

The Grounds

The estate was named after a Paulownia Tree Plantation was established on the property, some of which still remains today.

The Paulownia tree is an ornamental tree. The wood is important in China, Korea and Japan for making cabinetry and the soundboards of stringed musical instruments.

It is known in Japanese culture as the "princess tree" and it was once customary to plant a paulownia tree when a baby girl was born and then to make a dresser from the wood as a wedding present when she married.

The Chinese describe the "Paulownia" as the four sided tree as it grows by the side of the house, by the side of the river, by the side of the paddock and by the side of the road.

Paulownia Trees are extremely fast growing and can be harvested for use in as little as five years. The trees have a high atmospheric carbon uptake rate and therefore help against the greenhouse effect.

The tree produces large orchid like lavender blossoms, scented like jasmine, that last for 6-8 weeks. The edible flowers are great in salads! Bees love the blossoms and produce Paulownia honey which is delicious.

Other plantings on the property include manicured hedges of buxus, perfumed white gardenias, white roses, magnolia little gems and other formal plants which have been included to create a formal garden surrounding the Main House and Guest Wing.

The property has four goats that add rural charm.

A bird study was recently conducted and over 300 species of birds make their home on the grounds or in the surrounding bushland of The Plantation.

We are in consultation with the Open Garden Scheme and are adding some additional plantings to hopefully qualify for inclusion in the scheme in 2010.