AUSTRALIAN

So festive, so chic

101 WAYS TO STYLE, COOK & GIFT

HOUSE & GARDEN

BAKING AT HOME WITH *Nadine Ingram* OF FLOUR & STONE

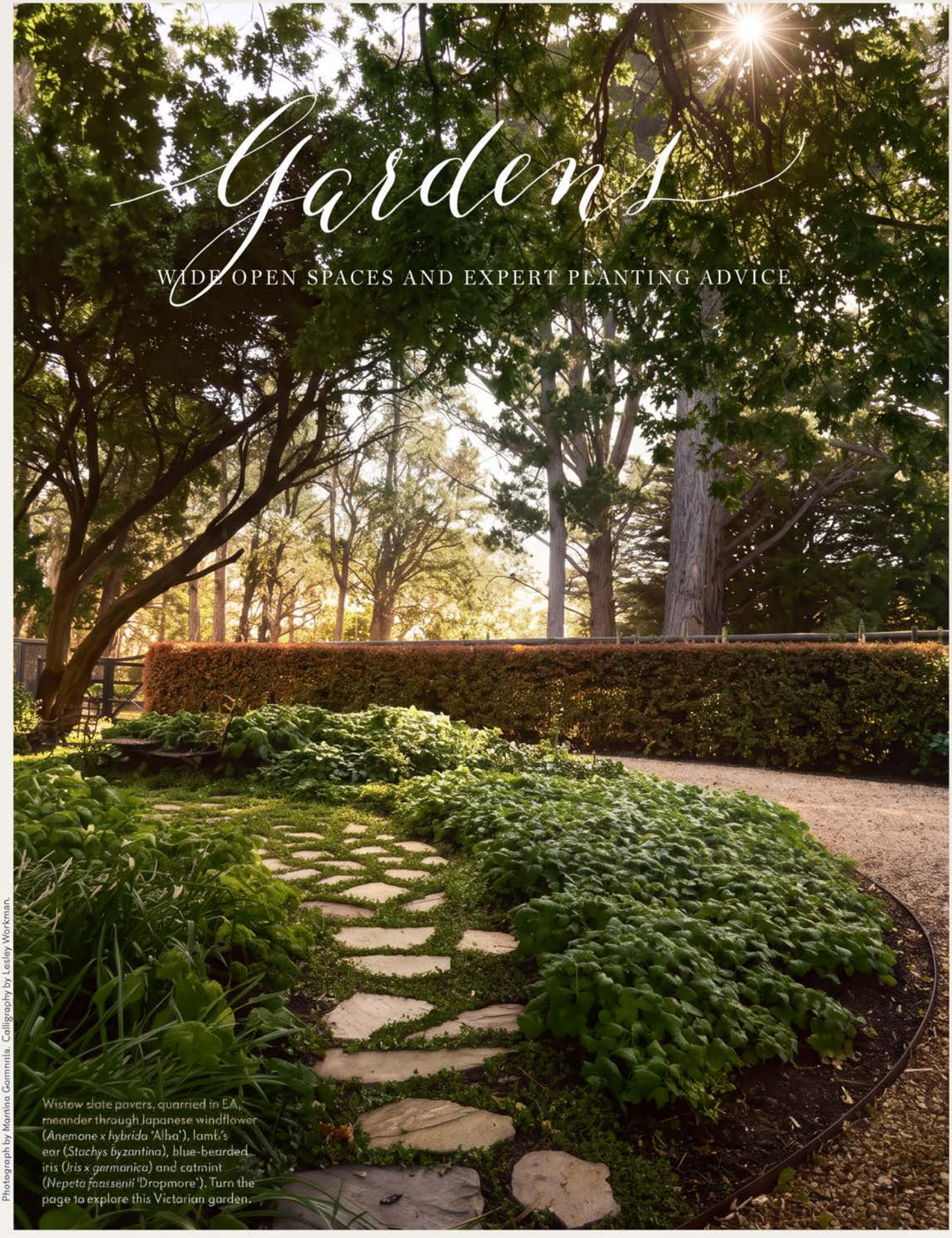
Sparkle & JOY

THE CHRISTMAS ISSUE

8 LUXE TABLE LOOKS

BEAUTIFUL AUSTRALIAN HOMES

+ INSIDE THE STUDIOS OF A POTTER & PAINTER



Wistow slate pavers, quarried in EA, meander through Japanese windflower (*Anemone x hybrida* 'Alba'), lamb's ear (*Stachys byzantina*), blue-bearded iris (*Iris x germanica*) and catmint (*Nepeta faassenii* 'Dropmore'). Turn the page to explore this Victorian garden.

