

GARDEN NOTES

NEW HOPE

6 GLOVER DRIVE, YASS, NSW



21-22 MARCH 2026

HISTORY

'New Hope' is a 1.8 hectare / 4½ acre property on a hill 5 minutes from Yass with views across the picturesque river valley to several historical homesteads and the Brindabellas in the distance. Our very large garden takes up much of the property, so there's plenty to wander around and enjoy.

We (John, Aylwen and son Ashby Gardiner-Garden) moved out from Canberra at the beginning of 2021. We'd opened our previous garden, 'The Garden Cottage', in Yarralumla in 2019 – you might remember it. With our new property we found that, apart from the lovely house, boundary and driveway trees, and a partial home hedge, the block was undeveloped (basically a bare hill)- but that's fine, we thought. Surely, we could have our dream country garden in a year or two.

After five years of dawn-to-dusk work we are still not quite there but have (with intermittent much appreciated help) established access roads and paths, stone walls and terraces, entertainment lawns and ponds, chess pit and pool areas, animal enclosures, gazebos and glasshouse and lots of different gardens – cottage borders, ancient, old-fashioned and modern rose walks, a lavender and rosehip bank, a grand dahlia field, woodland gardens with rhododendrons and other acid lovers, fruit, nut and berry orchards, an antipodean retreat, and lots of areas that mix elements of all these.

By adding hedges, climbers on arches and framing-trees and by extensive (mostly invisible) layering of planting we hope that increasingly visitors will have a sense of going into (rather than just viewing) different gardens and will enjoy four-seasons of interest. Scattered throughout are lots of rare plants and we've started to label some collections.

John does the garden designing and most of the gardening while Aylwen contributes plant advice and makes out of the garden fruit preserves and flower bouquets for local markets, cafes and weddings. You might recognise Aylwen from her Four Acre Garden flower stall at the Old Bus Depot Markets at Kingston.

We are on town, tank and bore water but are as strategic as possible with irrigation and have worked very hard to continually improve garden bed soils. Our approach is organic - so lots of cardboard-on-raw-paddock, mulching and hand-weeding. Please excuse imperfections. This summer's heatwave has been challenging, as has been maintaining gardens at the same time as constantly expanding them—but dreams are strong temptations!

Please wander and picnic anywhere and say hello to our pet sheep, dogs, cats, geese, ducks and chickens. Hot & cold refreshments, scones and preserves from the garden are available.

As the gardens are a still a young work-in-progress do keep your imagination handy. Questions are most welcome.

NOTE: This garden has many steep slopes, steps, and loose gravel paths, so please take care.

FEATURES

Look out for the grand Dahlia field in full bloom - and the many rare plants too.

MAP

A map of the gardens will be available at the entrance.

TOILETS

Near Visitor Centre, Coronation Park, Comur St. Yass (3 minutes drive from New Hope).

GARDEN OWNERS

John and Aylwen Gardiner-Garden