



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

## Open Gardens South Australia

# Welcomes you to Three Gums Garden

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2024

---

**Three Gums....** After much discussion the name was bestowed by another member of Open Gardens South Australia.... thank you. The three gums are old, about 300 years old, River Red Gums, growing at the very front of our New Garden. However, our garden is probably best seen as 4 separate entities.

**The Front Garden** being a hot, north westerly facing cottage garden, which means we can add plants that we like, provided they cope with the heat...and roses. But, not forgetting the flowering apple, a specimen of which, has been planted in every garden we have had, as it flowers on our daughter's birthday, and a lavender crepe myrtle because we love it, and it is a "pup" of one of the trees in the Back Garden.

**The Back Garden:** a more formal planting, using Murraya, and Lilly pilly as a tall hedge along the western boundary...again a very hot part of the garden. The structure of this part of the garden is provided by a long stone wall, with a little stone staircase giving access to the L-shaped raised bed. The plantings in the southern part of the bed are westringia, at the back, 5 crepe myrtles and a Magnolia. With erigeron and prostrate rosemary and coral plants planted alternately along the front. Small pots of succulents are dispersed within these plantings. We also have a number of "rescued" concrete garden ornaments here - they did not ask to be unloved !!

There is a lawn on 2 sides of the swimming pool, with Dianella planted in a tiny strip along the long side. These little plants deserve all our admiration for enduring the tiny bed and hot afternoon sun.

We also have a 40-year-old kentia palm in big pot under the veranda, which was bought at Coles as a tiny pot plant...definitely a friend.

We have an orange tree in the eastern part of the raised garden bed, which has been very generous in providing fruit for neighbours and friends, jam, dried slices and drinks.

**The New Garden:** came to us in 2008 as an empty space, not even any weeds, but with the 3 gorgeous River Red Gums at the front. We wanted native planting around these trees and fruit trees further up the block, and to try and provide a corridor for birds, small reptiles and insects moving from the gums to other gardens further up the hill. We added 2 very large water tanks and an Art Room at the top of the block, and planted 11 callistemons along the top boundary with a native frangipani and 5 Grevillea part way along the eastern boundary. We then started adding truckloads of mulch and compost to very unforgiving clay soil. I think we stopped at 12 loads over the years.

**The Orchard:** In this part of the New Garden, we have espaliered most of our trees - room is limited! We have 2 apple trees, a fig and quince (not fruiting yet...still a baby), 2 plum trees and a free growing apricot and small lemon. A little further down towards the "native" part of the garden is a pomegranate, strawberry guava, a Feijoa, a lime and dwarf mulberry. In pots we have 2 dwarf peaches, a dwarf nectarine and a lemonade tree. There is an olive tree acting as shade for the Art Room, 2 varieties of grape vines, 2 blueberries in pots, and an Asparagus bed. A kangaroo apple has also just joined the garden – it seems to be doing very well.

---

**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>

## Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening.

---

**The Native Garden:** First and foremost, our gorgeous River Red Gums are part of the original tree cover of this part of Burnside. First Creek runs nearby and the water table is about 2 meters below the surface. We have the trees maintenance pruned by arborists, about every 4 years or so. The gully winds can be ruthless to plants not strong enough and open enough to cope. It has been a steep learning curve to find plants that are happy in the area, not because of the trees, but because of the difficult soil: eremophilas, a native hibiscus, kangaroo paws, plumbago, ruby salt bush, prostrate rosemary (not native, but so obliging), Westringia, a Budlea (happy there, and good for butterflies) and grevilleas. We have also made a “room” under the eremophilas, where we have camellias and gardenias, in pots, surrounding a birdbath and sheltered by the plumbago hedge. Most of these plants are rescue plants, and so far, seem to be doing well.

We have a tiny pond and mixed garden right at the bottom of the New Garden, near 2 of the Red Gums...it makes us happy.

As we have many cuttings and garden prunings, we have a large mulch heap and 3 compost bins, and of course our faithful worm farm...worm wee is wonderful.

**Our Charity:** The very special *Friends of Glenthorne National Park*. This wonderful band of people have been working for over 25 years to tend, care for and advocate for the establishment of Glenthorne National Park, which runs from O’Halloran Hill, down through Marion and finishes at the beach at Hallett Cove. Over 500 hectares of National Park running through suburban Adelaide. A treasure indeed.

The Friends of Glenthorne will have a table in the garden, selling native plants from the area, and are able to talk about the Park and all they do.

There will be plants for sale, jam and dried fruit produced from the garden, and a raffle, on the front veranda, with morning and afternoon tea, provided by the Royal Commonwealth Society, and a “Lucky Drop” table, with masked wine not less than \$20/bottle and 1 bottle being \$50-\$60, available - a lucky dip, at \$20 per bottle.

**Parking :** St John Vianney Church have offered the use of their Car Park, for visitors to our garden.

- 544 Glynburn Road, Burnside, SA 5066 – about 150m east of our garden.
- Times: Sat: 10am – 4.30pm  
Sun: 11am – 4.30pm (their Sunday Service finishes about 10.30am)
- The Church is located at the end of Seaforth Avenue – about 150m east of the garden.
- Open Garden signs will be on site.

Parts of the garden are not wheelchair friendly, as the paths are quite narrow, but there are no steps to stop other access.

Please do not bring your dogs, as again, the paths are quite narrow and access could be difficult.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our garden, and we hope you enjoy, and have fun here.

Judy and Harry Clarke

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.