



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to

The Garden at Barossa Garden Homestay

Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th November, 2025

We bought this 2.5-acre piece of land in 1999. It had been a sheep grazing paddock. We loved this land as soon as we saw it because it was reasonably flat and had a wonderful view of the hills.

We decided to start building our house in 2000/2001 and moved in Christmas 2001. Our boys were all under 6 years of age making this a perfect place to bring them up. They loved it, I have a photo of the older two boys being covered from head to toe in mud because there was nothing here other than our house, sheds and rainwater tanks so when we had a heavy rain the fun began...

We designed our house ourselves because we wanted maximum benefit from our views. All the living areas face east looking onto the hills making for great views, but the mornings mostly in summer was an issue so Leigh built the pergola on the eastern side. After he had paved all around the house, we put a glory vine on the pergola giving us plenty of summer shade and being deciduous, giving us lots of warm winter sun to warm the house. We did the same on the western side to protect bedrooms etc from hot avo sun. Leigh then put down the lawn closest to the house and the garden close to the house evolved. That was all I wanted.... So, I thought!

Needless to say, the garden grew, I couldn't help myself!!

I would describe our garden as "A Colourful Garden" because we have so many different plants and trees in it - natives, roses, perennials, annuals, succulents, fruit trees, hedges, gum trees, deciduous trees, evergreen trees, citrus trees, raised veggie beds etc.

I would have to say though, I have planted things in the past that haven't gone so well so up they come and try something else. We have clay soil here which is a love/hate relationship, but after many years of adding compost, clay breaker, and nourishing the soil we have no hassles growing most things now. When we decided to expand the garden on the northern side the plan was to plant more natives and succulents and hardy plants because the soil on that side was rock hard. I love trees and am always trying to find a spot to squeeze another one in. I love the silver birch trees, their trunks and beautiful new leaves that come in the spring. The large hedge on the eastern side is a Photinia Robusta and has been a great dirt road dust collector.

Our middle son added the five row Grenache vineyard a few years ago along with the help of his dad and his brothers. They now produce wine every year and they have also started making port. Tony across the road has been a huge part of that too.

Last year Leigh added all the watering systems throughout the garden. Before that it was a constant shifting of the hoses, it was tiring by the end of the summer! The best part of my garden is working in it of course, and planting new things and watching them grow "or not".

But my favourite part is walking around with a cuppa analysing or just sitting watching the many birds that come and play.

My garden makes my heart sing...

We are thrilled to be able to share it with you.

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>