



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to

Nick Mount Glass Studio and Garden

Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th November, 2026

Nick and I have lived here since 1990. It is our home and workplace. Nick blows glass at the Jam Factory <https://www.jamfactory.com.au/> but much of our time is spent at work in our home studio and garden. We have loved learning, experimenting and doing hands on gardening over these many years in our own space and making some investment plantings. The garden has had an evolving history with some wins, some losses, and some necessary adaptation with water use and changing climate. When we moved in, the garden was a sea of shoulder high thistles to the back fence. Beyond this we could see into the neighbourhood park with its tall gums that are still visible.

A few trees which were planted before we moved in, still remain. The Camellia in the driveway is very old. I don't know the variety, but it delights us with an abundance of beautiful double red flowers. The avocado tree at our back door was an existing small self-sown seedling. It did not fruit until around 9 years ago and then presented us with about 400 delicious avocados of unknown variety.

The fig at the back of Nick's studio was quite large in February 1990 and I remember our joy at having such a bounty ready and waiting for us. (We planted the Fig Black Genoa at the front, and it is only about 6 years old.) There is a Strawberry guava in the back-garden dating from this time too. The birds and possums love them. I eat a few fruits off the trees each year, but they are very seedy. The Nashi Pear next to the garden shed is also very old.

The rare double flowering Japanese 'Black Dragon' Wisteria on the front veranda was existing. We were very sad to cut it back when we replaced the funny 60s veranda on the house, but it later came back in all its glory. The laden seed pods in Autumn continue to scare us as they pop loudly, ping the windows.

Penny Rudduck of Hortus designed the front garden for us with the blue Convolvulus and Italian urn with draping succulent Sedum 'Adelphi'. This area is at least 25 years old and snow drops have spread throughout the area to herald spring, as has the competing Onion Weed.

A number of years ago Nick and I visited Hearst Castle <https://hearstcastle.org/> in California. The garden was a delight of citrus, the fruit left hanging on the trees as decoration. We subsequently made a plan to plant citrus. We were so lucky to have been given a grapefruit in a pot before we moved to Leabrook. It always looked sick due to neglect, but we planted it in a prime spot next to the front door. It has delicious fruit with very thick skin. We share our harvest by leaving a box of fruit at the letterbox for people to help themselves. They disappear within a day even though most people say they don't really like grapefruit. We have been rewarded with marmalade, a wonderful trade, and we painted the front door in homage to the fruit.

As you walk in the driveway the citrus on the left are 'Lanes Late Navel' Orange, 'Clementine' Mandarin, Blood Orange and 'Eureka' Lemon. On the wall behind the citrus, we have espaliered two plums - 'Ruby Blood' and 'Satsuma' - both planted in the one hole leaning to the left. They fruit heavily and have only once been stripped by an uninvited visitor. All they had to do was knock on the door and ask and we would gladly have shared our harvest.

The cumquat now in the garden near the tanks has proved a beauty, but I don't know the variety. In this garden bed are gardenias - welcome birthday gifts - and a 'Lemonade' Lemon is in a large pot on the veranda at the back of the house. The 'Fuyu' Persimmon was in a pot until recently but has truly found its feet now planted in the ground.

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Web page: <http://opengardensa.org.au/>

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There is an ancient glory vine near the trunk of the Avocado. It creates a fabulous canopy of colour hanging over the garden in Autumn. We planted a White Seedless Grape and combined they give us lovely summer shade on the folly.

Recently Virginia Kennet Gardens redesigned the area leading from the kitchen with paving and planted the garden beds with quite a few plants I had in pots in the back paddock. The Bottle trees, "Brachychiton rupestris" were both planted at the same time and were the same size, a meter tall. We think the leak from our fishpond is providing the extra growth. "Eucalyptus caesia silver princess" is a new edition to the garden and has already flowered last year.

The 'Smyrna' Quince will have flowered in all its glory when you visit and hopefully has small quinces in abundance. The fruit makes delicious quince paste.

Through the farm gate A beautiful 'Sasanqua' Camellia found a home with me after my best friend Penny Rudduck of Hortus spotted it at Scammells. It likes its new position under the green fig which could be 50 years old. We get to pick the low hanging fruit as the birds and the Flying Foxes from the botanical gardens enjoy them too. Further into the back paddock is a pomegranate. We have regularly pruned it to keep it small. 'Granny Smith', 'Jonathon' and 'Golden Delicious' Apples are espaliered to hide the fence. They don't fruit well because of the shaded position. The pumpkin arch is in its second year, and I hope when you visit it will have pumpkin vines climbing to the sky. A Dwarf 'Sunset' Nectarine is in the ground nearby and the cumquat is a 'Green Standard'.

The 'Arbequina' Olive in the pot fruits heavily for such a small tree, and the potted Magnolias are again birthday gifts. Turning 60 had its rewards.

The Lime near the garden shed is more than 30 years old. Luckily the shed remains as it supports the much-loved climbing 'Cecil Brunner' Rose.

The Eiffel Tower was a gift made by my family for my 60th. In 2004 Nick had an exhibition in Paris at the Australian Embassy and we celebrated my 50th at that time. One of the curators had a delightful collection of Eiffel Towers and I decide to steal her idea. I now own more than 100, the grandchildren (who count them) tell me.

We planted the Mulberry in the back corner many years ago. It bears fat mulberries which we share with the birds who drop red poo everywhere for a number of weeks. Nearby last year I planted 3 peach trees all in the same hole. Elberta, O'Henry and Million-Dollar J.H. Hale. My plan is for the tight planting to Bonsai them. Time will tell. The Avocado in the pot is a 'Reed'. We have this in case the worst happens, and our original avocado by the back door fails. This way we shall have a head start in replacing it.

The mound in the back garden was planted with 'Italian' Beech when we bought Leabrook. The drought in SA that restricted watering saw their demise. Now the mound has small boats sailing in green seas. The tree roots were too expensive to remove and the dinghies meant we could grow vegies in good soil. The oversize pot as you enter the back paddock is made by Mark Heidenreich, <https://markheidenreich.com.au/>, a wonderful edition to our garden.

Vegetables in the garden this Spring are Chilli, Capsicum, Spring onion, Eggplant, Parsley, Tomatoes, Basil, Parsley, Climbing Beans, Dwarf beans, Cucumber, Spinach, Tarragon, Chervil, Mint, Snow peas, Wasabi, Rhubarb, Asparagus, Marjoram, Sage, Dill, Pumpkin and Zucchini interspersed with flowers for the Bees.

I hope you enjoy the glimpse into our garden life.

Pauline and Nick Mount

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