

st joseph's school hawthorn

2002
**open
houses**

**2 Mary St,
Hawthorn
“ Chislehurst “**



Chislehurst is a fine example of an early Victorian house that has been sympathetically restored to reflect the grandeur of the period while undergoing clever refurbishments that has made it a grand family home with all the modern comforts.

Thought to be built in 1885, as part of an architectural competition organised by leasee, Byron Moore in mid 1884, soon after the first sale (lease) of land in the Grace Park Estate. Michael Lynch, owner of the Rising Sun Hotel in town, established the estate at the end of the 1840's. The leasing agreement to Byron Moore stipulated that ten houses were to be built – 3 by the end of 1885, 3 more by 1887 and 4 by December 1889.

Like many other properties in the Estate, Chislehurst became a boarding house during the 1960's and 70's. The then owner lived in the rear of the house in an enclosed verandah section. When the current owners bought the property in 1984 most rooms were self-contained flats with kitchenettes and needed to be painstakingly converted. Several bungalows in the back yard were also dismantled. Local interior designer and author of Victorian Splendour, Suzie Forge assisted the owners with decoration and colour selection in the beautifully proportioned front rooms. The window detail in each room is an exquisite feature of the home.

The back section of the house, including the kitchen/family area, laundry/sewing room and wide verandah was added in the late eighties. The 'Wendy House' located in the rear garden, was built in 1910 for a family in Linda Crescent, and was carefully moved to Chislehurst's garden some fifteen years ago.

The garden is also of note with some original plantings including a huge peppercorn tree in the rear garden and a pomegranate in the front, both thought to be very old. Many of the succulent plantings have survived from the previous owner, who had lived at Chislehurst since the 1940's. *Crassula multicava* has naturalised under the pomegranate and is very hardy.

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**21a Mary Street,
Hawthorn
"Kialla"**



This land in the Grace Park Estate was subdivided in 1965 and shortly after a traditional L-shaped brick veneer three bedroom home was erected on the site. The house has recently been impeccably redesigned by Toscano Architects and the result is a stunning, light-filled family home that allows for easy living and entertaining.

The front entrance featuring a limestone floor, rendered concrete wall and a mountain ash veneer door provides a stunning glimpse into the interior of the light filled house and greenery beyond.

Dana Lane of Candlewick has assisted the owners create a classic, contemporary style throughout the house. The family room features a curved ceiling, polished brush box floors and a floating hearth built out of the same limestone that is found in other parts of the house. The kitchen bench is made from dark grey granite and the illuminated painted glass splash back adds to the modern feel of the kitchen.

The owners briefed local landscape architects, Out From the Blue, to create a garden that incorporated the existing pool but allowed for separate entertaining areas. The stunning water features at the rear of the property and in the first courtyard are by Victorian artist, Yvonne George. Classical plantings of snow pears and port wine magnolia create a lovely effect in the back garden.

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**106 Church St
Hawthorn
“Huntingtower”**



This 1890s mansion is one of Hawthorn's most famous houses and its tower has dominated the hill for more than a century. It features stunning wallpaper by William Morris and is a very good example of an asymmetrically planned house in a broadly Italianate style. Huntingtower is especially distinguished by its unpainted stucco decoration around the doors and windows.

The allotment on the south corner of Mason Street had been acquired by William Morton in the 1850s, from one of the first successful subdivisions in the district: of the Pinnock property (with a new street leading down to his homestead, later the Creswick family's home, known as 'The Hawthorns'). The pioneer Mortons built a weatherboard house and remained for decades, then apparently planned a grand two-storeyed house of fashionable red facebrick with tower for the view, but there was some delay and a death in the family, and the house was recorded as still unfinished in the Hawthorn rate book of 1891.

Huntingtower is similar to work of local architect John Beswicke, with its entrance under the tower and lavish cast-iron verandah and balcony decoration, and was selected as home of General Herbert Booth of the Salvation Army in 1896, then home of the family of draper William Manson family for years before becoming apartments during the Second World War.

The delightful garden is featured in many of owner Rick Matear's artworks and murals found throughout the house. Enquiries regarding artwork can be made on 03 9818 1154.

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**292 Cotham Rd,
Kew
"Ross House"
Garden**



Ross House (originally Charleville) was built about 1887 by Charles A. Donaldson as a grand family home. The story is told that Donaldson was so inspired by a mansion he had seen on his travels to Florence that he brought the design and entire working crew of 14 Italian labourers and artisans back to Melbourne to build his dream home over a seven-year period.

