 'high tech' and very cutting edge and a brilliant demonstration of Phillip's philosophy of the importance of sustainability in garden design.

View Phillip Johnson's Garden with Phillip Johnson as your guide on:

Tour 5 - Sunday 30th September

Tour 7 - Saturday 13th October

Tour 9 - Saturday 27th October



Schroder Garden - The Patch with Bill and Maria Schroder

"this private garden offers a peaceful private environment, and a great attraction for birds and bees"

This property in The Patch, is one of the original homes of the area and was built by Fred & Hilda Lane in 1926.

In the early 1930's, the property had no plants and trees of any kind. Gradually Fred & Hilda, planted trees such as the Tulip tree, Walnut, Chestnut tree (fell in 2001), a massive Lilly Pilly, Oak trees & various Maples. The surviving trees have grown into large established trees. There are also Rhododendrons & Camellias which have created the bones of the garden. In 1998, Bill & Maria purchased the one acre property & saved it from ruin. The garden now boasts a large fernery, and flower gardens. There are various plantings, such as bulbs of varying kinds, Roses, Azaleas, hellebores, Hydrangeas, and a delightful fairy garden for the grandchildren to enjoy. A major feature of the property, are the bluestone walls, & steps created by Bill plus the leadlight windows overlooking the garden which enhances the home.

View the Schroder Garden with Bill and Maria Schroder as your guide on:

Tour 6 - Saturday 6th October

Tour 7 - Saturday 13th October



The Haven - Sassafras with Gerta James

"so much of my garden design has been guided by an instinct of which I was totally unaware"

I set out to create a series of defined but circular areas, each with its own style and focal point, but harmonizing and interlinking with each other.

It wasn't until 1997 that Gerta began to take an interest in the garden and it was very much 'trial and error'. She finally decided that what she wanted was a semi-formal front garden taking advantage of the mature plants. In the rear garden she concentrated on planting a profusion of cottage plants, foxgloves, lupins, campanulas, poppies, daisies and delphiniums and a herb garden. She has taken advantage of the old shed walls planting some Maypole apple trees along the front wall and an espaliered plum on the side of the shed wall. The circular terraces of the front the cottage garden at the rear reflect the chi energy forces which are part of her career as a fitness instructor and explain why she was drawn to create them.

View The Haven with Gerta James as your guide on:

Tour 11 - Saturday 17th November



The Nook - Monbulk with Val Jackson

"it emulates in many ways the English Cottage gardens of Edwardian times"

The beautiful intimate garden belonging to Val Jackson was designed and planted with passion by Val and her late husband Don.

Don was a renowned Plantsman/Horticulturalist, and his inspiration has helped Val continue her love of gardening at 'The Nook', and to share the joy with others.

The Secret Garden evokes a tranquil and peaceful ambience. Mature walnut trees enclose a cottage garden full of treasures, it emulates in many ways the English Cottage gardens of Edwardian times. Foxgloves, delphiniums, roses, clematis, salvias, azaleas, rhododendrons, all grow harmoniously in this sunny garden which was featured on Gardening Australia with Stephen Ryan in 2010 and was open in the Australian Open Garden scheme early 2012.

View The Nook with Val Jackson as your guide on:

Tour 8 - Saturday 20th October

Tour 11 - Saturday 17th November



Nurseries and special stops along the way

"one stop is such a special secret that we can't even tell you what it is"

Along the way you'll be getting a special inside tour of some of the areas best nurseries and most iconic places in the Dandenongs.



Pirianda House Tour 11 - Saturday 17th November

B&T Ferns and Orchids Tour 5 - Sunday 30th September

Hancocks Daffodils Tour 1 - Saturday 4th August

Rhodo Glen Nurseries Tour 7 - Saturday 13th October

Kuranga Native Nursery Tour 5 - Sunday 30th September



Conifer Gardens Wholesale Nursery Tour 4 - Sunday 23rd September

Yamina Rare Plants & Orchids Tour 10 - Saturday 10th November

Ferny Creek Flower Show Tour 2 - Sunday 9th September

Olinda Village Tours 6 - 6th October and Tour 10 - 10th November

Sassafras Village Tour 4 - Sunday 23rd September

Tickets \$99 per tour from Cloudehill Gardens on 9751 1009