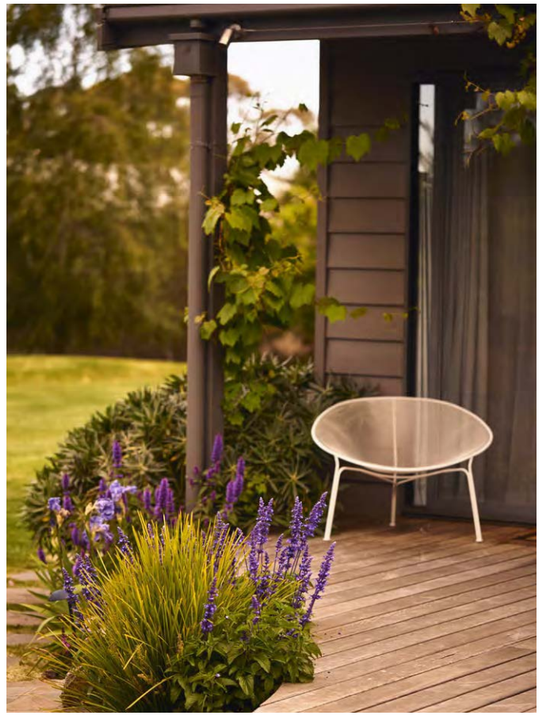
Photograph by Marnina Gammrtia. Calligraphy by Lesley Workman.

FREE *form*

This Victorian garden received fresh colour and verve to balance the spectacular rural vistas generously laid out before it.

STORY *Chris Pearson* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Martina Gemmola*

In the back garden, between the house and the pool, blue-bearded iris (*Iris x germanica*), Russian sage (*Salvia yangii*), red hot poker (*Kniphofia* 'Ice Queen'), pride of Madeira (*Echium candicans*), Indian hawthorn (*Rhaphiolepis indica* 'Spring Pearl'), kangaroo paw (*Anigozanthos* spp.), dogwood (*Cornus kousa*), Mexican bush sage (*Salvia leucantha*), rock rose (*Cistus ladanifer*) and licorice plant (*Helichrysum petiolare*). Wistow slate, quarried in SA, used throughout, as paving, pavers and pool surrounds. Freestanding steel pool fence allowed to age to a rusty hue.





This page On the rear deck, sage (*Salvia* 'Mystic Spires'), mat rush (*Lomandra* 'Lime Tuff'), blue-bearded iris (*Iris x germanica*), Japanese pittosporum (*Pittosporum tobira* 'Miss Muffet') and ornamental grape vine (*Vitis vinifera*). Deck in spotted gum. Luna chair, King Living. Alongside the rear deck, Indian hawthorn (*Rhaphiolepis indica* 'Spring Pearl'), red hot poker (*Kniphofia* 'Ice Queen') and kangaroo paw (*Anigozanthos* 'Big Red'). *Opposite* In the pool area, dogwood (*Cornus kousa*), Russian sage (*Salvia yangii*) and false Mexican agave (*Beschorneria septentrionalis*).

Like the vineyards spread out before it, this garden on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula presents its own fine vintage, a complex blend of what has gone before with the new, sparklingly delivered by Kate Seddon of Kate Seddon Landscape Design. When the owners, after a tree change, bought the four-hectare property in late 2020, it came with a freshly renovated 1990s homestead, stables, an olive grove and rows of pinot noir. But the gardens immediately around the house were rather less inspiring, so they called in Kate.

"From the timber deck, you could see the rolling hills and vines, but there was little visual flow with the garden, which was drab, with lots of hedging in the formal English style. It needed loosening up," she says. "And there was no seasonality, with few flower and foliage changes from spring to winter."

The owners wanted smoother transitions from house to landscape – and more freeform. And, as keen entertainers, they needed a pool, a larger deck and barbecue area. "They wanted visual interest closer to the house to balance what lies beyond," says Kate. As a spectacular bonus, the site offered a plethora of mature trees including gums, oaks and cypresses. And it is blessed with rich soils and generous rainfall.

