

Spring Newsletter 2018



Guelder Rose - Viburnum opulus (Sterile form)

Spring has arrived! Winter this year provided us with very cold conditions and below average rainfall in many areas. Early spring rains may help to replenish the sub-soil, and ready our gardens for the warmer days ahead. Your Open Gardens SA Committee is excited about the wonderful program of open gardens we have arranged for our visiting public. We hope you enjoy the warmer days and can spend time visiting some these stunning gardens providing inspiration and simple pleasures!

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Early Spring Open Gardens

September 1 - 2
Avondale (1), Rhynie
Working Person's Garden,
Burnside

September 8 - 9
Ni wajiri, Crafers

September 15 - 16
Boston Vista, Boston
Rosie & Mick's Garden,
Springton

September 23 (Sunday Only)
Beaumont House, Beaumont
Port Elliot Garden Walk, Port
Elliot (Special Event)

September 29 - October 1
Avondale (2), Rhynie

September 30 - October 1
AlRu Farm, One Tree Hill

October 6 - 7
Avalon, Burnside
Crabapple Cottage, Leabrook

October 13 - 14
Fiddlestix & Serendipity,
Coffin Bay
Springsong, Aldgate
St Mary's Vineyard, Penola
Tickletank, Mount Barker

**See the full program on pages 8
and 9, and on our webpage:
<http://opengardensa.org.au/>**

Season Launch 2018-2019

The Committee of Open Gardens SA was delighted to launch the 2018-2019 Season of Open Gardens on Sunday 19 August 2018. The venue for the launch was a delightful garden in Springfield. Despite a chilly day, the rain held off and invited guests enjoyed the event – in our usual style there was the good company of gardening friends and delicious hospitality provided by the OGSA Events Committee.



Our guest speaker was the Hon Dean Brown, AO, Chairman of the Playford Memorial Trust.

The Playford Memorial Trust provides prestigious scholarships, awards and internships for high achieving students working in areas of strategic importance to the State. It enjoys bi-partisan political support and is an independent, not-for-profit, charitable trust operating under its own deed.

A few photos from the OGSA Season Launch:



Giving Back to the Community – Grants by Open Gardens SA

This year Open Gardens SA has provided funding assistance for two programs to advance and support an educational focus within our communities.

Open Gardens SA has partnered with the Playford Memorial Trust to offer up to three (3) awards of \$2,000 each for TAFE SA students studying in the following areas: Horticulture, and Conservation and Land Management.

These awards provide support to those interested in a career in gardens and who will inspire an interest in gardens in others, and are offered as part of Open Gardens SA's intent to foster the love of gardens through education.

Award applications close on Friday 14 September 2018.

Open Gardens SA has also provided a grant of \$4,000 to the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens, at Port August, which will be put towards a 'Touch screen information kiosk' to provide visitors with information on the Garden. This will be a valuable asset for visitors unable to access the walking trails for various reasons including unfavourable weather, and mobility issues.



Meet your OGSA Committee Members – Jane Knowler, Secretary and Public Officer.



I came to gardening late although my childhood garden in Harare, Zimbabwe, with its expanse of green lawn, massed borders of shrubs, canna lilies and shasta daisies, and magnificent trees – jacarandas, flamboyants (Royal Poinciana) and a gnarled, ancient, spreading “Lucky Bean” tree (Erythrina Abyssinica) – indelibly stamped on my memory. Harare’s

temperate climate was pure gardening joy: mild winters and warm soaking summer rains but I was oblivious to it. If youth is wasted on the young then beautiful climates are wasted on non-gardeners! My lot today is searing heat, frost, hail, and unpredictable rain - constant foes of all gardeners in Adelaide.

My first garden was in Malvern. We’d renovated the house and created a sea of mud and beds denuded of life. And so began my initial forays into gardening. Forgiving plants, like the iceberg roses lining the front fence and the weeping crab-apple which still guards the side gate, flourished. A hand-seeded and watered lawn thrived. Success fanned a desire for more – a bigger garden and more privacy, which my second garden in Stirling provided. It was another renovation and another case of planting from scratch (after removing 20 trees) and gaining confidence as the garden took shape with plantings of berberis, abelia, weigela, camellias, azaleas and agapanthus underneath ash trees, pin oaks and liquidambar.

