



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to

The Heritage Garden

Sunday 1st November, 2026

Once again, we welcome you to The Heritage Garden, created by Walter and Kay Duncan. Even though Walter is not with us anymore, we still feel his presence in the design of the garden he created.

For those who haven't visited before, we began this garden in the year 2000, before we finished building our home. The first trees we planted were the poplars, and they were meant to be the edge of the garden! Needless to say, we were not to be stopped! With ever increasing enthusiasm we continued collecting ideas and plants and the results now speak for themselves. We are primarily a rambling garden, but with a specialty for roses, as roses were Walter's life and passion and his work.

The garden is approximately 5 ha in area and encompasses a quince orchard, a labyrinth with its own entrance of a moon gate and wisteria arbour, sweeping lawns for weddings, French rose beds, herb garden and much more. Please take time to enjoy all its many spaces and sit and enjoy our musicians, Tamarisque, along with the great food and stalls here today.

This year we have had good rains with the creek running for the first time in a few years. The roses are still blooming spectacularly, and the whole of the garden has a vibrant feel.

We managed to site the house close to existing fig and walnut trees, to give the feel of an old established garden. The plums along the creek were already here too and the old pear trees. Walter also loved silver birch trees, and our best specimen can be seen by our back verandah.

We have many different soil types in our garden, mostly all alluvial, and there are some sandy patches that have been quite a challenge. The southern boundary of the front garden has been our hardest soil to manage. Many of the roses that we first planted there did not survive, so we have had to resort to hardier perennials and some shrubs, even after trying to enrich and restore the soil to better health. This is partly due to the gum trees' extended roots from across the road. The Gillentown Rd boundary has now become a wild garden that has special appeal when the roses are in bloom and the Echium sends up its blue spires.

We hope you take time to wander in the French rose beds that are such a treat on a warm morning when the perfume of the roses greets the warmth of the morning. It is just spectacular.

The herb garden at the end of the crab-apple walk provides us with some produce and more delightful fragrance, and the new moon gate and wisteria arch are now making a show of purple/blue blooms in mid-October. If you can take the time to walk the meditative walk of the Labyrinth, you might just feel grounded and centered again! It's such a peaceful space, and will be more-so when the trees in this garden get larger. Take special notice of the new Armillary Sphere in the centre of the Labyrinth, freshly shipped from the UK after my visit to Chelsea flower show last year. It is a memorial to Walter as it has his name and messages etched into the steel.

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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We have opened up the Quince orchard with a new walkway to connect back into the garden at a lower level. You will notice foundations for our new “folly” which will be a stone fireplace ‘ruin’. Another place to sit and contemplate the world or maybe make a commitment to your loved one! We plan to put in a wildflower meadow to surround this. Watch this space for next year.

Don’t forget to check out our sleeping woman at the bottom of the garden. Her dress is made of succulents and her head is sculptured by my sister Kerry from Rhynie.

The old-world roses that you can see throughout the garden are the highlight of The Heritage Garden at this time of the year. They are happy to have the space to grow as nature would desire and climb and ramble over fences, up trees and droop and ramble as they please. We are so lucky to have the space to allow this to happen, as some of these varieties would be very hard to manage in a small garden.

We truly hope that you enjoy your day here and that you take away a little piece of inspiration to help create a paradise in your own garden. Please chat with our gardener Pete, if you have any gardening questions. Walter loved sharing the garden with all his visitors and we plan to continue with his legacy.

Thank you for visiting,
Kay Duncan