According to Kate, the key to adding energy was curves, in meandering pathways and beds, with a freeform pool and fence. The garden now comprises three sections. First, an existing circular bed in the driveway – with three mature exotics including a strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*), an oak (*Quercus* sp.) and a variegated pittosporum (*Pittosporum tobira* 'Variegata') – lacked a sense of arrival. "I created a seating zone under the trees, with slate paving, which I have used throughout, in everything from steppers to pavers and crazy paving to pool coping," she says. The tree trio is underplanted with sweet violet (*Viola odorata*) and kidneyweed (*Dichondra repens*) groundcover, hellebores (*Helleborus orientalis*) and fairy wings (*Epimedium* 'Flowers of Sulphur'), together with spring bulbs such as narcissus and amaryllis.

Meanwhile, the front garden was graced with a crepe myrtle, camellias and a crab apple. She underplanted these with shrubs, perennials and groundcover, such as mystic spires (*Salvia* 'Mystic Spires'), cape plumbago (*Plumbago auriculata* 'Royal Cape'), ▶



"The pool and its fence create such a beautiful water feature."

KATE SEDDON, LANDSCAPE DESIGNER

PLANT LIST

TREES
Bechtel crab apple
(*Malus ioensis* 'Plena')
Green screen weeping wattle
(Acacia cognata
'Green Screen')
Moonlight grevillea
(Grevillea 'Moonlight')
White crepe myrtle
(Lagerstroemia indica
'Natchez')

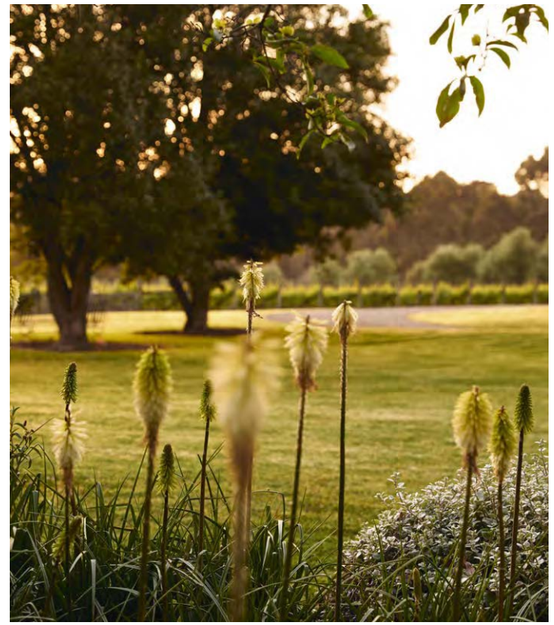
SHRUBS
Butterfly bush
(Buddleja 'Lochinch')
Dwarf pittosporum
(Pittosporum tobira
'Miss Muffet')
Indian hawthorn
(Rhaphiolepis 'Spring Pearl')
Purple torch
(Bartlettina sordida)
Viburnum spp.
White Chinese lantern
(Abutilon 'Boule de Neige')

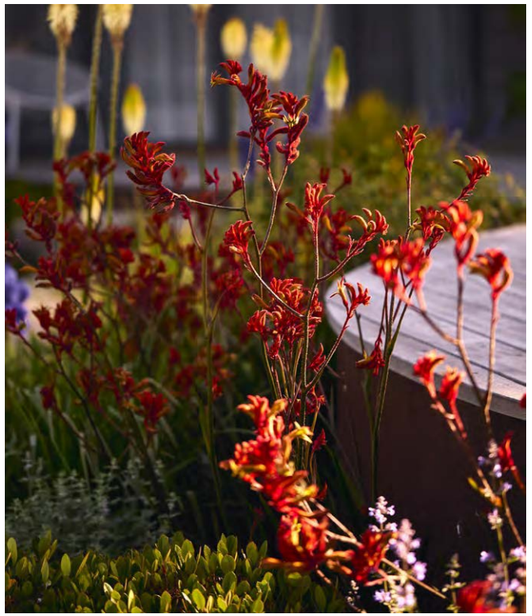
PERENNIALS
Corsican hellebore
(Helleborus argutifolius)
Mexican bush sage
(Salvia leucantha
'White Velour')
Mystic spires
(Salvia 'Mystic Spires')
Red hot poker
(Kniphofia 'Ice Queen')
Russian sage
(Salvia yangii)