As you enter the driveway there is a feeling of being in an imposing formal garden with traditional English box hedges and white impatiens providing a stunning border. Garden designer, Paul Bangay chose to reflect the Italianate fashion of architecture of the house as the main style. There is simplicity in planting with only a few species chosen and used en masse. Mature specimen trees, including a magnificent oak, and an expansive lawn lend a park-like effect and spaciousness to the garden.

Hidden, in the west corner of the property, is the 'secret garden', which the owners created for their young family while major works were being undertaken about nine years ago. Clever screening using bamboo can be seen along this side of the property as can a very old peppercorn tree.

Moving along the driveway, past the front garden bed with standard iceberg roses and gardenias, you enter the stunning pool area with a massive wooden arbour. 'The water feature is the main focal point and this is both functional as a spa and a decorative element to extend one's eye over the water, being the swimming pool', according to Bangay.

A mirrored row of olive trees, which produce very good olives, provides a screen and two magnolias (michelias) complement the classical design.

Through to the tennis court, which is surrounded by morning glory and the owner's 'kitchen garden', which boasts a huge array of vegetables and herbs all neatly kept within the confines of box hedge. An interesting climbing pear, the owners favourite cycads and a planting of purple irises can also be seen along side the magnificent 'cherubs' sundial from Geddes thought to be more than a 100 years old.

Continuing along to the main lawn that is surrounded by an abundance of perennials, hydrangeas, azaleas, daphne, rhododendrons and camellias. The gardenia garden to the left is magnificent, as are the Moreton Bay fig trees.

The impressive cedars that mark the entrance of the home have recently been trimmed to rescue them from their own weight.

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12 Fordholm Rd, Hawthorn



The Certificate of Title from 1933 showed the owner of land at 12 Fordholm Road as Marcell Ellery of Kew. The Covenant dictated that 'any dwelling shall be constructed of brick or cement and that the roof shall be constructed of slate or tiles ...'. The site was a subdivision of the grounds of a large house on the west side of the street.

It wasn't until 1958 that Lindsay Anderson of architect firm, R.M. and M.H. King and Hobson was commissioned to design a modern family home. It was built in that year and at the time heralded as 'modern in planning and design yet blending into the streetscape'. Ian Francis Beaurepaire, C.M.G., son of the late Sir Frank and Lady Beaurepaire, and his wife Dame Beryl lived in the house during the sixties and seventies. Both Ian and Sir Frank served terms as Lord Mayor of Melbourne.

The house was extensively renovated and remodelled in the late 80's by a previous owner. Jo Archibald of Decollo has worked with the current owners to update the interior, add sophisticated concepts to the existing avant-garde design and create its own sense of style and elegance. Beautiful soft furnishings, combined with modern textures and finishes, and fresh white walls add to the overall feeling of spaciousness.

All living areas on the top floor of the house have magnificent views to the north and west to the city and one can only imagine the backdrop of the evening skyline with illuminated city skyscrapers. An equally good vantage point to enjoy the tranquility and view is on the elevated patio that overlooks the pool and garden.

The lower level features a full-size billiard room with bar, an oversized bedroom and huge carport that can easily be transformed into a stylish entertainment space.

An understated courtyard garden, at front of the home, is a hidden treasure with an espaliered pear and standard cumquats forming the backdrop. Garden designer, Robert Boden has helped the owners create this special area and the total garden design.

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3 Selbourne Rd, Kew
“ Edcliffe “



Built in the 1880's by Mr. Percy of real estate firm, Batten and Percy this single-storey house was rescued from complete decay by Suzie Forge and her husband in 1998. After major repairs and a facelift that included the addition of a new Dining Room, Living Room and Kitchen the house was then massaged back to life as a warm and richly furnished home.

Edcliff is an old-meets-new house with a difference. It embraces a modern lifestyle for a family with the depth and softness of age. In keeping with her background in the interior design industry, Suzie has used velvet and printed fabric to line the walls as well as wallpapers and lavish screens in other rooms. Beautiful Wilton patterned carpets underlie the effect of the colourful interior.

The house opens onto an extensive courtyard and succulent-filled garden. Suzie has a passion for growing succulents and her shop 'Succulence' at 27 Lynch Street, Hawthorn is also a must visit.

Edcliff has recently been featured in Vogue Living, The Age Domain, and on television in an American program, The Best of Australian Design and also on Burke's Backyard.