



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

## Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to

## Turlatina Wirra

(‘Peaceful Garden’ in Kurna language)

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>, Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2026

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Our little slice of paradise where nature, art, and community come together.

From the very beginning, our dream was to create a sanctuary that embraces nature’s tranquillity while offering opportunities for reflection, relaxation, and sustainable living. In just five short years, Turlatina Wirra has blossomed into a vibrant tapestry of zones—each with its own character, each shaped by experiments, challenges, and the many creative hands that have added their artistry along the way.

### THE FRONT TROPICAL GARDEN

Your journey begins in a rush of green abundance—bananas, gingers, palms, and lush foliage spilling toward the path. This playful welcome whispers that you’ve stepped into something unexpected: not just a suburban block, but a jungle of imagination. Children are especially invited to count how many bananas they can spot swaying overhead.



### THE ZEN GARDEN

A few steps further, the mood changes. The three-tiered fountain murmurs under the calm gaze of a Buddha statue. Here, you’ll find stillness for prayer, reflection, or simply breathing with the rhythm of water and leaves. This is the oasis of peace we always hoped to create.

### THE POND – HEART OF THE GARDEN

If the Zen Garden is our soul, the pond is our beating heart. This is Stuart’s proudest creation: three interconnected ponds fed by natural watercourses. Here, flamboyant canna lilies—over twelve varieties—burst in colour, mirrored in rippling water. Taro spreads giant leaves, while monarch butterflies hover and sometimes land on those who wait quietly. Visitors linger here longest, drawn into the spectacle of life in full bloom.

### THE DOWN TERRACES & ORCHARD

Our newest addition leads you gently downhill to the Bali hut and orchard. Here we experiment with adventurous fruits—avocado, custard apple, and others daringly coaxed to thrive in coastal air. Nestled among these terraces, the Bali hut offers a perfect resting spot: a place to share stories, sip the breeze, and take in the ocean’s horizon.

### HIDDEN CORNERS & CREATIVE TOUCHES

Every turn holds a surprise: a secluded Fern and Orchid House, a timber deck with sweeping ocean views, red Torii gates and bridges standing bold against the green, secret veggie beds trialling permaculture ideas, and a tapestry of bamboo, orchids, succulents, palms, and flowering wonders. Even pest control here is creative—ladybugs lured by natural attractants rather than chemicals. Always the same lesson: adapt, play, and keep harmony between artistry and ecology. We haven’t

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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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forgotten the youngest adventurers. Ask our friendly volunteer for the treasure map, and your little archaeologist will have the chance to unearth a hidden prize buried in the garden. Soak it in water, crack it open, and discover the treasure inside—yours to keep or exchange for a treat on the deck. For budding detectives, another map leads to puzzles scattered through the garden, waiting to be solved one clue at a time.

### A LIVING COLLABORATION OF ART & NATURE

Though Stuart's vision shaped the flowing ponds and landscapes, Turlatina Wirra is also a shared canvas enriched by artists who bring new dimensions to the garden.

**Annette Olofson** (Swedish-Australian textile artist) transforms threads into vibrant woven fashion and homeware—alive with colour, culture, and creativity. Annie, a maestro of Swedish-Australian origin, weaves extraordinary, one-of-a-kind loom-woven fashion and home items. Her vibrant tapestries, steeped in culture and creativity, stand as a testament to her innovative touch, merging technology with intricate designs.



**James Cowley** (glass artist) presents luminous bowls, platters, and fused-glass windows. Fired up to three times, each piece catches the light in glowing emotion. James, a visionary glass artist, sculpts mesmerizing platters, bowls, and art pieces that interact with light, evoking positive emotions. His exquisite fused glass windows for home and office spaces, crafted uniquely and kiln-fired three times, captivate with their ethereal beauty and craftsmanship.

**Sedrah**, a 15-year-old emerging artist, adds the fresh voice of a new generation: “Hi, I’m Sedrah and I love to draw and read. Art gives me a way to bring my imagination to life, and reading lets me explore worlds beyond this one. For me, creativity isn’t just a hobby—it’s how I understand the world and express my thoughts.”

### PLANT SALE WITH PURPOSE

The garden keeps multiplying, and we love to share it. Cannas of every shade, along with other treasures, are available to take home. 80% of all plant sales support three Syrian families, while 20% sustains the Open Garden itself. Each plant you adopt nurtures both your garden and someone else's life.

### FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

Your senses are treated to exotic Syrian food with an Australian twist, plus sweets and drinks to refresh you as you wander. And if it's a hot day, don't forget—Seacliff beach is just a two-minute walk away, the perfect way to end your visit.

### OUR INVITATION TO YOU

Take your time at Turlatina Wirra. Count the bananas in the tropical garden. Rest with the Buddha. Lose yourself in the brilliance of canna lilies. Share stories beneath the Bali hut as the ocean breeze drifts in. We hope you leave refreshed, inspired, and with a deeper appreciation of how art and nature—woven together—can make life more beautiful.

With gratitude,

Kinda & Stuart