



MAIN ENTRANCE

STATUE
CRAB APPLE WALK

DAFFODIL WALK

PLANT FAIR
LAWN

BEECH LAWN

WESTERN
LAWN

NORTH ORCHARD

CROQUET
LAWN

POPLAR WALK

GARAGE

OAK
LAWN

SOUTH ORCHARD

DAM

PARK

SHED AREA

ROSE GARDEN
LAWN

POOL
LAWN

THE COTTAGE

VEGETABLE GARDEN

ROSE GARDEN

CHESTNUT LAWN

BOLOBEK
MOUNT MACEDON • VICTORIA



CMG/Allan 2017



What a difference a year makes. Last year was wet and cold, this one has been warm and dry. Whilst rainfall and temperatures can be measured and recorded it is very difficult to determine just how far ahead of last year the garden is today but those of you who came to the Fair in 2022 will notice that many more trees are in leaf, many more shrubs have finished flowering or are flowering some weeks earlier than usual - most noticeably the wisteria on the front terrace and I think there may even be a rose in the rose garden.

The last twelve months have seen the Crab Apple Walk, the Beech Lawn – now known as the Nissa Lawn and the long path and borders on the north side of the garden, as well as the Mollis Azalea bed, completely overhauled.

Following the devastating storms of June, 2021, we realised that it was imperative to have easy access to that side of the garden, so while renovating these areas we took the opportunity to put gates in the gaps in the Holly Hedge created when the big trees were blown down and to widen the path beside the border so that we can now get a vehicle down to the statue at least. The wider path also allows at least two people to walk side by side, rather than one behind the other.

Unfortunately for various reasons we have not finished the planting in either the new border or the Crab Apple Walk but the bones are there and so is a mass planting of Cosmos. Our youngest daughter is getting married in the garden in late November and guests will (hopefully, despite the best efforts of Hares, Rabbits and Snails) walk through a veritable riot of colour. We have also planted the odd Petunia for a further splash of colour – very “Parks and Gardens’ on the one hand but a bit of fun on the other. And if you can’t have fun in the garden then what is the point of it all?

One of the very sad consequences of the 2021 storms was the drainage issues that were created with amongst other things the loss of so many big trees. This and the discovery of a drain that runs some 90 metres from the Cellars of the original house down to the east of the Girl, springing a leak, led to the loss of the Laurustinus Hedge on the north side of the Croquet Lawn. We were contemplating pulling out what was left but decided instead to cut it off at about 30 cm and wait. Our patience has been rewarded and all but one or two of the existing plants have reshot and are growing a pace. It will be some years before it regains its former size and shape but it’s on its way.

Many of the Mollis Azaleas we moved from the old Borders, all of which have been replanted in the extended Mollis Bed are putting out new growth from the base. It really is the most satisfying thing to watch a plant that you have given a second chance come back to life.

The mulch that we have used around the garden this year is a mix of our own compost, wood chips and lucerne silage. The silage is a wonderful weed suppressant and I think its better than pea straw because it doesn’t contain any seed so you are not forever pulling out seedling peas. It also seems to really encourage the worms.

For those of you who are wondering about the bamboo teepees in the Vegetable Garden, they are an attempt to keep the Parrots at bay. Needless to say, the Parrots are too smart and while their destructive activity has been reduced, they are still wreaking havoc on the roses. If anyone has a solution please get in touch.

The new stream in the Fern Garden to the south of the house which was our COVID project has begun to settle in properly and whilst there is still some rearranging and more planting to be done it is very pleasing to see seedling ferns growing on the stones. And the frogs! Sometimes at night it is almost impossible to hear yourself think such is the cacophony of frog noise.

This garden is not perfect and you will see weeds and things that we probably should have attended to and haven’t. The rain this week, whilst being an absolute blessing after such a dry September wonderful has caused some issues such as turning our beautiful new gravel drive to mush. However, as long as the sun shines this weekend all will be well.

Enormous thanks must go to the Fair Organising Committee and of course to our wonderful Stall Holders. Without them we would not have a Fair.

There will be a garden tour on Saturday morning and another on Sunday afternoon. These tours are a good opportunity to learn more about the garden and ask any questions that might arise during your visit.

Thank you for coming to see us and please enjoy the Garden and the Fair.

A word of caution. There are water hazards and there are many rough and uneven surfaces. We have signposted these but please watch your step!