



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

## Open Gardens South Australia

# Welcomes you to Sanders' Garden

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2025

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Things are not as they used to be. As teenagers, we spent many Sunday afternoons driving in Bill's Morris Minor to look at display homes and blocks of land looking for a nice place to live when we were married. One of these trips led to the discovery of one of the last vacant blocks of land in Linden Park, equidistant from each of our family homes. Surprisingly, we had saved enough to be able to buy it. The home was built in the following year (1968), and we moved in after our wedding in early 1969.

The original house was a single storeyed three bedroom home. Many additions have occurred over the years as our family grew and our needs changed. A sunroom was constructed on the original patio; the upper storey was added; verandahs were built; and finally, the garage.

Typical of the suburb, the block was a standard quarter acre in size. Over time, three neighbours sold portions of their land to enable the construction of the tennis court. Much later, the adjoining property was acquired. The dwelling was demolished, the existing swimming pool refurbished, and the garage and workshop were built.

As the original block was a vacant site, there was no garden when the property was purchased. We had virtually no gardening experience. The first attempt at forming a garden comprised large lawn areas at the front and the back. Narrow gardens followed the fences at the front, with a few roses and annuals, a flowering cherry and non-variegated pittosporum growing in the lawn. The back garden had a few fruit trees and the first attempts at veggie gardening. A garden shed was added and many years later was moved to the corner by the tennis court where it became the woodshed.

There have been several versions of the chook shed. Laying hens have been on site for almost as long as we have. The hen-house structures have changed many times, as has their placement. Currently, the small home for the chooks is located in the back corner, sheltered by the majestic Canary Island palm.

### **The garden today**

As you enter the garden through the Crepuscule covered lychgate, there is a busy cottage-style garden. There are four crepe myrtles (one a miniature), and a small Pansy tree. There are many other plants including roses, salvias, foxgloves, daisies, liriopes, clivea, acanthus, convolvulus, diosma, bergenia, euphorbia, limonium, hebe, agave, hellebores, a Philotheca and a colourful pot of orange Kalanchoe given to us from one of our sons.

You will see a series of red-brick paths. The path to your left takes you to a tea-house, which we constructed more than thirty years ago. The wisteria was planted at the same time. The large red rose in the front corner was one of the first planted and is 56 years old. To the left and the right, you will see roses, foxgloves, salvias and many other cottage plants, both self-seeded and planted over the years. The path directly ahead takes you to a Carabella rose on a frame. On the right is a brass sundial made by Helen's brother and is specifically for Adelaide time.

If you return to the lychgate, the path to the right takes you towards the driveway. Again, roses and other flowering annuals and perennials are in abundance on both sides. The garden under the large crepe myrtle is in dry shade. Clivia, salvias, and a pink daphne seem to enjoy this space as well as a cheeky kangaroo.

Crossing the driveway, a large wisteria frames the full width of the garage and along its northern wall. A small orchard is within the semi-circular garden to your right. Fruit trees include pomegranate, apricots, 'Granny Smith' apple, peaches, nectarine, prune plum, lemon, orange and an olive tree in a large black

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**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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pot (which belongs to one of our sons and which we hope he doesn't recognise!!!). There is also a small curry tree and rhubarb plant as well as agapanthus, salvias and nepeta as border plants. The raised herb gardens include parsley, oregano, thyme and coriander, as well as some lettuce and silverbeet. The potting bench (converted from an old barbecue stand), and the compost bays are tucked in along the fence.

Passing the plumbago hedge and heading towards the rear of the property (past the garage), the Chinese star jasmine stretches along the fence for 50 metres from the front of the property to the tennis court. As you enter the back garden, in the foreground is the pool, with a crab apple tree, gazebo and Canary Island palm to the right. The tennis court lies beyond. There is a small tropical-style garden between the gazebo and the palm tree, which provides shade in the summer months.

In front of the garage a photinia hedge forms a backdrop to a line of red roses. Ahead is an ancient coral tree planted by a previous neighbour some 70 years ago. A wisteria grows along the side of the verandah and another on the pergola between the garage and the house.

Just past the coral tree, the path forks to the left and to the right. The left path takes you along the back of the house where climbing roses grow up the verandah posts, providing perfume and shade. A white weeping wisteria grows as a standard. As the path opens out onto the lawn, two striking Pierre de Ronsard roses climb posts. Across the lawn, crepe myrtles screen the fence, where under-plantings of alstromerias and liriopes shelter in the partial shade. To the left is a large weigela.

Behind the garden shed is a high Murraya hedge, comprising just two plants. There is a small 'cubby' in the hedge providing a special place for young children. The weeping mulberry provides shelter for the circular seat made many years ago by one of our sons and now set on crazy paving. The feature tree in this section is the liquidamber, planted about 20 years ago, and with elkhorns attached. There are mainly shade-loving plants in this garden, including birds nest ferns, ligularia (commonly called tractor seat). The good old Hills rotary clothesline has pride of place in the centre of the lawn. It has had an enormous amount of use over the years!

On the other side of the path, the old Satsuma plum was planted more than 50 years ago and still provides a bountiful crop each year for stewing and jam. The tree is underplanted with irises. This bed also features hellebores, crepe myrtles, lavenders, rock rose and the Blue Moon rose arch and a bird bath.

The large garden alongside the pool is home to the maple and prunus trees, with roses, lavenders, strelitzia, cannas, veronicas and salvias among the many varieties of plants.

At the southern end of the tennis court, climbing roses grow along the fence leading to the quince tree (for jelly and paste) and the woodshed in the back left corner. The eastern tennis court fence provides a structure for a large bougainvillea, Mermaid and Graham Thomas roses and the passionfruit vine. Taking the path along the rear of the pool are raised veggie beds made by Bill. Plantings include silverbeet, garlic, onions, beetroot, rhubarb, pak choy and strawberries. Passing the lemon tree, visitors will see the chook house with our four friendly and productive hens sharing their run with a wattle.

### Summary

We love our garden and hope you will too. We spend a great deal of our time planting, weeding, fertilising, pruning and nurturing it. We hope our Open Garden visitors enjoy exploring the various spaces and spend some time relaxing, perhaps with a cup of tea or coffee and a scone.

Visitors are also welcome to walk to the northern end of the tennis court where our son and his partner also have a lovely garden that can be viewed through the fence.