



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

# Open Gardens South Australia Welcomes you to **DROUIN**

**Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 November 2024 12 Mossop Court, Littlehampton**

Our garden journey began 10 years ago. I was looking for a project for my husband for his retirement following many years of working 60 hours per week. I not only found a project but a whole new lifestyle living on 5 acres. We were fortunate that we had some mature trees in the front garden to set up the framework, however the back garden was basically a blank canvas and over the years we have planted over 400 trees. As the trees grow the garden changes from somewhere exposed to the elements to sheltered microclimates in each of the areas separated by hedges. Naturally now we have areas in shade that were previously full sun and that has an impact on what we can grow. So the garden is changing yet again, where we had roses we now have camellias! The roses now total over 1000 and fortunately relocating some to a sunnier spot is not an issue, we have plenty of space.

Our 5 golden elms in the back lawn are now 4 as the smallest one finally succumbed after attacks from elm leaf beetle. These are my favourite shade tree, I just love the lime green of the foliage and they are just the most amazing trees to sit under.

The woodland garden under the claret and golden ashes out the front has been a difficult area to get right. It is full shade in summer and very dry and very wet in winter. Our plan was to fill it with hydrangeas but they have been generally slow to get established. In September it is a sea of daffodils and jonquils, over 8000. Fortunately, the violets have filled all the blank spots and the cliveas are slowly getting more established. I have enjoyed the challenge to get this right, gardening is a lot of 'trial and error' but Jim always dreads planting there because of the incredible number of tree roots close to the surface which stop plants from growing well. Generally, the answer seems to be more water in summer! Finally, I can say it is almost there!

Water is a huge part of our garden with 8 features in total. A reflective pond was installed in our Japanese courtyard just outside our study. This was an area I was planning with my dear friend Jeanette who was my garden mentor. She sadly died from Motor Neuron in 2021, hence for the second time this Open is in her memory. All money raised this weekend will be donated to MND South Australia.

Although there are some formal areas with the roses I prefer our garden to have a more natural feel. I do not like formal bedding plants mass planted in bright colours and love to mix plants up! Roses are mixed in with other plants as well as in formal rose beds. There are huge numbers of irises, Jim's favourites, in the garden and the area around the lake looks fantastic in late October, early November.

The garden is very much a work in progress. Projects recently completed include a bridge over the lake and a knot garden replacing a large iris garden in the rose area out the front. 50 David Austin Jubilee celebration, which is my favourite rose, were planted in this bed this year.

Yes, we do it all ourselves, it is a team effort. Jim starts at 7.00 every morning and does all the heavy work. I am the weeder and pruner; the roses take 6 weeks to prune! This garden is like having a job as it is a full time pursuit which keeps us fit and busy. We take annual leave in June and go overseas to see yet more gardens and gain some ideas. A five-week holiday is very nice but it is even nicer to come home!

It has been a dream of mine to share the garden through Open Gardens and hopefully visitors will enjoy the journey of a developing garden in coming years. Thank you for visiting 'Drouin'.

