



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to

Y Creigiau

Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th September, 2024

Why the name?? We are of Welsh background, and this means “Rocks” which we have plenty of!!!

This is the eighth garden, around the state from the Far North to the South East, that we have established! Ours is not a formal garden because of the topography of the land and the variation of the soils.

We moved into this property almost 11 years ago. We fell in love with the house the minute we walked into it and the land gave us space and a view which is what we wanted, although with that, it has given us many challenges!

The block consisted of lots of large gum trees, a smattering of natives, 4 mature fruit trees and some beautiful big moss rocks. The soil is acidic with many, many rocks, quartz & felspar, which has proved difficult when digging holes for large trees!

The first major imperative was getting water to the whole garden. From only 2 outside taps, one on each side of the house, we now have 26 taps. Initially we watered the plants and trees with 25+ dripper lines. After a few years this system became too cumbersome with frequent blockages and breaks. We then decided to install battery operated overhead watering systems. We began with 8 and now have 18. These have proved very successful timewise and maintenance wise. 4 out of the 18 systems are equalising dripper lines, which, again have made such a difference, particularly on the terraces. When we moved in, there were 2 areas of succulents which I didn't like and wanted to remove, however because of the poor rocky soil they have been retained and added to, I now have much respect for succulents!!

When our son decided to have his wedding here in 2016, we developed 3 grassed areas and 2 flower gardens, there were no flowers originally! We have planted numerous deciduous trees, a variety of native shrubs, particularly eremophilas and salvias, fruit trees (now, up to 11), succulents, and over 1000 bulbs and flowers. Not always were these plantings successful!! One of our success stories is the Jacaranda tree, which is our third attempt!! and another, keeping a frangipani plant alive over winter as we can suffer hard frosts. But I think now we have worked out what works and doesn't work. Keeping water up to everything is always a bit of a headache, financially and physically, but worth the effort in the long run.

We have numerous areas around the garden, dependant on season and weather, where we can sit and have a glass of wine at the end of the day. During COVID the garden was a saviour. Because we are elevated, we do experience beautiful sun rises and sun sets.

We have installed two water features, more flower areas, five paths, of which 2 can accommodate a quad and trailer; as our block is reasonably steep and garden supplies etc. need to be transported up to the top of the driveway; a set of steps from the front door, down into the garden and along a path to a new parking area, a feature I particularly love. We have just completed a third parking

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>

Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening.

area at the bottom of the garden. Although our garden is 1 ½ acres, parking has always been a difficulty. We are embarking on a circular path into the centre of the garden and one across the back of the house where again the soil is very poor and rocky.

The first few years after winter we were inundated with numerous weeds, so we learnt that mulching is a necessity, not only to discourage weeds but also to keep moisture in the soil. We heavily mulch with pea straw every year, using 6-8 large round bales.

We hope you enjoy your visit to our garden.

Derek & Lynne's Garden at 20 Keyneton Road. Eden Valley.

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.