



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to

Urban Jungle Sustainable Garden

Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th April, 2026

In the 1970s



Sophie Thompson of Gardening Australia described our garden as an Urban Jungle. Despite decreasing rainfall and increasing temperatures we produce one third of our food and keep our house comfortable and energy efficient. This is from a block of 1000 m² – a large block with a small house. The joy of living in this environment comes from listening to the frogs and birds while eating seasonal delicious food, in various sites in the garden.

When we moved here in 1996, the front view was similar to the image above. The original builder (in the 1940s) had a love affair with sheds – asbestos clad – and concrete. The only vegetation was one Kurrajong tree in the back, possibly from the pre-European era, fed by a winter stream and one Golden Queen peach. After we spent seemingly an eternity properly ridding ourselves of the sheds and a lot of concrete, plus Bouganvillea, convolvulus and other weeds, we had an open canvas to work with.

A passing neighbour once described the garden as displaying organised chaos. The Permaculture design involved creating not only an abundance of food plants but also placing them strategically to aid in climate control and create habitat for the birds, frogs and lizards that miraculously came to stay in our oasis. The ongoing tasks include continuous pruning for promotion of fruiting and access to it, soil and water management, and learning from failures and drought, excessive heat and other interferences. How do we do it? Come and share our journey.

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>

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On the day, we will conduct tours with a focus on

- composting and building the soil
- water harvesting with ponds and swales
- partial root zone drying with olla pots
- pruning methods
- climate control by design
- exotic and native food plants
- learning to slow down, observe nature, eat nutritious food and enjoy warming fires in winter from our harvested prunings.

Morning and afternoon teas will be available and our nearby neighbour will be selling locally produced honey.

Now



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.