



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to

KENTON PARK

Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 October, 2023

437 Torrens Valley Road, Gumeracha

Kenton Park is situated on the edge of the Gumeracha township the home and garden is nestled on the edge of the river Torrens surrounded by huge oak, elm, river she-oaks and an ancient river redgum.

This will be our second open garden and fund raiser for Gumeracha CFS, we have plenty of off street parking, a display of Vintage cars tractors and trucks, there are a number of places to sit and enjoy a cuppa and a cake or scone dotted around the garden.

The original owners, William Beavis Randell (WB) and his wife Mary Anne settled here in about 1838, they arrived from Devon in England in 1837 with their seven children . They built barn first starting in 1839 and then the house which was completed in about 1844. Initially Mary Anne and the younger children lived in a tent on the banks of the Torrens in the 10 month old settlement of Adelaide. Then a little more comfortably in "Park Cottage " Hackney , while their home on 1000 acres at Gumeracha was being built .

The garden around the house was established extensively with hedges and exotic plants from around the world. We have many oak trees which very possibly came here as acorns from Sherwood Forest. In addition the garden has some lovely rose beds a rare Chilean wine Palm, a weeping Mulberry, crab Apples, Crepe Myrtles, Lilacs, Magnolia and Bay Trees, along with Yews, Hydrangeas along with Carobs, Irish Strawberry, Ash, Liquid Amber trees and a giant variegated Flax. Some invasive plants such as the Oyster Plant and the Dracula's Vulgaris have survived several attempts to thin them out.

WB joined the South Australia Company after his original business venture failed.

Their eldest son later nicknamed Captain Randell was a steamship pioneer on the river Murray we understand that he built his first Paddle steamer from wood felled around the Gumeracha area.

WB built a steam driven Flour Mill in Gumeracha, and the Baptist Church and created the township of Gumeracha. We understand the first meetings of the Baptist Church in SA were held in the barn then in what is now our kitchen.

The 23acres we own remained in the Randall name until about 1997.

We run a small flock of Finn/East Friesian /Border Leicester ewes have lambs, and share about 15 Peacocks with the Big Rocking Horse across the road and host the occasional wedding on the property but we restrict this to family and friends.

Both of us are active members of the Gumeracha CFS and the Gumeracha Community Resilience Group.

We fell in love with the 23 acre property in 2009 and cannot imagine living anywhere else. We are both keen gardeners and have spent the last 14 years looking after and extending the garden and making some additions and improvements to the home and outbuildings. Between us we have 7 children and 11 grandchildren

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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