



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to

The Kidman Garden

Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th November, 2023

Welcome to our garden. Sid and I moved here from our farm, Limestone Ridge, in November 2014. After 38 years our farmhouse and garden were getting too big for us, so we swapped houses with our son and daughter in law and began again. We assessed things for about 18 months and then began some extensive renovations. In the process the back and eastern sides of the existing garden were largely destroyed except for some of the larger trees and the pittosporum hedge at the back.

The layout of the front garden is as it was and some of the roses in the border along the front of the house were probably planted in the 80's. I planted the roses next to the front deck and Parfum de Paris has grown into a beautiful specimen. I have always loved a cottage garden and cannot resist planting all sorts of things in a jumble. Sometimes this can be a bit chaotic and sometimes it all hangs together well. Having been used to looking at garden beds that were some distance from the house it has been a challenge to manage my love of colour and contrast when the beds are right under my nose!

After the builders left in 2017 I started on the back garden. I've always loved a gravel garden and so we laid out a group of raised beds and spread gravel between them. I thought that we'd left enough space for paths but sometimes as the seasonal growth really gets going it can be a bit of a squeeze. This area is very sheltered and warm but is shaded a lot from the house during the winter months, so it takes a bit of waking up during the spring. Three of the beds are planted to flowers and the rest to seasonal vegetables. I love a productive garden and have squeezed a few dwarf fruit trees along the western fence. Roses form a hedge along the back and dahlias are dotted around as well. I adore herbs and so these are happy here too.

The eastern side of the garden that borders the back deck is like a room. We erected a sturdy fence and planted climbers and my much loved climbing Iceberg roses. These plants screen about 4 sheds and three tanks! The 3 chooks are happy with their run around the garden shed. Finally, the newest garden bed runs along the fence and carport. It is a very shaded area but it has beautiful Penola soil, so I've tried to create a little woodland garden here. It has been fun sourcing plants that will tolerate these conditions and fingers crossed they will thrive. So far so good!

It's been a challenge moving into town after spending most of our lives on a farm and it's been a challenge gardening on such a small scale, but I love feeling more in control of the house and garden and I'm continually surprised at how much this small space yields.

Suzie Kidman

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>