



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

# Open Gardens South Australia

## Welcomes you to **MOSAIC GARDEN**

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### **MY MOSAIC GARDEN**

Welcome to my "garden". It is a typical combination of outdoor entertaining, garden, pool, garaging and excess car parking, called the front yard. Parts of my yard bring me great pleasure. Others (quite obviously) do not! Aren't all gardens a work in progress!!!

The purchase of "Quondong" in 1998 was all about growing up the 3 boys and proximity to schools. The original house was built in 1930 and the additions to the house and garage occurred in the early 1980's. Whilst it was all very practical and indestructible it was also very ugly. In 2000, I completed a 4 session mosaic bird bath course. I was hooked! Essential house and yard alterations happened but the cost of cosmetic changes could not be justified. SOLUTION: Cover with mosaic or bougainvillea!

**THE MOSAICS:** My preference is to work with ceramic tile and I love colour. However, coloured tiles are less fashionable now and not easy to come by. Having explored hobby ceramics and glazes in the past, I decided to source unglazed bisque tiles and hand paint my own. My husband Ben bought me a little kiln so I can fire my tiles at home. Colour possibilities are now endless. Working with ceramic is physically demanding, so I supplement tiles with pieces made from clay.

**STUDIO SPACE:** Although a front porch should be welcoming and attractive, mine I confess is not pretty. It makes the most ideal studio with its large L- shaped area, concrete floor and fresh air. As mosaic construction is dusty and muddy (grouting) a robust working area is essential. Also it is a great benefit to not have to pack up at the end of a work session.

**MY STYLE:** I do not find text books give enough detailed information to tackle really creative projects, so over the year's I have developed my own style and techniques. Deciding on a style and collecting the tesserae (tiles, glass, broken china, etc.) is an obvious start, but working through challenges during the project and achieving success can be confusing and complex. So as part of my Special Event Open Garden I run a demonstration for an hour.

**MOSAIC DEMO:** Here I will share all my secrets and discoveries. I hope to inspire you to have a go at a creation of your own and to know that help is at hand if you need it.

Please bring a notebook. Photography is welcome.

There are also mosaics in the house - a mirror each in the family room and guest bedroom, and one in each bathroom, which you are welcome to look at.

**A BIT ABOUT ME:** Formal training was in fashion designing. My first job was as the knitwear designer for Patons yarns, 1976 - 1982, followed by Craft Editor for Womans Day magazine, 1982/83. My sister and I then produced our own knitwear label in Sydney. The next decade will balance family, grandchildren and my 2 creative passions of mosaics and knitting and crochet.

I offer classes in both by appointment and I prefer to help clients make what they want rather than a set project.

Enjoy your visit and thank you for coming. Love Anne.

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**Open Gardens South Australia** 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.

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