



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

# Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to

## **BRIGHTVIEW GARDEN**

**Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 September, 2017      10 Brightview Avenue, Blackwood**

After purchasing our piece of land, close to half an acre in size, in the early 1970's, we set about site terracing and bulldozing for the house. We had a considerable number of grey box eucalypt gum trees to consider which still remain on the block.

Our garden started soon after we moved into our new home, the site is sloping and there were many retaining walls to be built. My husband with the help of some mates who were in similar positions shared weekends at each other's homes to tackle these large tasks. We used rock dug from the block during excavation to build the dry stone walls, Railway sleepers were brought in to build the retaining walls, it was backbreaking work for my husband.

We had to consider water flow from rainfall and clay shaley soil. We have added many tons of mulch to improve the soil, collected sheep and horse manure, added homemade compost and used worm juice as well as purchased fertiliser. Our first plantings were all Australian Native varieties and did quite well but there are always losses. Competing with gum trees for moisture, shade and run off of water.

Over the 40 years we have had to revise our garden. Our attempts to have a small piece of lawn struggled in wet winters with little sun and that area has been turned into garden. Some of the retaining sleeper walls were rotting, considering the sleepers were approaching 100 years since felled. These walls were replaced by pine sleepers.

### **Garden Plantings and Structures**

The garden is peaceful and shady and home to many birds and koalas. There are layers of plantings and understory water efficient shrubs and ground covers. Natives co-exist with gums and there are pots of succulent and interest in leaf texture size and shape.

A drip system is laid throughout the garden to manage watering and there are rainwater tanks collecting roof runoff. The tank water supplements for hand watering of pots and provides additional water in the event of bush fire.

Mediterranean plants are more used in the back garden, with a veggie garden, citrus and deciduous trees. There is a water fountain bubbling water for sound. In the summer a visiting koala often cools off in the leafy foliage of the golden elm. Nesting boxes under the eaves of the house encourage the tiny pardalotes to return.

Quirky objects placed through the garden provide interest and structure.

Deliveries of mulch, pea straw and bags of fertiliser or potting mix have to be dropped off near the roadway or via the car in the carport as access is limited. Working in the garden promotes a good workout fitness wise.

Thank you for visiting.