



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

# Open Gardens South Australia Welcomes you to **Riverline Cottage and Gardens**

Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 September, 2017      141 Karoonda Highway, Loxton

Welcome to Riverline Cottage and Gardens, which is located at the old Loxton drive in site and is owned by us your hosts Chris and Raelene Schutz since 2001. We wanted to retain the history of the drive in and have kept the big screen with the last screening at the drive- in in 1985.

Many years have been spent and countless hours put into our extensive garden which is now open to the public as part of South Australian Open Gardens In September and also Renmark's Rose Festival which is in late October. The garden openings are dotted throughout spring to make the most of the better weather conditions with the summer months being unforgiving and quite harsh. Summer Temperatures range up to 48 degrees to -5 and very heavy frosts in Winter.

Water has remained the main issue (with the average rainfall being approx 250 mm) in keeping the garden healthy and lush in our hot summer months. We initially built a small dam for storm water runoff and then added a large 160,000 litre tank to help with the storage of the water collected to reduce evaporation. The garden is open for bus tours, garden club visits and private functions subject to approval, conditions and availability.

Chris's early career in paving and landscaping and now bobcat, truck hire and retaining have enabled him to create an amazing 2 ½ acre garden from a flat gravel site which is still a work in progress, with new ideas being created constantly while we both work full time.

Our love of old farm implements and memorabilia is evident throughout the garden along with many trees and plants that have been lovingly transplanted to this site and saved from demolition. Also in our holiday travels we like to collect pieces of art, sculpture or old pieces of salvage (junk) to add to our garden ambience and charm. The copper bird of paradise water feature was a lucky find made by an artist exhibiting in a small gallery in Goolwa along with our glass flowers and metal horse winners from recent subsequent SALA festivals.

A reproduction stone cottage was added to the site in 2015 with stone salvaged from Yongala station dating back to the 1850's and consists of salvaged windows, doors, timber, mini orb, pressed tin and unique timber furniture pieces. This is used for accommodation and intimate functions with catering facilities available along with garden hire.

Raelene loves to be self sufficient and grows and uses her own herbs and produce with fresh, dried or preserved apricots, peaches, nectarines, sultanas and plums available to use all year round along with almonds, lemons, oranges and pickled olives. The girls take care of any table scraps to produce beautiful free range eggs for baking, another passion.

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**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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## Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening.

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The garden is continually evolving and we are constantly adding new features and areas to meander around, and enjoy or to create another relaxation area. At the moment we are working on another unusual table and chair area and creating a greenhouse which we hope to be finished by garden opening season (weather permitting). The pizza oven is still undergoing construction as we battle to fit all of our ideas into our busy work schedules and time frames.

The garden consists of 110 assorted roses colour coordinated in separate garden beds along with some small and tall standards. The back fence consists of beautiful Pierre de Ronsard climbers along with a beautiful yellow Banksia rose. The Wisteria climbing over an arbour of old irrigation pipes creates a Tuscan feel and looks amazing in flower(only one half has flowered to this day)and also in leaf and creates a beautiful shade area to enjoy on a hot summer day or night.

With the release of the new diamonds in the dark crepe myrtles we decided to plant up another area to the right as you enter the property(another area to get irrigation to)as they do so well here and should look amazing when they grow and flower.

As the large trees we planted have become more established throughout the garden and are now creating more shade canopy and with the availability of CIT water to us instead of relying on mains we have been able to plant up more areas within the garden to reduce the areas of pig mulch, but have chosen wisely using mainly salvias which are more hardy in our hot, dry, frosty environment. Local Pea straw is used around the roses to maintain moisture, compost down and also aids in the suppression of weeds.

A circular Tuscan feel amphitheatre is home to a mixture of different coloured bearded irises and a large rustic urn water feature. A huge pond planted with water lilies and iris is home to fish, frogs and yabbies and is surrounded by palm trees which creates an oasis like feel to the garden. A mulberry tree dating back to 1923 which produces the most magnificent tasting fruit and Grandma's collection of 45 year old roses have all been happily transplanted into the once flat drive-in site area.

As you wander around our garden and up the steps of the mound to the native section you get a better feel and a different perspective on the overall garden layout. This section is a great place to sit in summer to admire the amazing sunsets that the Riverland is spoilt for, take some well earned time out and look down onto the garden that we have created to make more plans and enjoy a local wine or two. Thank you for taking the time out to visit our garden, and travel to the Riverland we hope that we have inspired you to create your own amazing garden space and that you have enjoyed your time here.

Chris & Raelene Schutz

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.