



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to

# Dominican Peace and Sophia Garden

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2025

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## History 1868-2025

**1868:** Seven young Dominican Sisters, under the leadership of Mother Teresa Moore, arrive from Ireland to establish education for young women in the new colony of South Australia. They begin their ministry at St Mary's, Franklin Street.

**1886:** Convent and College established and named CABRA, after the Dominican Convent and College in Dublin.

Cabra Campus becomes home to Dominican Sisters, female Boarders and Day Students. College becomes co-educational from 1975.

**1987:** A group of Dominican sisters, led by Sr Rosemary Yelland, discerns with the community how to save the land in the south-west corner of the campus as garden areas for future generations, and to create a beautiful space that honours deceased Dominican sisters.

### **1987:** Cabra Dominican Cemetery

Rosemary and her Dominican sisters and friends begin by creating a garden space both within and beyond the cemetery.

### **1988:** Herb Garden Centrepiece

Established using recycled bricks from the Cabra Campus, the Herb Garden was modelled on the ancient herb gardens found in the abbeys and monasteries of Europe.

### **1989:** Australian Native Garden

Mounds were created and over 200 Australian plants are growing.

Today, Correas, Grevilleas, Pin-Cushion Hakea, Argyle, Apple and Fuchsia Gums flourish.

### **1990:** The Peace Gardens

Cabra students working alongside Rosemary, Anne and others, were the first to use the name "Peace Gardens."

### **1990s:** Teresa Moore Drive, Cabra Drive, Wallaby Grass Walk, Lavender Path

Rosemary Path and Hakea Place were named, creating new roads and pathways for ease of access for visitors to the Peace Gardens.

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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>

### **2000s: Kaurna Garden**

First established as a water garden, with fish and visiting wild ducks, the Kaurna Garden became a dry land garden in the drought years. It still speaks of respect for the First Nations People and their ongoing relationship with the land.

### **The SOPHIA Gardens / 2000s**

A dry land garden was established by Jenny Wightman and friends around the Dominican SOPHIA building, opened in 1991, to honour women's experience in particular.

At Sophia, women and men find support for personal growth, spirituality, feminist theological learning, counselling, Enneagram, nurturing of friendships, writing, poetry, dance, singing, ESL classes for refugee women...and so much more.

### **Dominican Peace and Sophia Gardens / 2020s**

During the night of 31st May 2020, the Dominican Peace gardens and Sophia gardens were severely damaged by a localised mini-tornado. The giant Moreton Bay fig lost many beautiful limbs and more than thirty trees and large shrubs suffered severe structural damage. Adelaide Zookeepers removed truckloads of broken limbs and leaves to feed the giraffes and rhinoceros. Weeks of professional and voluntary labour were necessary to restore the gardens.

Today, a group of enthusiastic SOPHIA volunteers and a couple of part time gardeners care for both gardens, under the leadership and knowledge of Jenny Wightman.

The work continues to maintain a 'peaceful and quiet heart at the centre of the CABRA Campus,' Rosemary Yelland OP.

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.