A short sojourn in North Adelaide convinced me that the Adelaide Hills were indeed home and so began the love affair with my third garden in Aldgate. I inherited a cherished and carefully nurtured “grown-up” garden. I have made changes. The menacing pinus radiata, festooned with wisteria, has been felled and salvias, hydrangeas, camellias, hellebores and Japanese anemones have proliferated in their new light-drenched environment. Steep banks encircling the lawn have been planted out with a mix of perennials, trees and shrubs – in spring and summer it is a walled garden of green and a place of solace. Tall, tree-like camellias and rhododendrons, planted over 50 years ago, have been pruned and supplemented by smaller azaleas – together they provide a riot of pinks, purples and reds which brighten the leaden grey winter days. Paths have been created from a mix of old crushed roof tiles and dolomite sand, softened with sawdust. A gravel garden, a la Beth Chatto, is on the horizon.

Gardening is all consuming. I may have come to it late but I am glad that I was still in time. And my enjoyment has been heightened by my involvement in Open Gardens SA Inc. Not only have I seen beautiful gardens which have inspired me to greater and better things in my own garden, but I have met a wide range of interesting, generous, warm-hearted and very knowledgeable people, especially on the OGSA Committee. My involvement with OGSA has led to new friendships and new gardening groups. It has encouraged me to contemplate studies in horticulture (for interest and as an antidote to my inescapable day job as a lecturer). It has cemented my love of gardening. And, like some of you reading this, I am keenly anticipating the arrival of spring and the lengthening days so that I can get lost in my garden for hours on end.

Open Gardens SA Seasonal Program

The full listing of our open gardens with all the details and beautiful photographs is available on our website:
<http://opengardensa.org.au/>

Our aim is to promote the enjoyment, knowledge, and benefits of gardens and gardening in the South Australian community, and to build strong public support for the development of gardens across the state.

GARDENALIA – the Art of turning rusting junk and other stuff into something else.

By Trevor Nottle

Many readers will have kin folk who are farmers or who live in the country, and I expect that some of you will have cousins on the land who keep collections of strange objects. Indeed, I have a cousin with a large collection of grey Fordson tractors of many vintages. He also has a shed filled with antique steam traction engines of which he is inordinately proud bringing them out every year for a Field Day. He's got quite a collection of original Caterpillar tractors that he keeps in another large shed on his farm. In contrast I have a collection of gardenalia, a smaller version of the above which is kept in my study, on shelves and in cupboards.

What is 'gardenalia'? Gardenalia is a collection of almost anything related to the subject of gardening. It may include antiquities of great value such as Roman era gardening tools excavated from Pompeii, it could be a 17thC Delft ware tulip vase from Haarlem, or perhaps an old gardening book, a Victorian lawn-mower, or even a collection of Ross Roses catalogues from the 60's. Included could be terracotta pots, garden swans cut from old car tyres, rustic garden seats or flower paintings and prints by Margaret Preston. It is all a matter of personal choice and the depth of your purse, and the limits of your interest. Some people collect everything that catches their eye while others collected in a very restricted field such as scateurs, or garden sprinklers.

Some people display them, others just hoard them and yet others buy and swap and sell to refine and redefine their collections.

While nothing so impressive as a Caterpillar tractor, or a McCormack combine harvester, my own collection of gardenalia contains a few items of rarity and curiosity. I refer to a handful of objects that relate one way and another to orchards and vineyards.



To begin, Winter tools associated with the cleaning of trees are among the oldest objects I have. These are mistletoe hooks, hand forged and made of steel. One is a plain crescent shape and the other resembles a broad bladed chisel with a hook attached at one side. A long wood handle, probably ash, was inserted into the socket shaped by the blacksmith as he worked the metal. The sharpened blade was thrust up into the tree where mistletoe had established itself and with a sharp, deft movement the blade severed from the trunk at the point where the parasitical mistletoe joined it. In the case of the

simplest tool the clump of mistletoe just fell to the ground but in the more complex tool the hook was then employed to drag the clump down to the ground. Each implement is stamped with the owner's initials so that if it was lost the lord of the manor knew who to fine and punish for such carelessness.

