



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to

Bostonvista

Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd October, 2023

This garden is now 8 years old, and you will notice many plants have matured and the garden is much more developed. Extra paths have been added for access to the rose and protea gardens. We do need to remove a shrub occasionally which has not been suitable to the position it was planted. Gardening is a continual learning experience.

The block was bare on purchase and featured the following challenges: a long driveway, an abundance of surface, hidden and reef granite, a wide range of soil, types predominantly heavy clay/loam over pure yellow clay stratum with depths ranging from 25 to 130 centimetres. The block runs north/south with a natural slope to the eastern (sea side) boundary.

Annual rainfall is 375-500mls. No mains water is available. Early on we realized we would have run-off and soil saturation issues, and this formed much of our early garden design and landscaping thinking. The block featured a remnant of the natural Wattle cover and we were keen to preserve that.

Karen is the creative force behind all you see; she designed the house, surrounds and garden. Rick tries to enact Karen's ideas and by and large it is working out and we are still married!

The sea view dictated where to make a cut and place the house. Our vision for Bostonvista was to have a property which was energy and resource efficient with surrounds which were varied, textured, colourful, seasonal and above all calm and connects with the abundance of nature our location affords.

A few "learnings" we'd like to share from our work at Bostonvista:

You can swear at granite (lots!) or use it as a resource; we have done both but have been pleased we have been able to structurally and creatively use over 3000 tons of it. Rick bought an older Bobcat with 4 in 1 bucket and hired both contractors and excavators to make what you now see.

Rick had experience in water and irrigation in the Riverland and used that to engineer a catchment and drainage system which has largely overcome the run-off and soil saturation issues. You don't see much of it as it is in-ground up to a meter deep in places.

Gypsum and pea straw are our main soil conditioners; we are so lucky to be able to purchase both in bulk locally. The naturally slightly acidic granitous soils work well with this combination and drain better.

We use a lot of mulch in the decorative garden to control weeds, preserve soil moisture and moderate root temperatures. Sourcing quality mulch locally can prove challenging and expensive.

Having friends in the area who also value gardening has been a real help; they are a font of knowledge and have been very generous with seed and plant cuttings. Well over half of our plantings have been from them.

Know how much water you will need before you plant; our garden runs on rainwater and we store 130kl for gardens and orchard. Thus far this has proven plenty as we have been surprised and delighted with how efficient the pump-out recycled water from our Fuji effluent treatment system has been. Using in-ground dripper hose, much of the rose gardens are watered by this technology.

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.

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

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

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Share whatever you have in abundance with your neighbours and friends; this is one of the best parts of being able to have a garden. Never forget there are many who are unable to generate the inevitable bounty gardens give, whether it be plants, flowers, veggies or fruit.

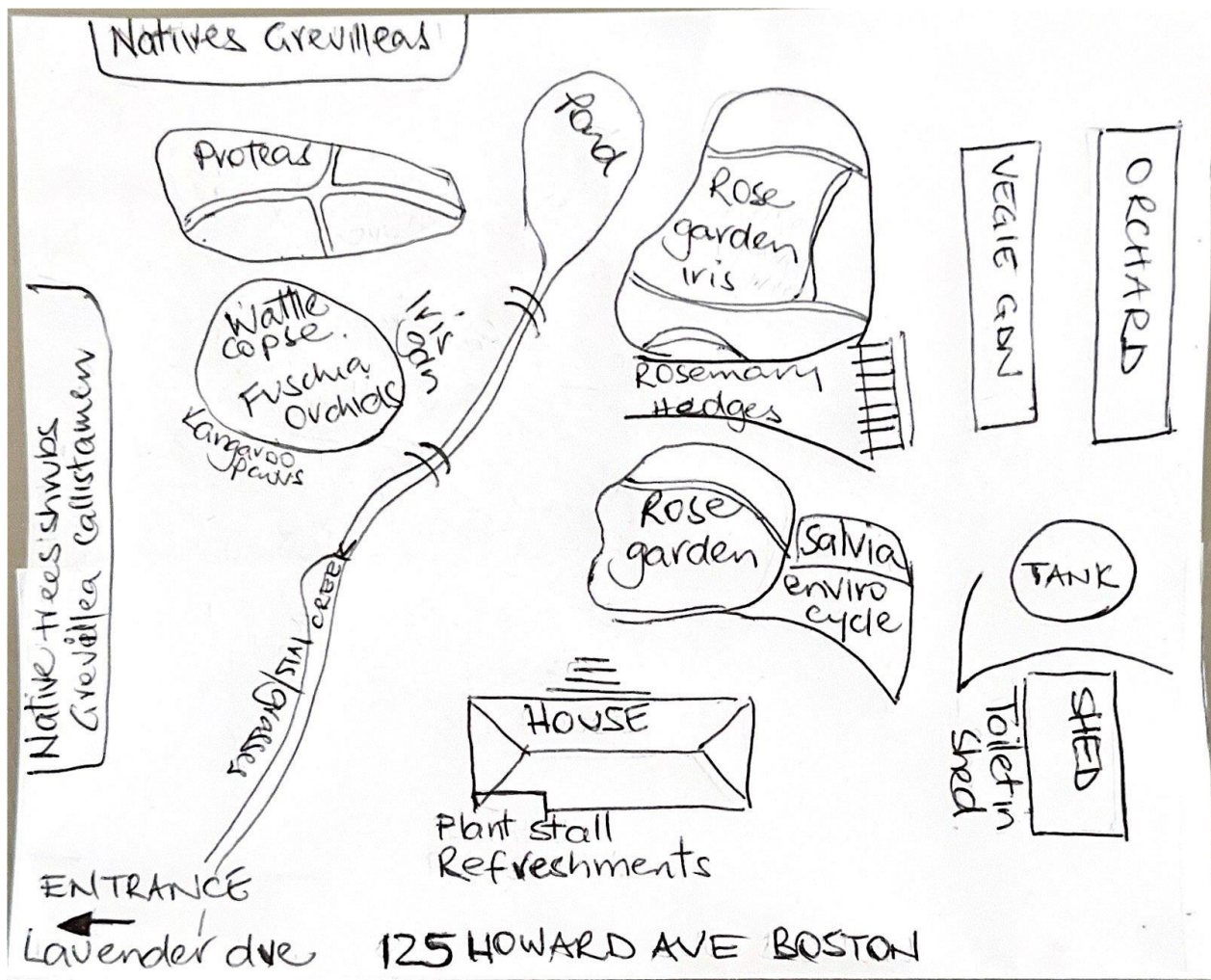
Work or recreation? Bit hard to define this but as we progress our garden time becomes less about 'hard yakka' and more about enjoyment mixed with satisfaction. Karen describes our garden as being in two parts; one for the soul (decorative) and one for the stomach (veggies and orchard).

Our favourite garden places? Karen is keen on the soulful reflection which comes from within the "copse" whilst Rick remains fascinated with the trees in the orchard. Look out for the new village of painted rocks (a work in progress) and a trail for children to find bits and pieces and painted rocks which they can find and rehide elsewhere.

There are lots of technical and floristic questions we hope you have and look forward to answering them over the Open Garden experience. We are on Facebook (Bostonvista garden) if you would like to check in on our garden's journey.

Welcome to our garden.

Karen and Rick Miels.



The gardens that open for us are chosen to reflect a great diversity of styles and may even challenge the conventional view of what constitutes a garden. While aspects of a garden may not be to your taste, we urge you to celebrate this diversity. Please remember you are visiting a private home and show respect and sensitivity for the owners who have so generously shared their garden with you. Thank you.