

ALRU FARM



Walk and Talk with Ruth at 11 AM and 2 PM
Meet on the Homestead Lawn
Teas and lunches available
All gate proceeds donated to OTH CFS

Al Ru Farm History

The 125 acre farm was bought as a weekender by Alan and Ruth to keep their small herd of stud cattle. It didn't take long for them to move permanently to the very small homestead with four children, Ruth's mother and an enthusiastic Retriever in tow. Originally a sheep property with only a few Desert Ash, *Fraxinus oxycarpa* for shade in the paddocks adjacent to the house. While nothing happened to the homestead quickly, the garden however started to grow. It wasn't long before serious forages to interesting nurseries occurred. Sophie Thompson's parents' nursery was a much loved and frequent outing with cheque book in hand and wholesale orders to Victorian tree nurseries were also gleefully executed. Then it was on to Maureen and Dean Ross' Roses for inspiration and orders to follow. The garden has grown to cover 10 acres with new plantings occurring constantly as experiments succeeded and failed along the way.

Early Spring is heralded at Al Ru with a lurid but delightful display of pink *Silene pendula* and lime green *Euphorbia*. Added to these, pink *Argyranthemum* and rose pink *Centranthus ruber* all surrounding the almost bare rose garden really make a show. *Bellis perennis* is rocketing ahead in the lawns and bulbs are showing up everywhere. *Prunus* trees, flowering Pears then all the crab apples, yet to flower are some of the trees that make such a significant contribution to spring. Loose hedging of *Roldana petasitis* is a serious joy to behold with its lovely yellow flowering heads and soft large lime leaves.

The Rose Garden during the Covid-19 lockdowns in 2020 we cut down the *Prunus* trees behind the statues and redid the arbours around them. It has opened up this part of the garden and led to creative pink plantings below. We like this openness, however have just planted a bronze leaf *Crocosma* hedge on the North West and South Eastern axis to eventually cut off the views to the rest of the gardens and give a form of enclosure to the formality of this area.

The Woodland Brimming with *Helleborus*, *Aquilegia*, Blue bells, *Geranium*, *Angelicas* and later two varieties of *Anthropodium cirratum*, Te Puna 40cm flowering first, followed by Matapouri Bay 60cm flowering straight afterwards.

The Meadow Garden Complimenting the white theme of *Bellis perennis* and *Iris x hollandica* flowering at this time of year we have extended the season with white *Lilium longiflorum* in December and white flowering *Anemone hupehensis* in the autumn.

The Lily Pond Lawn This has become a much-used enclosed garden especially for shady wedding ceremonies. This garden is decked out in various shades of pink. Firstly, double flowering pink *Helleborus* close to the pond then various varieties of *Liliums* flowering for three months from November.

Following on, powder puff pink *Sedum spectabilis* edging the lawn with pale pink *Crinum moorei* lilies perfuming the air. A slight interruption of the pink with blue and white *Plectranthus ecklonii* just makes it interesting. The crowning glory in autumn are the pink flowering Japanese *Anemone hupehensis* nodding tall and stately above their foliage.

The Silver Border The length of the main access path from the far end of the carpark to the garden is brimming with Dutch *Iris Hollandica* 'Angel's Wings', my favourite, in early spring followed by *Euphorbia*, *Echinops*, *Erryngium* and *Salvia nemorosa* Caradonna later in the season. These beds shimmer with silvers, greys, purples and blues right through the year.

Covid Projects The forced cancellation of our 2020 wedding events allowed some much needed renovations in the garden. Our black lattice work has been replaced. The pergola by the lilypond has been improved with the addition of new sleepers and many of the garden have had their edges redone.



Accommodation

We have three suites available for guests wanting to share our garden. There is nothing nicer than walking around with a glass of wine in the evening light. I love that time in the garden and you can enjoy it too!

The Garden Pavillion stands alone in it's own and very private garden, which is brimming with scented plants. Once inside you feel as though you are in a French country chateau.

The Australian Suite with commissioned Australian bush mural across all walls this is one of the most unique places to stay. Fairy lights adorn the ceiling on gumtree branches, creating the most evocative environment for romance.

The International Suite sleeps six, with separate bunk room and two bathrooms this is the perfect space for a larger group or family. Oversized original artwork and funky antique mirrors adorn the walls. Venetian and English antiques give that international look of palazzo style. Dimmed chandeliers and a huge pink cherry blossom tree twinkling with fairy lights adds that extra level of pazzas.

Weddings and Events

We enjoy helping couples plan their special days, with ceremonies in the garden and receptions in our romantic barn.

Recently we added other events. Our 2020 picnic with Dixieland Jazz band was such a success that we are repeating this winning formula again this year. We view these events as 'charity for the garden' and as a wonderful way to share our passion with so many happy guests.

Thank you for coming and sharing our garden with us.

Please come again!

Ruth and Alan Irving



@alru_farm #alrufarm

**www.alru.com.au - info@alru.com.au
(08) 8280 7353 - 1016 One Tree Hill SA 5114**