

Tranquil cottage garden in Flinders opens to the public for the first time

Little Steading, a serene 1.5-acre cottage garden in the gentle hills of the **Flinders** hinterland, will open to the public for the first time on the weekend of **November 15-16** as part of **Open Gardens Victoria's** spring program. Visitors are invited to explore this young and evolving garden, with sweeping rural views of Westernport Bay and Seal Rocks.

Bordering the Main Ridge Nature Reserve, the garden surrounds a 1930s weatherboard cottage, renovated by renowned designer/architect Stephen Akehurst. The garden, created just three years ago by landscape designer **Robert Boden**, combines structure and softness, offering visitors a rich tapestry of texture, colour and season variation.

Spring is the most most captivating season in Little Steading's garden, when layered plantings burst to life with bulbs, blossoms and new grasses. A silver birch copse glows with underplanted white daffodils and bluebells, while ox-eye daisies and meadow flowers drift gently through the lower garden lawn.

In a quiet corner, two quince trees have been planted to shade a garden seat and frame a borrowed landscape view across the paddocks to a distant stand of gums, demonstrating how this garden intimately connects with its setting.

Throughout the space, mature trees such as ash, blackbutt and viburnum anchor the plantings, while hydrangeas, camellias and Itoh peonies provide structure and seasonal interest. The pool garden, set in lawn and edged with Castlemaine slate, is a calm focal point, and nearby, a glasshouse filled with gardenias adds another layer of sensory delight. Visitors will also discover raised herb beds, clipped eriostemons, and a pergola covered in Clematis montana.

Owner **Jenny Lempriere** describes the garden as "a wild cottage garden with formal elements, where plants are allowed to self-seed and grow freely, creating a natural sense of abundance." It's a garden designed to be discovered slowly, with moments of surprise, quiet beauty, and connection to the surrounding landscape.

A coffee van will be on site across the weekend, and visitors are encouraged to take a peaceful walk through the adjacent Main Ridge Nature Conservation Reserve.

Little Steading is located on the lands of the Bunurong People. Open Gardens Victoria wish to acknowledge the Traditional custodians of this land and we pay respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

ADDRESS: Little Steading

69 Barkers Road,
Flinders VIC 3929

OPEN: Saturday 15 November and Sunday 16 November
10am - 4.30pm

EXTRAS: Coffee van

TICKETS: Adults \$10, Students \$6
Under 18 and students with OGV Annual Student Pass (with ID) - Free
Tickets at the gate or via [Trybooking](#)

For more information about open gardens and events, visit: www.opengardensvictoria.org.au

Open Gardens Victoria (OGV) is a volunteer-run, not-for-profit organisation that promotes the benefits of gardens and gardening for all Victorians. We assist garden owners to open their private gardens to the public and organise gardening and horticulturally themed events. Our activities are funded by ticket sales, and each year a portion of our surplus is applied to grants under our Giving Program for horticultural projects in the fields of education, wellness, innovation, community and sustainability.

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