

SAM COX: WATTLE GLEN GARDEN

Welcome to the garden of landscape designer Sam Cox and Lisa Hatfield. As an enthusiastic 25-year-old, Sam set out to transform what was then a grassy paddock into a bushland haven. Formerly farmland, it had been stripped of all vegetation, bar a few lonely Red Box and Yellow Gum. Despite this Sam found much to work with including a sunny northeast aspect and a view through the valley toward the Kangaroo Ground tower. Inspired by his employer and mentor Gordon Ford, Sam's vision was to reconnect to the surrounding bushland in the valley, bringing nature close to the living spaces of the mudbrick house he would also build. Over time, the integration of home and garden has deepened, with carefully considered transitions blurring the line between indoor and out.

The garden follows the principles of naturalism, pioneered by Ford. A strong sense of place emerges through Sam's use of mass and void, asymmetry, layered native plantings and mulched paths that resemble wallaby tracks. Rock placement is both practical and poetic, allowing excavation, retaining and changes in level to sit gently within the landscape. The garden design continues to evolve through a hands-on process of observation and care. Together, Sam and Lisa are tending and refining the garden, learning from it as it grows and changes over time.

The garden's maturity can be seen in the height of the tree canopy that connects with the surrounding remnant bush, the density of the understory, and even in the moss following the grout lines of the paving. Sam's original vision has gradually come together. With a hint of Shangri-la, it is a bush garden for both explorers and ponderers.

Areas of intrigue include a watercourse and large rock pond, a casuarina forest, an olive grove, a native grassland, the retired "diggers", Gordo's iconic "Landy", the patch in the paddock, Sam's design office, and a glimpse inside the house entrance to view the waterfall.

Warning: *There are deep ponds and uneven surfaces in the garden. Please keep children supervised. Snakes are active this time of year so please keep to the paths.*

Services: *We advise visitors to utilise public toilets at the Research shops or at Peppers Paddock in Wattle Glen before you arrive. We have an outdoor toilet on the property that can be used if required.*

Sam Cox: Wattle Glen Garden is located on the lands of the Wurundjeri People. Open Gardens Victoria wish to acknowledge the Traditional custodians of this land and we pay respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.



NO DOGS



SLOPING GROUND

CHILDREN TO BE
ACCOMPANIED
BY AN ADULT