



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to Luna's Garden

Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th March, 2026

We have tried to create a seasonal garden, which always has something to surprise and delight us and is full of bees, butterflies and birds. The garden brings us constant joy from the autumn colours, the salvias and the green backdrops in the heat of summer, the bulbs and blossoms in spring, the wallflowers and structural buxus balls in winter, the ever-productive Veggie Patch, or the anticipation of the newly planted espaliered apples and pears.

We are inspired predominantly by English gardens, having visited many Royal Horticulture Society and National Trust gardens over the years. We've tried to incorporate some of this inspiration here. Our constant challenge is to reign in our enthusiasm, implement what's practical, and to adapt our wishes to a Barossa climate. An example of this is the apple and pear espalier frame. The inspiration was a rustic wooden frame for three apple trees I saw in the RHS magazine. It had to be adapted to suit our style of house and the size of wall it was to be positioned near. Needless to say, it grew from something very modest to a large 4m wide metal frame with five fruit trees. Then, we just had to have another one nearby for a climbing rose!

When visiting our garden, you'll get to meet Luna as she cheekily skips across our lawn. Luna is our bronze life-sized statue of a young girl (Luna) by English sculptor Brian Alibaster. Another feature is our bronze birdbath adorned with three kookaburras by Victorian sculptor Will Wilson (Willie Wildlife Sculptures).

The garden covers collectively about 800 square metres of beds and lawn and contains about 18 beds ranging from narrow strips to large deep beds. The many different areas have differing sun exposures and microclimates, some in the same bed. This provides opportunities, like increasing the variety of plants we can put in, but also challenges us, as it's difficult to establish a rhythm of repetition. Some plants grow wildly bigger than usual in one part of a bed, and the same plant doesn't do well at all or dies, just several meters away. The constants are buxus hedges and balls which provide terrific structure all year round and do well, regardless of their location.

One of our favourite parts of the garden is the vegetable patch with its three raised beds, and its two circular and semicircular beds hand crafted in basket range stone by a local stonemason. There is always something to capture our attention, whether it's the heady smell of citrus blossom, the emergence of new vegetables, the joy of harvesting, or simply admiring the stonework, plants, and flowers while sipping tea.

Under the oak tree is a challenge, and our expectations of the now three year old Sundae Fraise *Hydrangea paniculata* haven't materialised. They're much more sparse than we want. We're giving them one more season to prove themselves or else they'll be replaced with *Hydrangea macrophylla*.

We have systematically redesigned every garden bed over the past five years, altered the size and shape of some, and created new beds and hardscaping in other areas. Much of the soil has been replaced to ensure old unwanted plants don't reappear, and to help the new plants get the best start

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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in life. Despite this, and the ongoing soil rejuvenation with manure, compost, Seamungus and Whoflungdung by the scoop, we do have casualties along the way. A couple of years ago we had a scale infestation on all the lilly pillys which nearly decimated the hedges. Luckily we lost only three in total, but it took about a year for them to recover post treatment.

Unseasonably wet or hot weather over the past few years have also caused a number of plants to die from wet feet or from the heat. We've tried to fine tune the irrigation and drainage systems to mitigate future issues. However, the loss of a significant number of newly planted mature trees and plants was a setback. January this year proved challenging as I'm sure it was for many gardeners. We had casualties including many of our wallflowers.

It's been a huge learning curve for us, having moved to Tanunda just 5 years ago from an inner city townhouse and neither of us having been gardeners before. We couldn't have done it without the help of some very talented and trusted people. We'll always be extremely grateful for their patience, inspiration, creativity, exacting execution of projects, and their ongoing assistance and advice.

We've opened the garden to you to share the joy. We hope you find it interesting and take away some inspiration for your own gardens.

Marcia and David