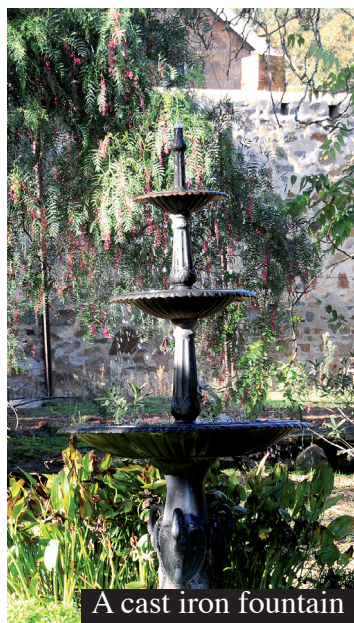


Anlaby Station - May 2015



Anlaby visit 30th April 2015

Google maps shows the shortest route to Kapunda from Strathalbyn is about 122kms.

Factor in one pit stop and the extra miles to Anlaby and it is a journey of almost three hours.

Fortunately the day was fine and the bus load of Strathalbyn Garden Club members was in good spirits although relieved to disembark and stretch legs before breaking up into groups to tour the homestead and gardens at Anlaby Station.

Established by Frederick Dutton in 1839 Anlaby was once one of the most famous pastoral properties in the nation employing a large staff which included 14 gardeners, six house staff and well over fifty farm hands.

The lovely old home-stead was originally built as the Manager's house but was taken over by the owner and was extended and altered over the years to accommodate changing needs and times.

The current owners have spent countless hours repairing, repainting and restoring and considerable research is undertaken to maintain the original feel of the home.

When they first acquired Anlaby eleven years ago it was empty and unloved, but their diligent work has restored the homeliness and vibrancy of its unique features.

Unfortunately cameras were not permitted to be used indoors.

The garden is gradually being restored to its former glory with many of the original features like the cucumber house, mushroom house, shade house, apple house and potting shed having been repaired.



The folly



The reflection pond



The espalier orchard



The apple house



The old eucalypt drive



The picking garden

However there is much more to be done and with the garden work force reduced to one man, work is slow.

In the early days of the property the garden was required to feed all the workers and their families hence the need for an extensive vegetable garden, orchard and glasshouses to grow out of season items.

Anlaby Station was prosperous, riding high on the profits from the wool trade so the garden also included many ornamental features including a 'folly' which disguised a water tower, a rose garden, maypole and pond as well as various fountains, carriage ways and statues, plus the obligatory tennis court.

Like many wealthy people of the era the Duttons were keen collectors of exotic and rare plants so, the garden is also home to a number of significant trees.

We enjoyed lunch in the vast converted Clydesdale stables which in the past must have housed 20 or more horses, each with their own, named stall.

The time we spent there was all too short but there was the long journey home to consider and with the late afternoon turning cool it was time to board the coach and return to Strathalbyn, via a different route which proved to be no shorter.

Words: Norma - Photos: Janet



The glass house