



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia Welcomes you to **Seaview**

Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th April, 2025

Welcome to Seaview. We hope you enjoy your visit and encourage you to explore and wander, contemplate and comment. Like all gardens, this one is a continuing “work in progress” and represents the efforts of many. Andy has gardened at Seaview for nearly three decades and continues to work with us in a collaborative partnership. In autumn, the garden at Seaview provides a changing tapestry of colour, as blooms are replaced by seedheads, shrubs surrounding the house assume their autumnal hues, and in turn, mature deciduous trees provide us with a tapestry of golds, orange, red and purple. We delight in working in the garden in this season, with its constantly changing palette.

Since our last open garden in Spring 2022, we have continued to develop what we hope will be a beautiful woodland garden on our northern boundary. We have continued the planting near the folly, adding several dogwoods, including two tri-coloured, and added rhododendron, tupelo and liriodendron to the slope planted earlier with maples, larch and camelia.

Like all South Australians, we have had to deal with the consequences of a dry 2024, and almost no precipitation this year. There has been some attrition in the garden, as we have focussed on watering the trees in the recently planted woodland areas.

We have also constructed a pool on a north facing slope above the vineyard and olive grove. Our grandchildren patiently await completion, and look forward to the first swim. We are planning to continue mediterranean plantings around the pool area.

After much deliberation, we built a kangaroo deterring fence around our orchard and vegetable garden, and have been amazed at what can be produced there when not supplying the local nocturnal diners. To soften the effect of wire and posts, and to increase production, we have planted a range of heritage apples to espalier along the fence.

History: Seaview was built around 1890, by Joshua Gurr, and then passed to the Finlayson's in the early 20th century. The towering Bunya-Bunya and Himalayan cedar to the west of the tennis court are contemporaries of the early owners. Dr HK Fry acquired Seaview in 1938, and it remained in his family for decades. In addition to being South Australia's first chief medical officer and a champion of improvements of health and welfare of Indigenous Australians, he worked tirelessly to improve the land around the house. The HK Fry Nurutti reserve that adjoins the property is testimony to his effort. We remain indebted to the Philips family who, before us, planned and planted the formal garden that surrounds the house.

The driveway: In 2012, the driveway was crowded with self-seeded oaks. We decided to remove most, and under planted with silver birch and shrubs, under planted with daffodils and jonquils. There are sasanqua camellias planted around the water tank and wisteria and montana clematis wind through the lattice. To the right, a clipped laurel hedge screens the hen yard. Brushfields Yellow camellias are planted to form a hedge along the southern side of the driveway and a water wise white garden brightens the dry bank over summer. Closer to the house, the southern bank is covered with clipped rosemary below the olive hedge and lined with iceberg roses and cream alstroemeria.

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 large trees closer to the house are plane and liquidambar. A beautiful red oak and liriodendron can be found in the densely planted area by the car park.

The formal garden: This garden showcases Andy's inspiring hedges, with a cloud pruned hedge below the Japanese maples and clipped box hedges surrounding the rose beds. The front bed was planted with prostrate cotoneaster in 2013. Four tree peonies also thrive in the rose beds.

The front lawn: is bordered by the beautiful Edelweiss and Tamora roses in the veranda bed. The ornamental cherry trees to the west provide us with shade on summer evenings and autumn colour. We have recently under planted with white azaleas and blue ajuga. The driveway border is planted with gold and cream flowering plants, including Graham Thomas and Edelweiss roses.

Western Veranda Garden: Primarily David Austin roses and box topiary.

Tennis Court Lawn: The border to the west of the tennis court lawn provides a setting for play equipment. The garden is planted with white hydrangea and Christmas lilies. The soft path back towards the wash house is planted with cerise and pink azalea. The Himalayan cedar dominates and provides shade.

The Woodland Garden: the oldest surviving part of the garden, with bunya bunya and Cedar dominating. The old flowering plum finally succumbed and had to be removed this year. The garden is tolerating more sun, and the two flowering cherries continue to provide some shade to the central bed. Under planted with hydrangea, viburnum and mollis azalea, the Lily of the Valley emerge through spring, replacing the winter blooming Galanthus. Our grandchildren enjoy their cubby house and have reported recent fairy activity adjacent to it and the old stone wash house.

Vegetable Patch and Orchard: There are two productive asparagus beds between the raspberries and the orchard.

Garden beds below driveway: These sunny north facing beds are planted with roses, lavender, rosemary, salvia, teucrium and ceanothus. The terrace below the lower lawn is planted with barbara vines. The western steps are bordered by three prostrate hawthorns and a variety of philadelphus.

The vineyard and olive grove: We replaced the struggling almonds with chardonnay vines in 2018, and they have benefited from an electric fence to deter kangaroo and feral deer from grazing on the tender new growth. The olives provide us with olive oil and table olives.

Gully: Below the olive grove, the maple arboretum now provides shade in summer and a beautiful autumn display. There are magnolias at the eastern end and dogwoods towards the dam. The southern hillside is being planted for autumn colour and spring blossoms.

The Lookout: A strict no watering area planted with tough drought tolerant plants. We are replanting the boundary for shade and privacy. Below the lookout, the west facing slope provides the perfect spot for a developing Mediterranean garden.

Thank you for visiting Seaview and for supporting our nominated charity, as well as the South Australian Open Gardens scheme.