



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia Welcomes you to **Garden**

Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th October, 2025

This garden is now 10 years old; you will notice many plants have matured whilst also noting many new plantings which are filling 'gaps'. The last 18 months have had their challenges with drought, wind and rabbits.

Drought taught us not all natives are as hardy as suggested. We lost many of the South African bushes, all the Proteas, Leucodendrons, and Leucospermum. Coincidentally, Karen recently visited South Africa and noticed most of the plants lost, were thriving in higher rainfall areas! When we experience similar drought conditions, we now know to give these plants an extra monthly watering. We also lost 2 Banksias and a native Weeping Myrtle. Rabbits; blood and bone helps but lots of shielding has also been needed.

To find an 'upside', the 15 lost bushes have been replaced by 22; it will be exciting to see how the new colours and textures grow into the garden.

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 re-hide elsewhere.

The following are annotations from past notes. Please ask for extra information if interested.

Our 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. Other challenges: a long driveway, an abundance of surface, hidden and reef granite, a wide range of soil types, predominantly heavy clay. 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!

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:

Granite; a nuisance or resource? Much time and \$ spent on drainage works; can you see it?

Gypsum and pea straw are our main soil conditioners. (both hard to source).

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.

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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Know how much water you will need before you plant; our garden runs on rainwater and we store 130kl for gardens and orchard. Pleasantly surprised at how efficient the pump-out recycled water from our Fuji effluent treatment system has been.

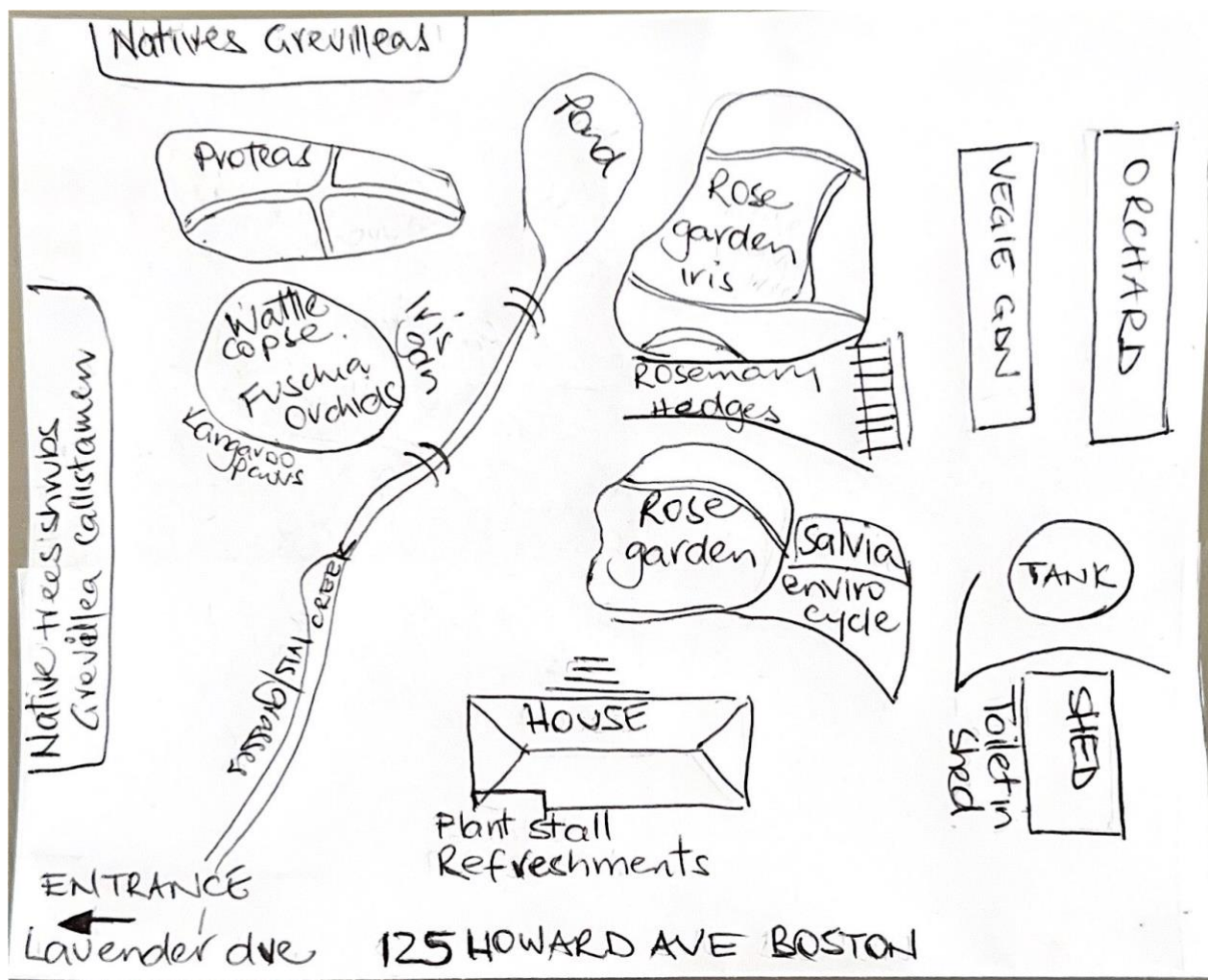
Share whatever you have in abundance with your neighbours and friends; this is one of the pleasures of being able to have a garden.

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/textured) and one for the stomach (veggies and orchard).

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.