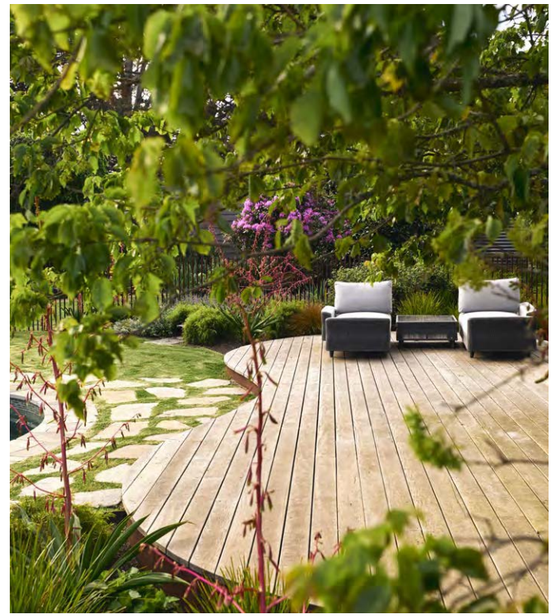
GRASSES
Flamingo feather grass
(Miscanthus sinensis
'Flamingo')
Little bluestem
(Andropogon scoparius
'Prairie Blues')

STRAPPY LEAFED PLANTS
False red agave
(Beschorneria
septentrionalis)
Purple bearded iris
(Iris x germanica)









Clockwise, from top left Outside the mudroom, Jerusalem sage (*Phlomis* 'Lemon Blush'), wormwood (*Artemisia* 'Powis Castle'), Japanese windflower (*Anemone x hybrida* 'Alba') and wisteria (*Wisteria* spp.). Views to vineyard and olive grove, with red hot poker (*Kniphofia* 'Ice Queen') and licorice plant (*Helichrysum petiolare*). On the rear deck, 'Delta III' outdoor sofa, King Living, with red hot poker (*Kniphofia* 'Ice Queen') and kangaroo paw (*Anigozanthos* 'Big Red'). ***Opposite*** On the side path to the rear garden, Japanese pittosporum (*Pittosporum* 'Miss Muffet'), blue-bearded iris (*Iris x germanica*) and Corsican hellebore (*Helleborus argutifolius*).

rock rose (*Cistus ladanifer*), Indian hawthorn (*Rhaphiolepis* 'Spring Pearl'), wormwood (*Artemisia* 'Powis Castle'), purple bearded iris (*Iris x germanica)*, butterfly bush (*Buddleja davidii* 'Lochinch'), crab apple (*Malus ioensis* 'Plena') and lamb's ear (*Stachys byzantina* 'Big Ears'). "These plants create constant points of interest, whatever the season," says Kate.

Meanwhile, the back "was just lawn", with a rectangular deck and a little grove of trees, including a dogwood (*Cornus kousa*). Kate expanded the spotted-gum deck abutting the home, while also introducing curved edges and a second lower level, which in turn connects to a slate terrace. The enlarged deck was redesigned around an existing weeping elm (*Ulmus glabra* 'Camperdownii'), while camellias, cherry trees, crepe myrtles and rhododendrons grace the immediate rear of the house. From the deck, she says, the plants are largely native, including emu bush (*Eremophila glabra*) and karri oak (*Chorilaena quercifolia*). Trees include weeping wattle (*Acacia cognata* 'Green Screen'), moonlight grevillea (*Grevillea* 'Moonlight') and white crepe myrtles (*Lagerstroemia indica* 'Natchez').

Kate designed a second freeform deck beside the new pool, enclosed with Corten steel bars, which sits within an existing copse of honey myrtle (*Melaleuca armillaris*) and box elder (*Acer negundo*). Mixed plantings provide consistency across the property, says Kate, most notably Indian hawthorn (*Rhaphiolepis* 'Spring Pearl') shrubs for constant interest and "solid mass" like lime tuff mat rush (*Lomandra longifolia* 'Lime Tuff') grasses, but always with seasonal interest, such as peach California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica* 'Peach Sorbet'), dwarf Russian sage (*Salvia yangii*), red hot poker (*Kniphofia* 'Ice Queen') and catmint (*Nepeta* 'Dropmore Blue').

Her favourite feature? "The pool and its fence create a beautiful water feature, which, together with the decking, sits so beautifully in its setting. I love the way everything meanders through the landscape." And, with the maturing combo of old and new, it looks as if this paradise could have been there forever. **H&G**

The rear garden, with vineyard and olive grove in the background, features blue-bearded iris (*Iris x germanica*), Mexican bush sage (*Salvia leucantha*) and orange New Zealand sedge (*Carex testacea*).

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