

‘CLIFTON’ 7 Woolwich Rd, HUNTERS HILL *Open Garden 2025*

Walter Liberty Vernon was employed to design Clifton which was built by Mr John Rider Jones and his wife in the 1880s for his family of 7 children.

John Rider Jones was the Chairman of the stock exchange. The Sands Directory first list the family living here in 1890.

Hunters Hill has a wonderful history and is recognised as Australia’s oldest garden suburb with a strong French influence. The original inhabitants of the area were the Wallumedegal clan who lived here for thousands of years before European settlement.

NOTE: Pathways are old and uneven. Please take care and look out for trip hazards.

‘Clifton’ has a large garden which is bordered by heritage Port Jackson Figs and Cycads which frame the front stairs to the main entrance. The garden has been modernized over the last 30 years with the updated tennis court, garage and addition of a swimming pool, foreshore gym and boathouse building. The garden has developed over the years to include a selection of garden style room areas with varied influences.

As you walk in through the gate a traditional styled planting of Cliveas and Strelitzia frame the driveway. A large *Brachychiton discolor* Queensland Lacebark showers the driveway with pink flowers in Summer.

The walkway has a Bay leaf Laurel hedge which handles the restricted soil capacity and reduced watering.

Walking past the bed of *Medinilla magnifica* and *myriantha*, which are shaded by a wonderful *Morus alba pendula* Weeping Mulberry, you arrive at the formal side garden area framed with *Pyrus nivalis* Snow in Summer/Snow Pear deciduous trees which help to cool the garden, tennis court and house in summer but allows the winter sun to shine through for winter warmth.

Walking around to the back of the house along a collection of varied Magnolia species you arrive at the rear courtyard, an area traditionally used as the maids’ quarters close to the kitchen and next to the laundry. The narrow staircase at the back for access into the house for the maids cleaning.

Continue further around the back into the Japanese influenced garden with ferns, orchids, large potted standard Acers and Bonsai. The heritage staircase up to the old stables- now demolished, leads to a small orchard and vegetable garden.

NOTE: The old stairs and railing are non-compliant so can be slippery - please take care if walking up and down.

Walking back to the front of the garden or the southern side, is a large lawn which frames the front of the house. Travel down the stairs to the left, which goes past a terrace of hydrangeas – taken from cuttings from original plants in the garden, Daphne and a lush combination of gingers, Bird Nest Ferns and Camelias.

Continue down the steps to a large lawn area which frames the Parramatta River with views to Drummoyne and the Gladesville Bridge.

Please NOTE: The river is not fenced so please ensure children are always supervised and do not walk close to the Rivers edge.

Walking up the stairs past the native finger lime is a small courtyard with Mediterranean styled plants and herbs.

Continue up past the large outcrop of Sydney Rock Orchid, Begonias, *Asplenium nidus* Bird's- nest Ferns, *Lepidozamia peroffskyana* Cycad Pineapple Cycad and baskets of Hoya, succulents and *Platynerium species* Staghorn ferns hanging from the ancient Port Jackson Fig branches. This path returns you to the front lawn.

There are many plants not mentioned but please feel free to ask questions or enquire about the various plantings. Volunteers are stationed around the property who are happy to assist. ENJOY!

Instagram # cliftonhomeandgarden # suitedgardens