At mid-Summer fruit trees were thinned of top growth so as to allow the fruit to ripen.



To achieve this, secateurs were adapted by adding a sharp hook or flat blade at one side of the snips during the forging process. An experienced pruner, by keeping his secateurs sharp in hook or blade could quickly cut out any unwanted trash – growth that got in the way of sunlight penetrating to the heart of the tree and so delaying ripening of the fruit. The same sharp edge could be used to cut out any cankers that might have invaded the tree and so reduced its productivity.



As fruits ripened towards the end of Summer, children were deployed to orchards to

frighten away depredating birds. While parents and bigger children were fully occupied with harvesting, carting and storing grain crops otherwise idle children were set too with bird rattles to unsettle and scatter birds so capable of damaging or destroying valuable apples, pears and nuts.



Bird scarers, like those shown were usually hand-made at home during Winter when it was too cold or wet to work the fields. Almost all of them are made from cherry wood. The designs are similar but show minor variations probably according to local methods of construction and individual whimsy.

With our editors indulgence I hope to show some more decorative gardenalia soon.



Changes on the OGSA Management Committee



Open Gardens SA is a not-for-profit organisation overseen by a dedicated Committee of South Australian garden lovers, including designers, horticulturalists, garden owners, and several former committee members of the National Open Gardens body that ran for 25 years. Following the Annual General Meeting of OGSA, at our subsequent Committee Meeting on the 14 August 2018, the various positions were declared vacant. The Committee elected the following members to these positions:

- Rob Andrewartha - Chairperson**
- Lyndie Carracher - remains as Deputy Chairperson**
- Rory McGregor - Treasurer**
- Jane Knowler - remains as Secretary and Public Officer.**

Former Chairperson Victoria Winnall has stepped down from the position and remains on the Committee.



Open Gardens SA has also engaged Chris Callaghan as our new **Media Liaison Officer**, following the recent departure of Trisha Helbers. Chris studied horticulture in 2016 and currently operates his own landscaping gardening business. He is now studying Landscape Design at TAFE SA and hopes to develop in this area whilst utilizing skills

learned from his background in film and television. Chris also enjoys painting and producing lino prints of native plants and landscapes in his spare time.

Merilyn Kuchel OAM

OGSA wishes to congratulate Merilyn Kuchel on being awarded the Order of Australia Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours for her service to horticultural and botanical organisations in South Australia.

Merilyn was the Open Gardens Australia Coordinator for SA/NT from 1997 to 2005 and was important in setting up Open Gardens South Australia as a Foundation and Committee Member in 2015. Merilyn has also greatly contributed as a Garden Selector. She has been involved with the Adelaide Botanic Gardens and the State Herbarium, is the President of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide, has been the President of the Mediterranean Garden Society and is the Garden Coordinator for the National Trust at Beaumont House.

Merilyn has been a member of the Native Garden Initiative, the Sustainable Landscapes Project, the Green Infrastructure Programme and a Lecturer at the Adelaide Hills College of TAFE. She is a Trustee of the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden and a Member of the Australian Garden History Society.

Merilyn has been generous with her assistance and knowledge to the gardening and horticultural community in South Australia who recognise that this honour is very well deserved.



Book Reviews - How are publishers influencing what we read?

By Trevor Nottle

In writing these reviews I have adopted an unusual practice because I want to pose a serious question to readers: “How are publishers influencing what we read?” This question applies to gardening books as much as any other category of books.

I present the case of two books; one published by a publishing house and the other published privately by the authors.



