



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to

THE BONNEY GARDEN

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 October, 2017 48 Martindale Avenue, Golden Grove

When we bought this block in 1998, we thought it had a fairly gentle slope. However after the developers lowered the road 6 feet, we realized we would have to design a garden with terraces with paths at each level so that we could access our plantings. We were required to do the bulk of the retaining walls before we could build. This retaining included a wall built from the beautiful honey coloured Toodyay stone to match in with the sandstone house bricks. It curves from the front of the property to the back. Large moss rocks are also linked with Toodyay stone. The drainage, irrigation, paths, minor retaining, steps and plantings we have completed ourselves over the last 17 years.

We began with one water tank in 2000 for pot plants, but due to the drought years we have added 6 more tanks and 2 water butts. We have also attached water diverters to our front downpipes to retain as much water as possible on site. We originally organized larger lawns using tall fescue at house level and couch on the Beaufort verge, but due to water restrictions during the drought we replaced the upper lawns with kikuyu and put hardy Mediterranean plants on the verge.

My love of roses led to me starting a new rose collection. My criteria for choosing a particular rose was perfume, colour and garden performance. As there are so many beautiful roses, my collection soon exceeded 150 roses, despite some misgivings on my husband's behalf as winter pruning often takes 5 or 6 weeks. My favourites are Whisky, Joyfulness, Hot Cocoa, Chicago Peace, Mr Lincoln, Fruitee and any perfect looking rose on a particular day.

Early on we realized that we needed shade on the northwest side of the house and so we planted the deciduous Chinese Elm on the middle terrace. It is now a large spreading tree, giving effective shade in summer while allowing light for bulbs in winter. At the back the ground had been levelled to soft rock, so we dug some out and then made a raised bed where we planted Magnolia Little Gem and a Ginkgo, both of which are flourishing despite the low soil depth. Other favourites in this area are Cotinus Velvet Cloak with its beautiful purple foliage and smoky pink flowers above the pond, a Japanese Maple that was grown from a seedling from our previous property. And a white flowering Lagerstroemia, all of which give glorious autumn colour.

The highest corner of the block we reserved for fruit trees and vegetables. We have a variety of citrus on the slopes for good drainage and a plum, dwarf peach and nectarine and three different apples. We originally had vegetables here, but as tree roots grew into them and to avoid too much bending as we were getting older we got raised beds for vegetables, herbs and strawberries.

Open Gardens South Australia Inc: is a not for profit organisation opening private gardens to the general public. The purpose of Open Gardens SA is to educate and promote the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening in South Australia and to build strong public support for the development of gardens.

Web page: <http://opengardensa.org.au/>

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I also have a large collection of succulents. I love the sculptural shape of the larger ones, the magnificent foliage contrasts of black, blue, apricot, gold, red and green. The tiniest ones fill in crevices between rocks. Many flower in sparkling colours from August to November. There are more than 16 types of Aeoniums as well as many aloes of all sizes, sedum, echeveria, crassula, cotyledon, and kalanchoe.

I love lavenders also and have featured Spanish lavenders along a lavender walk under pink roses. There are pinks, mauves, purples, blues, whites and some lovely new doubles in pink and mauve.

Daisies of many colours fill in gaps everywhere. My favourites are the osteospermums, which come in so many colours, some being double or bicolour or with spatulate petals. Ruby red, blue and magenta fire being favourites.

Many plants in my garden have been chosen for drought tolerance, although in the shade of the back courtyard, I have ferns, hoyas, bromeliads, camellias, orchids, an azalea and a gardenia.

We have a great variety of plants, but it is not a haphazard mixture as I give considerable thought to where each plant should go according to foliage, colour, texture, shape and perfume. This garden does require a lot of maintenance and in recent years we have help with lawn mowing and edging and the pruning of our high hedge and tall trees. We love working in the garden whatever the weather and visiting other peoples' gardens where we gain ideas to incorporate into our own. In turn we hope others enjoy wandering through our garden.

Gillian and Richard Bonney

Open Gardens South Australia is aiming to significantly reduce its impact on the environment and we hope you support us in this endeavour. Please return your garden notes as you leave so they can be reused and recycled.

The gardens that open for us are chosen to reflect a great diversity of styles and may even challenge the conventional view of what constitutes a garden. While aspects of a garden may not be to your taste, we urge you to celebrate this diversity. Please remember you are visiting a private home and show respect and sensitivity for the owners who have so generously shared their garden with you. Thank you.