



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to

Our Hyland Home

Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th October, 2026

We bought our 100 year old home in 1988, the property being around 1000m². The front garden was dominated by a huge blue spruce, and the large back garden comprised of many old-fashioned garden beds bordered with rocks... very pretty, but not really providing suitable play space for our young children. The spruce was replaced with the ubiquitous grouping of three silver birches, rose beds and lawn, and this served us well until the millennium drought and severe water restrictions forced us to have a rethink.

In 2009, we employed the services of the lovely Anne Hill to help us plan a more waterwise front garden, with drought tolerant plants. This garden, with its photinia hedging, raphiolepis, rosemary, murrays and conifers, along with the Pyrus 'Chanticleer' lining the driveway, remains mostly intact. However, apart from the beautiful big urn, made for us by Mark Heidenreich in his Terra-Villa pottery, the circular garden bed has continued to cause us grief over the years. The original westringia looked good for a few years, but eventually started to look scruffy, and even the kangaroo paws failed to thrive. We replaced everything with a circle of lavender, but these also proved to be 'poor doers' after a few years. The next iteration, beautiful little 'Buzz' buddleias, suffered the same fate. It has been an ongoing and expensive problem, with the succulent chalk sticks proving to be the only resilient but rather untidy survivor. A work in progress! We have recently had to decapitate the pencil pines due to the ravages of the dreaded pine moths, and are becoming quite accustomed to their new look.

The lower back courtyard garden was originally designed by Susan Kloeden, via the Norwood Garden Centre. The semi-mediterranean style featured the two existing pencil pines, the Japanese maple, rosemary, hellebores....it was really very pretty, with something flowering at all times of the year. Lattice work on the wall framed the armillary sphere, planted with a climbing rose. At this time, many large moss rocks acted as a retaining wall between the lower courtyard and the top garden, and the whole area was paved, with a winding path under a wisteria arbour.

However, over the ensuing 35 years it had all become rather tired and straggly, badly in need of a makeover. In 2022, we contacted Malcolm, from Desert Flower Landscaping who, with his then garden designer Angus, presented us with two concepts, based on our very vague brief for 'something sort of Tuscan, low maintenance and drought tolerant'. We chose the more formal Tuscan style, which was to incorporate largely native, hardy plants. The design really appealed, as the circular gravel beds mimicked the front garden design.

With its beautiful dry bluestone walls, wide granite steps, timber screening, native grass corten screen made for us by 'Cut Out' architectural screenings in Melbourne, and the stunning grass tree sculpture by Ross Forknall, this courtyard area is now our pride and joy. We can't recommend Malcolm and his team highly enough.

The productive kitchen garden, featuring fruit trees, three large rainwater tanks, raised vegetable beds, and many native trees and shrubs, is the result of 35 years of blood, sweat and probably more than a few tears. To allow the rainwater tanks, installed in 2014, to fill, they had to be dug quite a way into the ground, generating a large mountain of soil. It was then a lot of hard work to utilise this soil, by constructing the raised beds, which then needed to be filled.

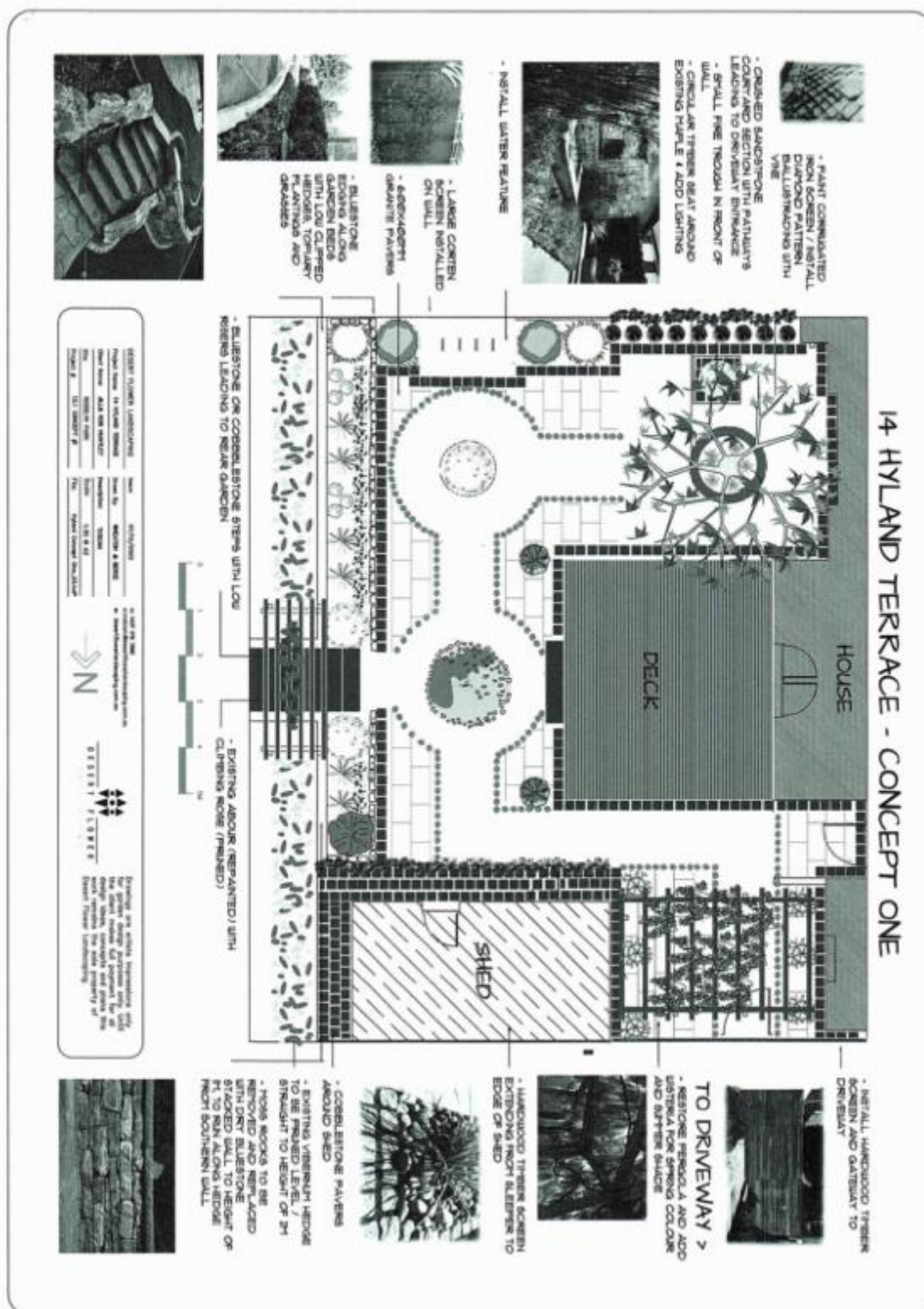
The back is a haven for many birds, bees and butterflies, and although requiring constant hard work, is a great place to sit with a drink and enjoy the late afternoon sun.

We hope you enjoy your visit to Our Hyland Home!

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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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.