



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to

Kangaroo Island Rare Plant Garden

Sunday 4th & Monday 5th October, 2026

Welcome to the Kangaroo Island Rare Plant Garden, a place of beauty, inspiration and conservation. We hope you enjoy your time wandering along the paths and take time to read the signs that identify the plant species as well as provide information on where they grow. Please sit and rest in the architect-designed shelter to enjoy the scenery and to contemplate the varied colours and textures of the Island's amazing and unique plants.

The Garden provides a snapshot of the different plant communities of Kangaroo Island in one small place and looks its best in spring, with splashes of pink, blue, yellow, red, purple, cream and white flowers. The yellows come from the big and bright flowers of the *Xerochrysum* daisies that like to self-seed everywhere, including the paths, brilliant reds from *Grevillea lavandulacea* ssp. *rogersii*, hot pink against deep green foliage from *Grevillea quinquenervis* and cream from the massed flowers of *Spyridium waterhousei*.

This multi-purpose garden was established following the extensive fires in 2020 to help conserve the threatened native plants of the Island. About 100 plant species are showcased from water plants and tiny forbs to large shrubs and trees, many of which are regionally or nationally threatened and some are endemic, i.e. found nowhere else in the world. A hedge of more common KI species surrounds the garden to soften the fencelines and offer protection from pesky weed seeds blowing in.

The garden is only four years old so the trees and larger shrubs will take some time to provide shade and shelter, but we are fortunate in having the borrowed landscape of the property's surrounding trees – red gums, narrow-leaved mallees and sheoaks. The eastern half of the garden is still under construction, with a recent addition being a children's adventure play area. Here the overflow ponds can accommodate plants requiring seasonal inundation, while the swale enables excess water to drain away towards the billabongs of the nearby Cygnet River.

Generally, the northern section of the garden supports plants from the eastern end of the Island and the southern half is home to the plants of western Kangaroo Island. There are numerous numbered beds, with some grouping plants from particular habitats, e.g. coastal plant communities, and signs give more information about these communities and some of their plants. There are several small ponds featuring water plants, and an ephemeral wetland. Last spring and summer we were thrilled to have a few Glossy Black Cockatoos coming into the ponds to drink in the late afternoon.

The garden is maintained by a very enthusiastic and dedicated band of volunteers who meet weekly to weed, water, propagate plants, collect seed, plant and help with the hard landscaping. The Friends meet on Wednesdays from 10am till 1pm and are always looking for new volunteers to help out and to gain new skills.

One aim of the Garden is to establish more populations of threatened plants on KI, hence the opportunity to buy tubestock of selected plant species, thus encouraging their use in gardens and in the broader landscape.

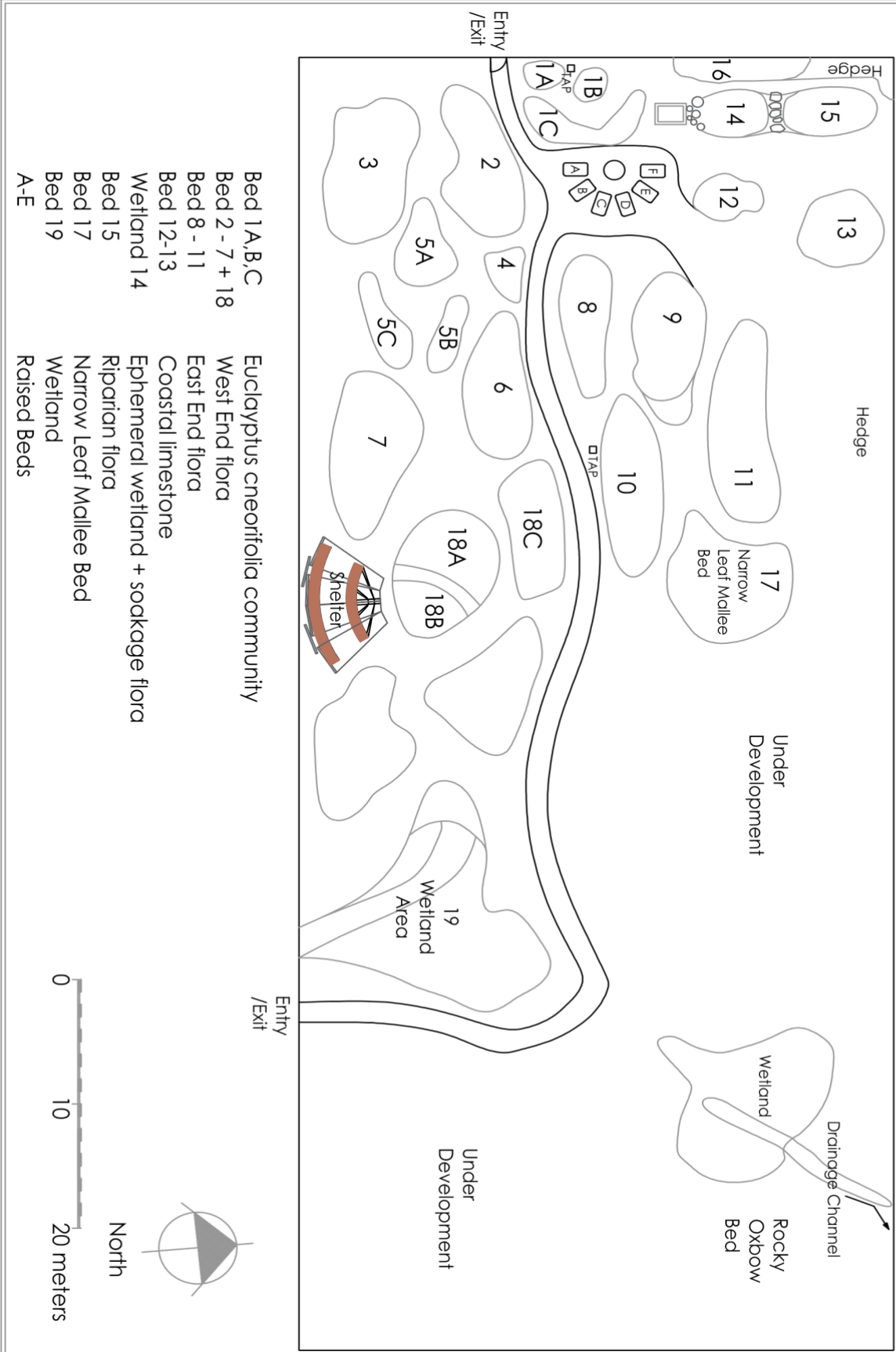
A list of all the plant species in the garden and a more detailed account of the history of the garden and its conservation importance are available on separate handouts – please ask at the reception desk if you would like more information.

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>

Kangaroo Island Rare Pant Garden (KI Threatened Plant Seed Orchard)



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.