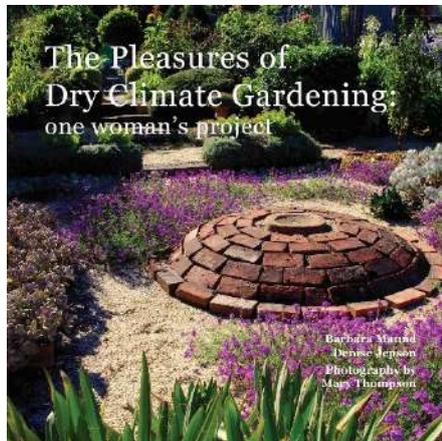
Dealing with the published book first. I was sent a review copy by a distributor based in Melbourne of a new book called *SHIT GARDENS* (James Hull and Bede Brennan, Knock Knock Books, USA 2018). The title is designed, too obviously, to shock and possibly give offence. The book is published in Los Angeles perilously close to

Hollywood, which may give some hint as to the prevailing ethos of shock, if not awe. In essence it is a collection of photographs sent via Instagram to a site that asked people to take snaps of ‘awful’ gardens while out on their daily walks. Many of them were sent by residents of Melbourne, for reasons unexplained in the scant text. The format is full colour throughout and photographic informed by very scant captions often written in the most derisory tones.

I found it hardly worth looking at, while reading the captions proved an exercise in barely hidden innuendo and sarcasm mostly of a superior or almost racist comments.

All in all, in my view, a waste of ink and paper with any value it may have being a simple and crude entertainment, read once and thrown away. Apart from making a quick dollar I cannot think why any publisher would take it on.

THE PLEASURES OF DRY CLIMATE GARDENING - one woman’s project by Barbara Maund and Denise Jepson (Castlemaine, Vic. 2018) is a complete contrast with a thoroughly readable and enjoyable text that conveys with clarity and insight the authors’ journey in making a garden and making a book.



Despite its very attractive design and beautiful photography the authors were unable to find a publisher anywhere in Australia, and remain unanswered by publishers overseas

- all of them with standing as publishers of gardening books. Convinced of the value of their creation, the authors chose to self-publish, in itself another journey for the women.

Having read the manuscript and the finished publication I found the book a compelling and informative book on making a garden in a dry climate such as is found in the Goldfields region of central Victoria, a climate pretty similar to much of South Australia, rural Victoria and a good deal of NSW west of the Great Dividing Range. This in itself ought to have appealed to a publisher, especially as they were sent a print-ready version of the book. Maybe the drought put them off. I don’t know but there is another reason why the book should have found a publisher, it is an important book.

It is important because it is an antidote to the plethora of books by professional garden designers who find an all too ready market for their formulaic approaches to garden making. The differences in approach could not be made more clear; the former a series of variations on the same theme - hard scaping, instant trees, expensive décor, hedges, parterres and low maintenance grass; in this case a project based approach that begins with a thorough familiarity with place and heritage, coupled with a knowledge of local soils and climate, and the plants that will perform well in such conditions. Thus armed the designer has set to work not to impose a pre-set image but to create a fresh design for the specifics of the setting. The

result is a brilliant design beautifully executed that is a unique expression of the garden maker as an artist. The book is also important because the garden as created no longer exists, so the book stands as ample testament to the designer / makers skills. Such is the fate of many small gardens to the extent that in the absence of small gardens from the record our understanding of garden history soon becomes warped. We come to believe that Australian garden history is all about big estate gardens and landscapes which is simply not right. Books such as *THE PLEASURES OF DRY CLIMATE GARDENING* reset the balance in favour of a broader view.

So I am left asking myself why such a significant book could not find a publisher. I cannot find an answer other than that Australian publishers are too conservative, too much in thrall to glossy picture books revealing the secret, private gardens of the rich and famous, and the sort of escapist stuff that blocks any hope of Australia ever moving beyond such jaded, derivative set pieces.

If this is the direction publishers are heading in it looks as if Australian gardeners looking for local information from local gardeners will be in for a hard and disappointing time.



Birds in Backyards & National Bird Week 2018

(Shared from Birdlife Australia)

Getting involved with birds is as close as your own backyard!

While we associate much of our birdlife with the larger expanses of Australia, our urban environment is also equally fascinating, and equally important. **Birds in Backyards** is a research, education and conservation program that was developed in response to the loss of small native birds from our parks and gardens, the rapid expansion of our urban landscape and the consequent loss of habitat for native birds.

