

17th Australasian Botanic Guides Conference



Day Excursion – Yarra Valley & The Dandenongs

Cloudehill is one of four of the Diggers Garden Club gardens. Cloudehill comprises some two hectares. The principle terraces are in the Arts and Crafts style, the gardens associated with Gertrude Jekyll and Edwin Lutyens. Cloudehill breaks up into some 25 compartments, each with its own character and season of interest. As one first walks into the garden these are largely formal with clipped hedges and topiary however as one explores, they become less so. In the lowest part of Cloudehill, the Bulb Meadows are all curves and intriguing corners. The garden incorporates historically important shrubs and trees, many imported from nurseries all around the world 100 years ago. There is a Diggers Garden Shop and nursery here. Jeremy Francis, creator of the garden will speak. [Cloudehill Gardens - Olinda, Dandenong Ranges, Victoria, Australia.](#)

Dandenong Ranges Botanic Gardens, the premier cool climate Botanic Garden, was originally established by the Rhododendron Society in the 60's and was gazetted as a Botanic Garden in 2017. Along with other Botanic Gardens in Victoria, DRBG has shown a commitment to rare and threatened plants in Australia. In this spirit DRBG is developing a new site for the Australian native rhododendrons from Far North Queensland, along with other cloud forest species from the same region. We have been very lucky to be allowed to have a visit to this site before it's actual opening. Tex Moon – Horticulture Team Leader at these gardens will speak. [Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden \(parks.vic.gov.au\)](#)

Sweeping views of mountains and vineyards frame this large 4-acre garden owned by plant lover Virginia Heywood. Filled with many camellias, salvias, an orchard, a dam and abundant birdlife, hard-working owner Virginia is also a garden show presenter on radio 3CR, a Royal Botanical Gardens guide and member of the Plant Trust committee.

