



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

# Open Gardens South Australia Welcomes you to **Auricht House**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2025

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## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Auricht House (we named it in recognition of its original owner), an elegant residence constructed in 1906, was originally built for the local physician, Dr Theodore Auricht. The property not only served as his home but also housed his medical practice, supporting the community from within its walls. Dr Auricht made use of the barn at the rear as a stable for his horse and cart. In honour of his dedicated service to Hahndorf, the adjacent road was named Auricht Road.

## **TRANSITION THROUGH TIME**

Following the passing of Dr Auricht, the house was sold in 1965 and became known as 'Ye Olde Magnolia Tea Rooms'. Over subsequent years, the once-pristine garden became overgrown, and the house itself faded from view.

## **REVIVAL EFFORTS**

When we acquired Auricht House in 2016, it had been unoccupied for several years and had become home to numerous families of possums and the house was in a state of disrepair. Our vision was to rejuvenate both the house and its gardens, embarking on a restoration journey that would prove both rewarding and, at times, demanding.

Clearing away the dense overgrowth revealed that the property was on a much steeper block than we had anticipated. This unexpected discovery led to significant work on drainage and the construction of retaining walls. The original slate pathways in the front garden, though charming, were damaged and uneven, posing a safety hazard and requiring replacement.

## **PRESERVING CHARACTER**

Throughout the renovation, we have strived to maintain and restore as much of the original house as possible. Stone walls, inside and out, have been thoroughly cleaned, stripped of paint, and repointed, revealing their natural beauty. The decorative arches within the house have also been carefully repaired.

## **GARDEN TRANSFORMATION**

The expertise of Hills Classic Gardens has been instrumental in reimagining the grounds. Their creative design has resulted in new retaining walls at the front of the property, skilfully constructed from stone salvaged during the removal of the back wall which made way for the house's new extension.

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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.

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Of particular attention to us were the significant trees, ensuring they were given great attention during the renovations. We have two large Oak trees, a Pine tree (the namesake of Pine Avenue), the Blue Cedar and of course the beautiful Magnolia tree.

The refreshed front garden now features expansive lawns, stone pathways, and thoughtfully chosen plantings. The structure is formal in nature with the arbours, stone pathways and large beds of plantings, cottage in design, together with large areas of Blue Fescue lawns.

We learned over the early years that some plants weren't so happy with the bore water we use for irrigation, so they were replaced as required. Another area that was challenging was underneath the Pine tree and Blue Cedar. These are such thirsty trees that we needed to select drought tolerant plantings.

The original curved driveway entrance on the corner of the property was once the main entrance for Dr Auricht. It has now become a focal point and home to a cart which Stuart used for years on his many outback treks with his Clydesdale horses.

The original fishpond continues to grace the garden and is the home to many generations of fish.

Welcome to our garden

Stuart & Valerie