



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to

PAUL'S PLANTS

Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 September 16 Vanali Drive, Port Elliot

Welcome to our garden in the great Pt Elliot area! May you enjoy your stay, the ocean and the aroma of flowers.

At the end of 1999 I retired from being a primary school principal for 41 years in state and Lutheran schools – my last school was in Horsham Victoria.

Our eldest son had sent us photos of this property which was for sale. Knowing we loved gardening he said we wouldn't like it. Why? He saw it on a day when the winds were very strong. However, when we did come over to look at houses, my wife liked the inside of this one and I saw potential for propagating a wide range of plants.

Our goal was to raise money for victims of disasters either man-made or natural in Australia but also for the many disadvantaged people in poor countries and refugee camps. Many of the latter have very little hope for themselves and especially for the future of their children.

So began the garden! We moved here on 20th September 2000 with a terrible northerly wind that blew for the rest of the week - just as my son had witnessed! There was no garden except some fruit trees including almonds. I relocated them to where we wanted them after digging out by hand and removing a number of gum trees.

We established three areas at the rear of the home.

In the first area my son and his wife drew up a plan which we liked and with modifications it was gradually put into place. This area has a low terrace along the back fence and a big round bed in the middle. A smaller raised bed made by a tank company was placed in the big one. There were no commercially available raised beds back then!

We had help making the rose and pear archway and the grapevine pergola. We purchased a huge heap of second-hand red bricks to line the beds and paths.

In the second section we put in a shade house and lots of garden beds which we used for propagated plants and plants with flowers which my wife bunched for markets.

The third section gradually housed fowls as I enjoy raising and caring for them. Three tunnels and more garden beds gradually evolved. One tunnel has a wide range of young geraniums (real name is zonal pelargoniums) for selling and another tunnel has young regal pelargoniums also for selling. The third tunnel at the back houses our stock plants which are not for selling.

In the back section are gum trees and shelters for clivias, bromeliads, orchids, succulents, and ivy geraniums.

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>



Why so many plants raised off the ground you may well ask – RABBITS!! They have been a constant problem – neighbours have dogs but we don't. Over the years rabbits have extended their diets to even chrysanthemums and many succulents! However, we do enjoy the company of the many birds.

My wife who was also a keen gardener passed away last year and she is much to thank for this 'Open Garden'. In our first twelve years we had many clubs and church groups visit us and we held open gardens.

The garden has been a real joy and blessing to us. As all profits from sales of plants at home, at markets and shows has gone to the needy so many people have been blessed.

I wish to thank all the many kind people who have helped us establish and maintain the garden as well as at markets and shows. Rex and Claire Zacher have been especially wonderful supporters.

May you enjoy your time here and be pleased with what you see.

Paul



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.