Birds in Backyards is a great way for you to become involved at your local level by participating in surveys that help Birdlife Australia gather information about the birds in our urban areas. It's been hugely popular and the data collected forms a very detailed timeline of how our urban birds are faring.

There's certainly lots you can do from the comfort of your own home. You can get involved by becoming a member and participating in online surveys. You can learn how to create bird-friendly spaces in your garden and local community. You can find out more about Australian birds and their habitats. You can share your experience and observations with others in the Birds in Backyards forum. You can make a difference by taking action in your own area.

National Bird Week 2018 will take place between Monday 22 October and Sunday 28 October 2018.

To start exploring Birds in Backyards visit the Birdlife website: <http://birdlife.org.au/all-about-birds/birds-in-backyards>

Follow OGSA on Facebook
and Instagram



Garden Owner Information Function

On Sunday the 15 July 2018 OGSA held the annual 'Garden Owner Information and Thank You' event. This is a valuable opportunity for the Committee to thank our garden owners for their generosity and hard work in opening their gardens for the previous season, and to provide information and the materials to our garden owners opening for the new season.

The Committee would like to thank Chris and Margaret Burrell for their generosity in again hosting this function in their beautiful Leabrook garden, which features many items of stunning artwork and sculpture.



Drouin, Littlehampton

OGSA Recommends....

We recommend you always check our website for garden opening details. The website is an up-to-date, reliable and informative site which lists each open garden with a description of the garden, address (including a map), photographs, the availability of refreshments etc. The official Garden Notes written by the garden owner are also provided which you can read in advance or print and take a copy with you for your garden visit. Importantly, our website will always list any late additions or cancellations to our garden opening program.

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

Open Gardens SA 2018 Spring Calendar

Entry Fee \$8 per Adult, Limited Concessions available, Under 18 free.

September

1 - 2

Avondale, 146 Avondale Road, Rhynie

Working Persons Garden, 11 Ringmer Drive, Burnside

8 - 9

Niwajiri, 5 Lambert Road, Crafers

15 - 16

Boston Vista, 125 Howard Avenue, Boston, Port Lincoln

Rosie & Mick's Garden, 4 Graetz Terrace, Springton

23 (Sunday only)

Port Elliot Garden Walk, **Special Event**, 4 Gardens – Port Elliot
Beaumont House, National Trust, 631 Glynburn Road, Beaumont

September 29 - October 1 (Saturday to Monday)

Avondale (2), 146 Avondale Road, Rhynie

September 30 - October 1 (Sunday to Monday)

AlRu Farm, 1016 One Tree Hill Road, One Tree Hill

October

6 – 7

Avalon, 20 Willowbridge Grove, Burnside

Crabapple Cottage, 1 Jean Street, Leabrook

13 - 14

Fiddlestix, 58 Holly Rise and *Serendipity*, 11 Sophie Crescent - Coffin Bay, **Two Gardens Combined entry \$12**

Springsong, 8 Fenchurch Road, Aldgate

St Mary's Vineyard, 563 V&A Lane, Penola

Tickletank, 24 Hill Street, Mount Barker

20 - 21

Erica's Garden, 57 Sheoak Road, Belair

(Continued next page)



Working Person's Garden, Burnside



Niwajiri, Crafers



Boston Vista, Boston, Port Lincoln



Rosie & Mick's Garden, Springton



Avalon, Burnside



Springsong, Aldgate



Erica's Garden, Belair

27 - 28

Ashgrove Iris Garden, 53-55 Albert Street, Gumeracha
Lelant, 1 Waller Drive, Clare
Long Garden, 1 Baust Crescent, Coromandel Valley

November

3 - 4

Forestbrook Estate, 254 Checker Hill Road, Gumeracha
Kohlhagen House, 224 Bethany Road, Tanunda
Randa, 14 Bethany Road, Tanunda

17 - 18

Drouin, 12 Mossop Court, Littlehampton
Springwood, 46 Albert Street, Clare

23 - 25 (Friday to Sunday)

Caroline Hills, 489 Norman Road, via Mount Gambier

24 - 25

Kinclaven, 56 Waverley Ridge Road, Crafrers

ALL ABOUT FROST

(From the Australian Bureau of Meteorology)

Frost is a localised phenomenon which is fairly common in parts of southern Australia. Frost is defined as a deposit of soft white ice crystals or frozen dew drops on objects near the ground; formed when the surface temperature falls below freezing point.

