



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

# Open Gardens South Australia

## Welcomes you to

# COOINDA

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April & Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 8 Fowler Road, Mt George

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The garden at Coinda was established by the late Mrs Chris Steele Scott OAM, who together with Chris Laurie OAM was a founder of the former Open Gardens Australia and its chair in South Australia. Starting in 2004 she planted the valley with choice trees and shrubs creating magnificent views and a stunning setting with a spring fed dam centre stage on the property. The sloping land is retained with dry stone walls which along with hedging and clipped plants add structure and some formality. Except for the dam, all the work was performed by Chris with the assistance of her husband Nigel who now maintains the garden with help from Dee Baker who once a fortnight makes a crucial contribution.

As a plantswoman with an aesthetic eye for style, Chris grouped many of her plants as collections and there are many uncommon plants. Scattered in sheltered spots are many species Cyclamen.

Tall old trees make a welcoming entrance from the South with the long lawn flanked by mature Cottonwoods on one side and established Oaks, Pines, Turpentine and Eucalyptus on the other. This was the palette from which Chris established the garden. Approaching the house, the drive is lined with golden Clivias with Rhododendrons establishing under the Oaks and a grove of Plectranthus on the other side for winter flowers. Hellebores and a few Azaleas are below a massed planting of Acer palmatum dissecta. Throughout the garden the lovely feathery fine foliage of various species of Japanese maples abounds.

Between the house and the car shed is garden of ferns, Orange Clivias and Camellias with many scented plants including Luculia, Daphne, Sweet box and Choisea. On the southern wall of the house is the rare Schizofragma hydrangeoides another amazing, scented plant. And above the house is a small parterre garden where perennial flowers such as Peonies emerge from time to time. It leads on to a rambling mix of Australian natives.

Seeking North facing and water views, Chris reorganised the house to face to the north-west, siting the dam so much of the garden is visible from the kitchen bench through an open plan kitchen and living room. A line of fastigate crab apples continues the drive into the farm flanked on the eastern side by a large matt of creeping Grevillea a stretch of blue Echium above yellow daisies and on the other a vegetable garden with apples on dwarfing root stocks. Below the drive is one of three Rose gardens contained by an Euonymus hedge and at the edge of the dam is a large Gunnerrah.

The dam is surrounded by autumn colour flanked by Pin Oaks on the eastern side, with many deciduous conifers at the northern end. On the western side a large array of Maples, Cissus, Cercis, Oaks, Nyssa, and Liquidambers. The edge of the dam is lined with shrub form Dogwoods, Black Willow and Iris. Below the dam wall there are coloured Beeches.

Below the house there are many American and Japanese Dogwoods, camellias, windflowers and another rose garden framed by standard Grevilleas. A path leads between Mop Top Hydrangeas on one side and Lace Wing on the other to a large Magnolia planting. In the Machinery yard are a variety of fruit trees.

The cold and wet winter and spring of 2022 challenged many established plantings and whilst most have bounced back, several were lost. Parts of the garden are still wet.

At all times of the year something is happening in this garden!

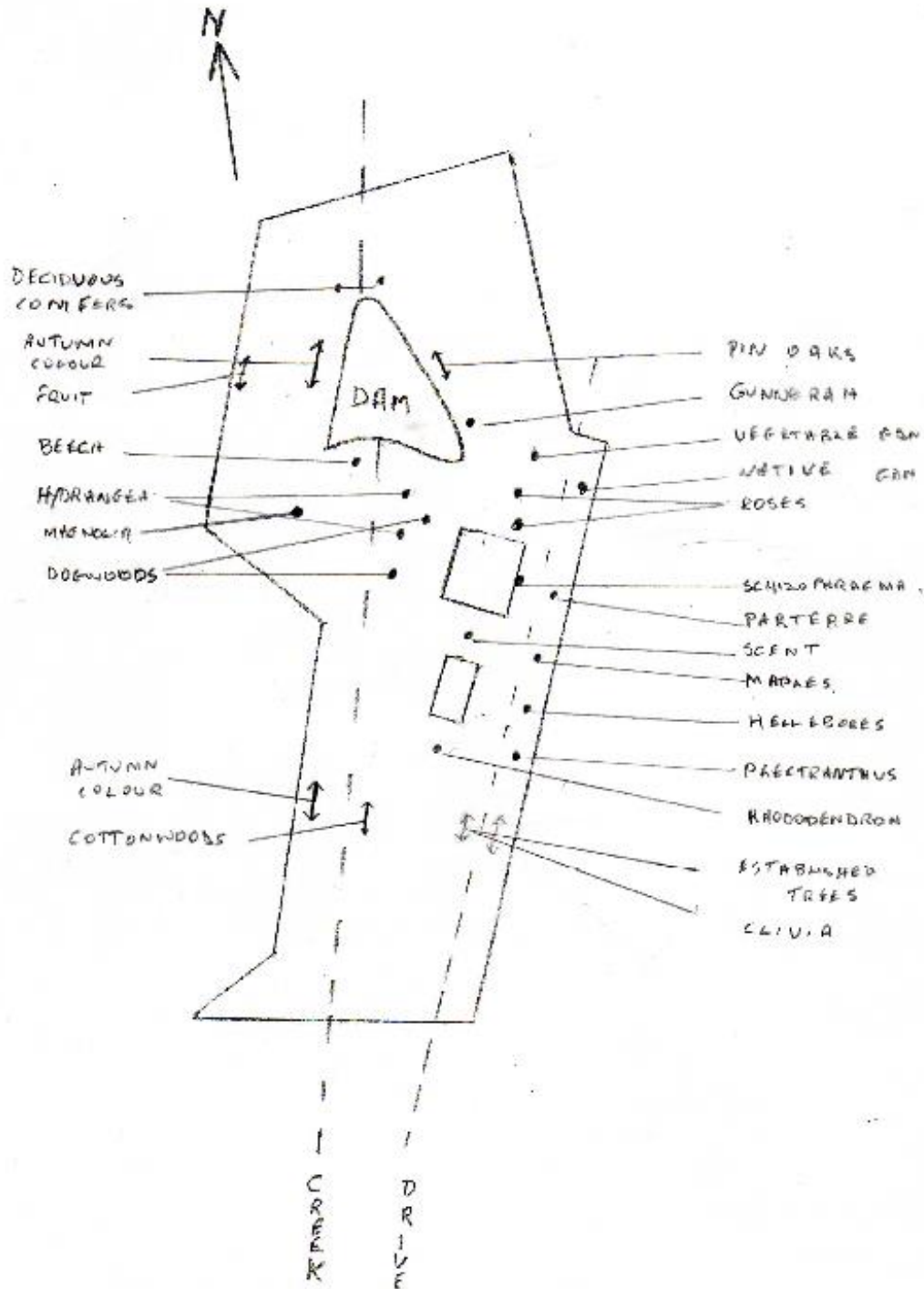
**PTO for 'Mud Map'**

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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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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.