



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

## Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to

# Al Ru Farm

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2025

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Many of you have been to this garden before. Indeed, some of you have supported the garden for many years. We try to give you alternative plantings and new ideas every year, but still maintaining the core plant structures.

Weddings have contributed towards this garden and all our projects. We are planting more permanent and drought tolerant plants, while still focusing on the different seasons and interesting colour pallets.

We will still have seeding plants, restricted to smaller areas to make the garden more manageable. The focus is now on good bones and much more mass planting, but not to the extent of municipal gardens, otherwise this garden would lose its individual identity and the biodiversity for which it is known.

The mantra is still 'experiment with different types' to get the right look we are trying to achieve. We want our garden to remain soft, not hard-edged and spiky. To become a haven for us and our friends. Cool in summer, with cooling grass, flowers, shrubs and trees. Hard paving is still avoided, although, over much discussion, we decided to limit gravel to utility areas. We have begun adding natives by the bullpens next to the chessboard under our huge eucalypt tree.

We have an unruly teenage English mastiff, Ruby, yet not disciplined enough for general consumption. This should change in another few months. She is delightful if a little too boisterous still for her own good. Peewee, our resident guinea fowl, is learning to adapt to her as are the cats.

We want you to enjoy our rambling country garden. It is a garden to be lazy in, to walk and talk in, to eat, drink and read in. It is a garden for sharing, to be alone and contemplate in. It is a garden made over 45 years with much love by Ruth, to share with you. We hope you enjoy it today, as much as we all do.

***Alan, Peewee, Ruby and the Staff at Al Ru Farm***