There are two main ways that frost can form, with radiation being the most common method of formation in Australia.

Radiation frost: Radiation is the most common mechanism for frost formation in Australia. Frost occurs when the ground and ambient air cools down by the loss of heat to the atmosphere. This most commonly occurs under clear skies and with little or no wind. Radiation frost begins at ground level and gradually rises to higher objects.

Advection frost: Advection frost (also known as "freeze") can occur at any time, day or night. Frost forms when a mass of very cold air moves over an area, replacing the warmer air in that area. It is not affected by cloud cover. This type of frost is generally not seen in Australia, as the air masses in our region are very rarely cold enough to produce a freeze.

Frost can also take several forms, including:

White frost (or hoar frost): White frost is a deposit of ice crystals formed by direct deposition on objects exposed to the air. Water vapour in the air freezes upon contact with an object that has a surface temperature below 0°C. This is the kind of frost, common in Australia that we see on tree branches, grass stems, and car windscreens.

Black frost (or dry freeze): Black frost occurs when the temperature drops to freezing point, but the adjacent air does not contain enough moisture to form white frost on exposed surfaces. This causes an

internal freezing of the vegetation, leaving it with a blackened appearance and killing it. Black frost is fairly uncommon in Australia.

Killing frost: When a frost period is sufficiently severe that it ends the growing season (or delays the beginning of the season) it is referred to as a killing frost. Killing frosts are normally black frosts and are uncommon in Australia.

Rime: A deposit of ice formed by the rapid freezing of super-cooled water droplets. This type of frost is rare on the surface in Australia, however it regularly affects aircraft flying at higher levels in the atmosphere where the temperature is much cooler.

Some areas, on a regional scale, are particularly prone to frost. These are sometimes referred to as frost hollows, or frost pockets if they are very small. Frost hollows often occur in valleys due to cold air drainage. As the air at the top of a hill cools at night, it becomes dense and heavy compared to surrounding air, and will drain to lower levels. This is referred to as a katabatic wind and can result in frost forming in valleys when surrounding areas remain frost-free.

Frost formation is affected by a series of factors including cloud coverage, humidity, surface winds, topography and location. In Australia, frost is more likely to form under a clear sky, with low humidity and light surface winds.

Cloud cover: Clear skies favour the escape of radiation (heat) from the earth's surface to space. Clouds reflect the

outgoing radiation, slowing the cooling at the surface. Crop covers and tree wraps can be used to manage the risk of frost by preventing the loss of heat during the night.

Humidity: When the air is more humid, internal processes relating to the change of state of water between vapour-liquid-solid causes the release of heat (latent heat). This slows down the cooling, decreasing the likelihood of frost. Spraying water on crops can help to prevent the development of frost. As the liquid water becomes ice, it releases heat, slowing down the cooling process. Care must be taken with this method of frost prevention however, as excessive ice build-up can also harm a crop.

Surface winds: At night, wind can act to mix the cooler air near the surface with warmer air just above it. This slows the radiative cooling at the surface, making frost formation less likely. Wind machines and helicopters are often used to stir up the air around a crop, reducing the likelihood of frost. Heaters also generate a movement of air, helping to enhance their effectiveness in frost prevention.

The occurrence of frost can have a devastating effect on vegetation and crops. Frost potential maps and frost warnings are used by the agriculture industry to manage the risks associated with frost. Frost information is also used by the home gardener to minimise damage to gardens.

The impact that a particular frost event will have on a crop or garden depends upon the severity of the frost and the crop or plants in question. Frost is a localised phenomenon, the severity of which can vary significantly over a very small area. Different crops and plants have different tolerances to frost. Crop type, variety, sowing date, nutrition and stage of growth can all determine the extent to which the crop is affected by a frost.