Sue and Jim Smith

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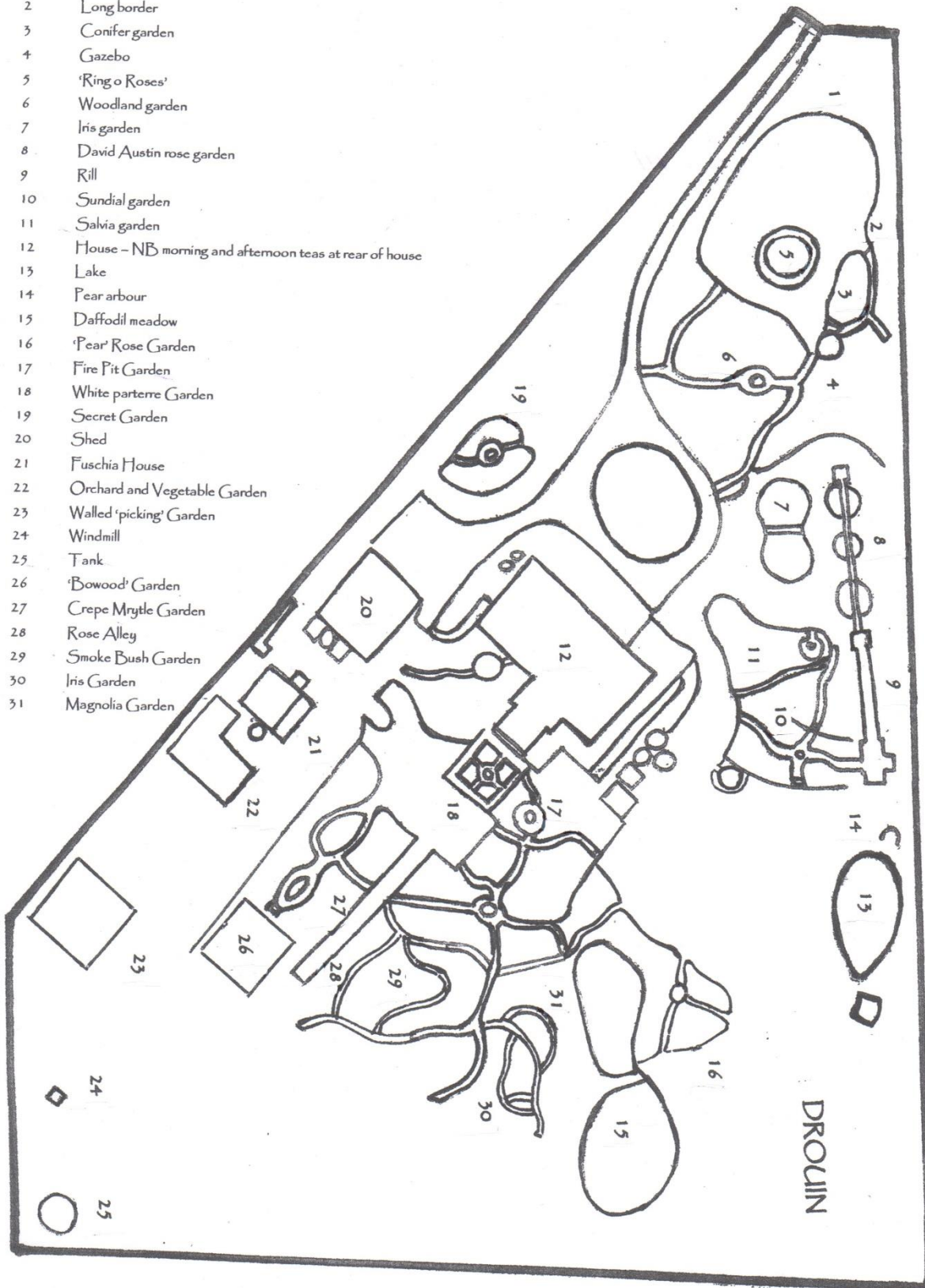
**Open Gardens South Australia Inc:** is a not for profit organisation opening private gardens to the general public. The purpose of Open Gardens SA is to educate and promote the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening in South Australia and to build strong public support for the development of gardens.

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

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

DROUIN - KEY TO GARDEN

- 1 'Hebe' garden
- 2 Long border
- 3 Conifer garden
- 4 Gazebo
- 5 'Ring o' Roses'
- 6 Woodland garden
- 7 Iris garden
- 8 David Austin rose garden
- 9 Rill
- 10 Sundial garden
- 11 Salvia garden
- 12 House - NB morning and afternoon teas at rear of house
- 13 Lake
- 14 Pear arbour
- 15 Daffodil meadow
- 16 'Pear' Rose Garden
- 17 Fire Pit Garden
- 18 White parterre Garden
- 19 Secret Garden
- 20 Shed
- 21 Fuschia House
- 22 Orchard and Vegetable Garden
- 23 Walled 'picking' Garden
- 24 Windmill
- 25 Tank
- 26 'Bowood' Garden
- 27 Crepe Myrtle Garden
- 28 Rose Alley
- 29 Smoke Bush Garden
- 30 Iris Garden
- 31 Magnolia Garden



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.