



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

# Open Gardens South Australia Welcomes you to **The Running House Garden**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

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We moved into 381 Glynburn Rd in the winter of 2010 with our 18-month-old son. It was our son who called it 'The Running House', and the name sort of stuck! When we visited the house opens during the sale process, he was amazed by the space and would zoom around saying 'running running running'. When we came back after purchasing the home he was delighted, recognising it as the 'Running House'! Ten days after moving in we welcomed a daughter to our family. Since then our family has grown, our home has grown, and our garden has grown and changed. We like to think our gardening skills have grown too! We've tried to prioritise creating exciting and welcoming outdoor spaces for our children, as well as creating a beautiful garden. We have discovered that we both really love gardening and do most of the work ourselves. We have definitely been learning on the job! As a result of this the garden has evolved over the last 13 years, with different projects undertaken at different times. You will find that some of the planting is newer as we continue working on different sections of the garden, while some is much older and more established.

The years of drought in the early 2000's had badly impacted the garden, and when we moved in during the August of 2010 several established plants and trees had died, including a huge Liquid Amber that was in the south-eastern corner of the front garden. We planted 3 Snow Pears in this space. Despite the tough drought years, the bones of the original garden were evident. It was clear that the garden had been much loved in the past and the product of many years of gardening by owners before us. We had the pleasure of talking with a past owner and finding out about some of the roses she had planted, along with other garden features.

An initial project was to open a pedestrian gate to Park Rd, along with planting Murraya along the boundary wall and fence to increase privacy and reduce road noise. We also introduced more structure into the garden with the planting of new hedges and topiary balls to contrast against the softer planting.

We extended the house in 2016 to accommodate our growing family, and in the process changed car access from Glynburn Rd to Park Rd. This gave us the opportunity to transform the original driveway into garden and to redesign the backyard which had been a sloping grass lawn. In the backyard we created a lawn terrace and a lower-level play area for our children with a basketball ring, smash-wall for tennis, slippery dip through a hedge, play-pit and skateboarding ramps. The conversion of the driveway into garden was conceptualised by Virginia Kennett who designed it as a series of garden rooms. They are more formal in nature at the front of the house and then as you travel down the 'driveway' you reach the kitchen garden/chook house/productive garden zone.

We love the architecture of our home and tried to honour this as much as possible with our garden decisions, both in the garden spaces adjacent to the Victorian part of our home, and in the spaces alongside the contemporary addition. For instance, we were excited to create the Japanese inspired garden between the original home and the extension on the southern side (another Virginia Kennett idea). This garden is planted with maples, Arthropodium & climbing fig. We were also

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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.

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excited to be able to re-purpose the original 'cold-store' from the back verandah to become our chook house with the help of a clever carpenter (thanks Will!).

You will notice some contemporary sculpture in the garden. This includes the large bronze chimpanzee finger by artist Lisa Roet (in the gravel garden), a bronze bust which is powder-coated in blue automotive paint by Guy Maestri (near the swimming pool), and a terrazzo 'tombstone' inscribed 'PTO' with inlaid brass by Will French (in the corner garden near the swing. PTO as in 'Please Turn Over' – very tongue-in-cheek!).

We have sourced plants from lots of different places. Some are plants we loved for their shape, foliage or their fragrance, and others are quite bizzare, like the Voodoo Lily or *Dracunculus Vulgaris* (planted at the base of the Dogwood tree near the entry gate on Glynburn Rd. It is also known as a Carrion plant for the terrible smell of its flower!). We have some talented gardeners in our family and they have also given us some plants. A much-loved family friend had a very well-known garden in Burnside and we are lucky to have propagated a number of plants from her beautiful garden. It brings us joy to have these plants in our garden and to remember their history.

A frustration in our garden has been an ongoing battle against onion weed – if anyone has a miracle cure please tell us!

Looking to the future, we are really looking forward to renovating the pool and the pool area, re-aligning the pool fence to incorporate more of the garden. We are focusing on planting this area as a summer garden, as this is the time of year we will enjoy it most. We are also going to install an in-ground trampoline for our children.

We would like to thank our good friend Joey Sangster (Sangster Gardens - @sangstergardens), who does monthly garden maintenance (unsurprisingly, he has visited more frequently in recent weeks!).

The proceeds from this weekend's Open Garden are going to Cure 4 CF, a national organisation devoted to raising funds for medical research to cure Cystic Fibrosis. Very special friends of ours have a beautiful daughter with Cystic Fibrosis and hosting an Open Garden to raise money for CF research is something we are so happy to do for the CF community. Go to [www.cure4cf.org](http://www.cure4cf.org) for more information or to donate.

This weekend at The Running House Garden -

- The Stirling CWA are providing morning and afternoon tea, tea & coffee
- Our eldest son will be running a sausage sizzle between 11:30-1:30pm
- Our children are running a lemonade stand selling traditional & raspberry lemonade, along with other refreshments made by our family
- A raffle with lots of fabulous prizes will be on offer –drawn Sunday afternoon

Thank you for visiting 'The Running House Garden'!

Hugo & Brooke

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.