Special Event - Port Elliot Garden Walk

Sunday 23rd September 2018, 10am - 4.30pm

Pick up your \$15 ticket and map from outside South Seas Books & Trading, 53 North Terrace, Port Elliot.

No tickets will be available at the gardens. Due to the reduced combined entry fee, no concessions will operate for this event.

Four diverse gardens and a productive communal verge all within walking distance in historic Port Elliot will welcome visitors for this special one-day opening.

A strong sense of community and a love of plants has brought together artists, sculptors and collectors with each of the gardens showcasing the different and varied talents of the owners. Stroll through a historic garden first established in 1853, browse in an artist's studio, admire pottery, print making, ceramics and collections, listen to live music, enjoy a plant lover's garden

crammed with natives, succulents and productive plants and see what can be achieved on a verge with neighbourly cooperation.

A map which doubles as a ticket to all the gardens can be purchased outside the South Seas Bookshop on North Terrace, Port Elliot. Then in your own time, stroll through the township enjoying the gardens and the local sights at your leisure. There will be sales of plants, books and artists' work at the gardens and the bookshop.

Printmaker & Potters Garden



Principally an artist's garden, this large coastal block has a unique and charismatic style with decorative objects set amongst Mediterranean plant varieties, Australian natives and water-smart succulents. The garden is home to a pottery and print studio and there are sculptures, ceramics and collected marine ephemera dotted throughout. Several old eucalypts create a shaded area and encourage birds into the garden, succulents are mass planted into carpets and quirky pots are everywhere. A free-style garden where the owners' interest in ceramics and sculpture is displayed in

numerous one-off pieces. The artists' studios will be open and there will be ceramics for sale.

Charteris Place



The town-centred garden of a one-hundred-year-old guest house property from a bygone era transformed during the nineties to become an artistic retreat and a show case for an art practice. The

formal garden is within a private perimeter wall that is capped with a sculpted ivy hedge and demonstrates the intrinsic inter relationship between the sculptural art works and garden design. The beautiful simplicity of the plant selections and placement of striking and varied sculptures achieves a pleasing balance between restful places and colourful sunny areas with the result being an overall tranquil setting with a creative edge.

Muller Garden



A 600sqm block, full to overflowing and spilling out onto the verge! Natives fill the front with the succulent collection starting near the front door, a rainforest area leads to the back

garden where there are ferns and other shade lovers, more native plants, succulent beds and countless plants in pots tucked in amongst herbs and veggie beds. A plant nursery fills the back corner.

It is the garden of a compulsive plant collector and includes inherited 60-year-old ferns, numerous potted Australian plants living happily in containers, an impressive range of succulents and many more treasures all attractively displayed in a compact garden setting. Native and succulent plants will be available for sale.

Glengarry



Surrounding this historic Port Elliot cottage built in 1853 is almost a quarter of an acre of rambling garden. In spring, the side veranda is awash with wisteria and scattered through the garden are

old fashioned plants - early roses, salvias, clivias, cardoons and many other hardy species. The owners have added their individual style to this very old garden with unusual pots and quirky collected objects – there is a serpentine seat, an enormous clam shell, an old boat float, also a rocky pond and statuary to name a few! Take this opportunity to view a very special collection of colonial country

‘stick’ chairs and ‘handmade’ garden tools. Simon, the salvia expert will be on hand with a wide variety of potted plants for sale.

The Verge Garden

Major additions to the early 1920s bungalow took much of the original garden. With reduced space and the owners' fervent enthusiasm for plants the garden soon spread beyond the front fence and onto the then vacant verge. First the lemon tree was planted then geraniums, gerberas and irises all brought from a previous house, the salvias and several roses were added and more recently an avocado tree and a tamarillo. During the following years this ‘verge garden’ has extended up the street as far as the corner with the neighbours across the street also entering into the spirit and utilising their verge space.





Syringa vulgaris (lilac or common lilac)

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.

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

Our mailing address is:

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/opengardensa/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/opengardensa/?hl=en>

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