



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

## Open Gardens South Australia

# Welcomes you to **FROSTY FLATS**

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

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I married into a fourth generation Dairy Farm in 1988. The garden up until then was mainly for veggies, only 3 Apple trees made any height in the garden. In 1989 my garden started – I planted Conifers, Gums, Chinese Elms and Callistemons and mowed the grass in between. Over the years beds were formed and gradually filled with shrubs. Now I want as much colour as I can all year round with close planted beds that make up different rooms of the garden.

The Conifers, Gums and a few Chinese Elms were cut down in 2009 & 2010 so I could open up the garden more and lessen fire hazard. I replanted with Prunus for light shade and to keep coolness in the garden.

The garden is surrounded by a Callistemon 'Endeavour' hedge for privacy. The beds now mainly consist of 800 Roses, Irises, Daylilies, Cannas, Geraniums, Penstemons, Aquilegias, Sedums, Alstromerias, Asters, Clematis and Bulbs. Everything needs to survive minus 6 degree frost.

My husband and I have built Arbours of rustic timbers from the farm for climbing Roses and Clematis. Homemade bird scarers are hanging around the garden to deter parrots from the Roses and 2 bird scaring Hawks are a new addition to help with the problem. The small creek is bordered with stone from an original homestead building that was pulled down due to instability. The pergola was built in 2005 from recycled timber and iron. Old farm machinery that was once used to work our farm is nestled amongst the beds.

The loamy soil has had many years of cow manure added to it. Now I use Neutrog pellet fertilisers. The garden is watered by our bore through in – line drippers. The water does have 2,500 parts / million salt in it.

I would spend 3 – 6 days a week in my garden depending on the time of year. Two gardens on the southern side of the driveway were started in 2010 and 2011, the larger of the two was a calf paddock. My husband jokingly said I could plant a couple of trees in there for shade for the calves – BIG MISTAKE! My planning began and in a few months it was fenced off and I started planting in March 2011. This garden mainly consists of Prunus, Crabapples, groundcover Roses, Sedums, Irises, Daffodils a Fig and a Quince. An old seeder takes pride of place in the centre of this garden. Beyond this the most southern garden which is 1,050sqm was started in October 2014, about 9 months of spraying out weeds then the planting started in July 2015, another calf paddock succumbs to garden! It is now full of thousands of bulbs, Crabapples, Prunus and Ornamental Pear trees. Rustic machinery, old gates and tree stumps are placed around a meandering path with log seats.

We hope you find Frosty Flats interesting and enjoyable.

Alex and Neil

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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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