



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

## Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to

# Seachange Retreat

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> & Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

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We bought this property in October 2021, we were looking for a sea change and somewhere with a studio for Julie's mosaic classes.

This property was perfect for us. The downstairs space was set up as a studio and 6 weeks later Julie ran her first mosaic workshop.

The garden however needed some work.

Liriope and Dietes were overgrown and looking very tired. A path to the access gate was wood and rotting so it had to go, there had been white ants in the wooden sleepers along the driveway, so they were removed and treated by the previous owners and the 17 Yuccas planted there had been cut down and poisoned. However they were re shooting! Along with two other large stumps in the main garden bed.

Getting rid of them proved to be a frustrating process, no one wanted to touch them. We had visions of roses, irises and salvias in a cottage style garden, with lots of Spring bulbs and flowers.

But first these stumps had to go. We were feeling a bit deflated and unsure what to do. Digging them out by hand was impossible.

We eventually found Danny Baldiserra who came in with his stump grinder, he was brilliant and in 3 hours they were GONE!!! HOORAY!

For the next 6 weeks Butch spent every day pulling out the remaining roots by hand, filling a skip bin in the process, it was a slow and tedious job, but he was on a mission.

He also removed the large river pebbles which were 6 inches + deep, it was impossible to dig over to prepare the soil. So again, Butch spent weeks removing them, one bucket at a time.

Next came new soil, horse manure, cow manure, you name it, to improve the soil.

Sophie Thompson once said, *'put a \$1 plant in a \$10 hole.'* We've never forgotten that advice.

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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/>

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Once the soil was improved, new concrete sleepers along the driveway were installed, the new path finished. It was time to go shopping!

We planted standard roses along the driveway, so we could plant underneath, maximizing the space we had. Next came Salvias, white agapanthus and irises and other plants in between.

Julie planted lots of Spring bulbs, daffodils, tulips, snowdrops, Dutch iris and more.

We weren't sure what would grow here really, being coastal and cooler than Adelaide. We were pleasantly surprised that most of the plants we loved grew even better than before. We've also been able to grow plants we never had success with in the hot Adelaide climate, like hydrangeas, fushcias and dahlias.

Once everything was planted, the garden beds were topped with Who Flung Dung.

The only things left from the original garden are the palm trees and a few Dracenas.

We brought some garden art with us and have since bought or made more, like the dovecote, bench and more mosaics.

The wind here can be a problem, so we decided to put up the rusty screen, it helps as a windbreak, extra shade and privacy. It's one of our favourite spots to sit for coffee and enjoy the garden, watching the honey eaters and blue wrens that come to visit.

We have tried to maximise the space we have, a small greenhouse is great for growing tomatoes. Pots and Geofelt bags give us extra planting spaces that can be moved around.

We couldn't imagine living somewhere without a garden, getting outside in the fresh air, hands in the dirt is great for the soul. Our garden brings us endless pleasure, we hope you enjoy it and see what can be achieved in a small space.