



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

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

Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th April, 2025

Welcome to Evesham

The property 'Evesham' dates back to the 1870s when the north west region of Stirling was opened up to coincide with the commencement of the building of the Adelaide to Melbourne railway. The first leg of this was the Adelaide to Nairne line, with the first terminus at Aldgate station completed in 1883.

Prominent nineteenth century South Australians started building some of the district's grand summer houses, including on the ridge, attracted by the views to the west and over the Aldgate valley eastwards, as well as the proximity of a road and the new railway. The ridge was named after Sir Walter Scott's popular Waverley novels, and the name 'Evesham' also originates from the novels.

The property changed hands on several occasions, and the land was subdivided, until in 1931 it was sold to Claridge Jackman, the wife of HM Jackman, a well-known Adelaide architect. The large Arts and Crafts style house built by the Jackmans in the early 1930s saw many renovations and changes over the subsequent 90 years. It featured with photographs in the December 1937 edition of SA Homes & Gardens magazine, which reveals a garden of similar layout as currently, but bordered with laurel hedges and containing immature trees and extensive beds of lupins.

The current owners have resided here since 2009, and extensive restoration work has been undertaken on the garden. Significant clearing of self-seeded Portuguese laurel and holly trees, ivy, and agapanthus plants was required initially, stone steps and drystone walls were repaired, and an old pond excavated, resealed and capped with wrought iron.

An attempt has been made to preserve the Edwardian, or Arts and Crafts style, of the 1930s garden, in terms of garden structure, materials, and plantings. Remnants of the original laurel hedges have been restored, and new stone walls and paths constructed using Adelaide Hills sandstone and bluestone.

Many of the original trees from the 1930s remain, including a magnificent Linden tree, a Sitka spruce, and a Douglas fir, and have been added to with contemporary plantings of Edwardian era flora such as a birch copse grown from seed. Rhododendrons have been added to using layering propagation, and roses and hydrangeas bolstered through cuttings.

A number of small sculptural elements sourced from local art fairs and markets add to the character of the garden. The custodians of this garden feel that it manages to preserve the ambience of a past era, and at the same time provide a contemporary enjoyable greenspace, with peaceful views across the Aldgate valley. Please feel free to rest a while, ask questions, and enjoy a coffee and cookie.

Thank you to the numerous helpers and volunteers, including the boys of St Peters College Young House. Recognition of major contributions to the restoration of this garden are deserved, in particular: Andrew Jefferis for many years of blood, sweat, tears, advice, passion, and encouragement, and José Paim Bruges, Master Adelaide Hills stonemason.

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.