

# Sunnymeade garden, Anglesea: a haven for adults and adventure for children

HELEN YOUNG -THE AUSTRALIAN JANUARY 24, 2015 12:00AM



Peter and Simone Shaw in their garden. Picture: Geelong + Surf Coast Living magazine. *Source:* Supplied

**DESCRIBE YOUR GARDEN:** It's a coastal garden of mainly native plants, which is a peaceful haven for adults and an adventurous play space for our four children. We set the house at the back of the block to preserve the stands of stringybarks, and this adds a feeling of depth. Stone walls soften the level changes and gravel paths lead gently around the garden. In a gathering place under the gum trees a fire pit becomes a reflective water bowl in summer. We've used a lot of different grasses and native shrubs, some clipped into balls of different sizes. Sunnymeade recently won "Best Use of Plants in the Landscape" in the Victorian Landscape Awards.

**WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL:** The established stringybarks (*Eucalyptus obliqua*) add such an interesting element with their twisted trunks, even though it's difficult to get things to grow underneath.

**BIGGEST CHALLENGES:** Being in the landscape industry (we've operated our business Ocean Road Landscaping for 20 years) and finding time for my garden.

**FAVOURITE PARTS:** Recently we installed a meandering gravel path that leads through the beds of shrubs to the letterbox. It's a simple element but it's changed the way we experience the garden. I always wanted a sculpted lawn — I'm a former greenkeeper. This new area is 140sqm of undulating, dome-shaped hills. It's a great spot to read.

**LESSONS FROM YOUR GARDEN:** It has let us all creatively express ourselves in one way or another. Sculptures and art pieces around the place have involved us all. I'd like people to learn that using common, everyday plants in an interesting way is achievable. It's not a fussy garden and it's quite low care.

**EXTRAS:** Funds raised go to Anglesea CFA who are doing a sausage sizzle. Wine tasting by Blake's Estate winery. Ghazeepore, a large country garden also open near Geelong, has live jazz 2-5pm.

**48 HARVEY ST, ANGLESEA. OWNERS: PETER AND SIMONE SHAW**

**OPEN THIS WEEKEND NOON TO 6.30PM ENTRY \$8, UNDER 18s FREE**