



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

# Open Gardens South Australia Welcomes you to **Scenic Court**

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2026

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## **A New Beginning in Belair**

When we moved here six years ago, we were met with a landscape dominated by lawn, significant drainage issues, and a lack of usable outdoor space due to the steep slope. There was very little biodiversity in the garden at the time. We asked Ali from Alison Gardiner Landscapes for a concept design that we could work toward ourselves over several years, but after a large gum tree in our front yard came down in a storm, opportunities presented themselves and our plans became more elaborate. With two teenagers about to drive and parking space limited, we decided to incorporate a new carport. We returned to Ali for a redesign, and while we kept the initial concepts, the scope of the project became much grander.

Our brief was to create a biodiverse garden that included Australian natives that tied into the 1960s home we fell in love with. We wanted to create usable outdoor spaces that would draw the family outside to sit and relax, and rather than chasing a low-maintenance landscape, we wanted a 'gardener's garden', a space that lives and breathes with the seasons and offers a passion to nurture for years to come.

Because the garden lies below road level, water runoff previously made much of it unusable in the winter. We addressed this through careful stormwater management and by more than doubling our water storage capacity, including plumbing rainwater to the house to be used on site. We hired Malcolm and his team from Desert Flower Landscaping to carry out the construction and hardscaping. A break from paid work allowed me to be onsite every day as the "apprentice," planting in stages with Ali as the hardscaping was completed. This helped to foster a deep, personal connection with our garden.

## **Working with the Land**

Creating a garden in Belair presents unique challenges:

- **The Elements:** Being westerly-facing means dealing with harsh afternoon sun, while high northerly fences shade the plants during the cooler months.
- **Resource Competition:** Large surrounding gum trees often rob the soil of nutrients and water. Plants nearby have taken longer to establish.
- **Manual Care:** We manually manage weed seeding from the surrounding bushland and runners from the old lawn, preferring not to use chemicals where possible.
- **Privacy:** We focused on providing privacy through plant life without impacting our neighbours' views.

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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.

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/opengardensa>

### **What We Love About Our Garden**

This garden is our sanctuary, connecting us to the natural setting of Belair.

- **The Visitors:** Multiple water baths bring birds into the garden, and on hot days, kangaroos jump the fence from the gully to find sanctuary.
- **Biodiversity:** It is rewarding to see dragonflies, native bees, skinks, and butterflies - including caterpillars on our lime tree - making a home here. At sunset, you can watch the silhouettes of microbats and owls hunting against the fading light.
- **Favourite Plants:** Lots of favourites but love Grevillia 'moonlight', Hakeas, Asters & Correa 'chefs cap'.
- **Movement:** We love watching the grasses, such as Poas, Miscanthus, and Pennisetum, sway in the gully breezes.

### **Where We Are Today**

One year after completion, the garden is establishing beautifully, though not without a few learning curves. Being away for a month during the height of summer provided the ultimate "stress test" and allowed us to see exactly where the garden was thriving.

We love spending time in our garden and sharing it with like-minded people. We hope you enjoy wandering through as much as we enjoy living and gardening in it.



SITE PLAN  
LANDSCAPE DESIGN PLANS - PROJECT SCENIC COURT BELAIR

ALISON GARDNER  
LANDSCAPES  
al@gardnerdesign.co.uk  
/ 0152 461 464

SCALE 1:200 on A3  
26th June 2023

NOTE:  
\* THE PROPOSED WORK IS BASED ON THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE CLIENT.  
\* THE PROPOSED WORK IS SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.  
\* ANY CHANGES TO THE PROPOSED WORK WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

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.