

Garden Club Coach Trip 11th November 2011

Boats End

Boats End, set on a hillside overlooking the coast is a water wise, drought tolerant mix of salvias, succulents, grasses and echiums. The newly developed vegetable garden with its prolific banana passionfruit and young fruit trees is carefully fenced to keep out the rabbits. 'Honey bugs' collecting nectar from every available flower were a source of interest for some members while others marvelled at the landscape design and quirky decorative features. Sarah Budarick, the garden owner agreed that it is a full time but enjoyable job maintaining the garden and that it is a work in progress.



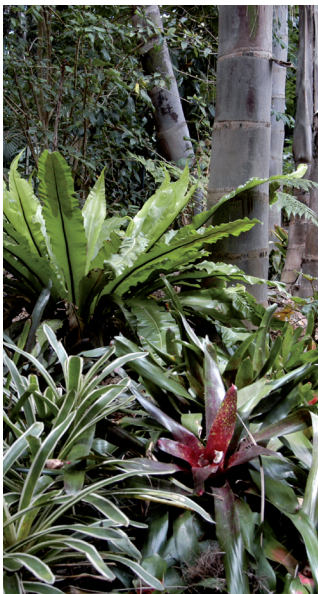
Sunningdale Farm

Sunningdale Farm, home of Anne and Phillip Duguid, was a complete contrast to Boat's End, being in a higher rainfall area near Mt Compass with views across the rolling countryside. The lush organic /biodynamic garden features buddleias, salvias, grevilleas and lavender intermingled with culinary herbs and vegetables. We were invited to taste the shatoot mulberries and logan berries as we walked through the rows of fruit trees, all carefully netted against bird and possum attack. The opportunity to explore the heritage-listed bushland was an added attraction.



The Fern Forest

Fern Forest, which changed hands last year, was our lunch stop and they very kindly made us welcome with tea and coffee and space to sit. After we had refreshed ourselves we were invited to explore the Fern Forest which was planted twenty years ago by the Simon family. The drought years caused some of the plants to die but others have thrived and the under planting of clivias, camellias and bromeliads provide bright winter colour while deciduous trees provide summer shade. The nursery offered for sale a wide range of foliage plants as well as bamboos, cycads, palms and even Wollemi Pines.



Studio 180

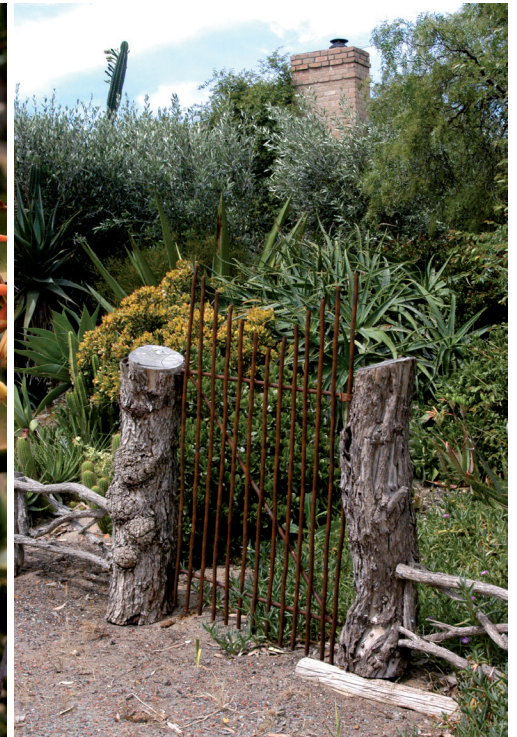
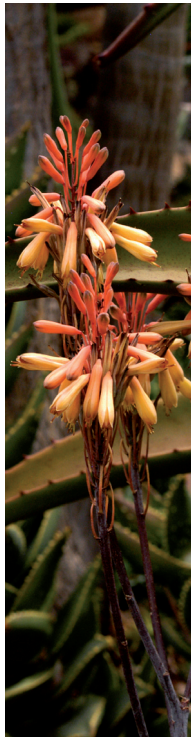
Studio 180 in McLaren Vale has an intriguing variety of garden ornaments and plants and many of us were tempted to make purchases. The cargo area of the coach was filling up.



Hillside Herbs & Succulents

Hillside Herbs and Succulents was well worth the climb up the hill and it was a delight to catch up with Lorraine, our guest speaker at the September meeting.

Many of us succumbed to the tempting array of plants for sale. The succulents and herbs as well as 'in season' vegetable seedlings were eagerly purchased and before heading off to afternoon tea we took time to admire the alstroemeria and other bird attracting plants in the ornamental gardens. The strawberries on their raised beds were very tempting.



Pethick Orchard

Our last stop was Pethick Orchards near Ashbourne where we were able to stock up on fresh fruit and farm produce or examine the fruit trees and grape vines before wearily boarding the bus for the final leg of our journey home.



The borrowed landscape of breath taking views added to the attraction of each of the gardens we visited. It was a busy but very interesting day with contrasting gardens to enjoy and the opportunity to buy plants and decorations for our own gardens.

Joy Bourne is to be sincerely thanked for the time, thought and effort that went in to making it such an interesting and well planned day out.

Our thanks are also extended to Gavin who chauffeured us and courageously delivered us to each destination despite narrow bridges, tight turns and navigational errors.

Norma Keily, president Strathalbyn Garden Club.