



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia Welcomes you to **'Wattle Be Will Bee' Bush Garden**

Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th September, 2026

G'day – Welcome to “Wattle Be Will Bee” Bush Garden. We are Jane and Peter Roper, we lived in the Northern Territory for almost 30 years and retired to Springton mid 2011, when we started our garden. When we bought the ½ acre property in 2002 it had not been lived in for 4 years and the garden consisted of numerous dead fruit trees, a Golden Elm and 2 dead Eucalypts, which we removed. The non-natives we kept from the original garden are – a Spruce, Magnolia, Fig, 3 Ash trees, 3 Crepe Myrtles and a Bay tree. There are also 2 natives that survive from the original garden, a Eucalypt and an Allocasuarina.

Our garden was started from scratch, the block was basically bare, just weeds and of course, they grow better than anything you buy. We have a 30 HP tractor which has been the BEST wheelbarrow and shovel we have ever owned. We carted rocks, dug the pond and terraced some areas as well as constructing walls at the front and rear of the house, relocated a cubby house for the grandchildren and built what we call “The Shelter” at the back of the house, this is where the Golden Elm grew. The Shelter houses and displays memorabilia from our early farming days in Western Victoria and our time in The Territory.

Having always had Australian Native Gardens, we started planting natives in early 2012 and gradually over a number of years prepared areas ready for planting. Prior to this, the first area was our vegetable garden and orchard which we started in August 2011. One of the most challenging things we faced was the severity of frosts in this gully, down to -8 degrees. At one stage there were many more empty pots behind our garden shed, than plants surviving in the garden. Selecting frost resistant plants was paramount for success, until over time we established a canopy, effectively creating a microclimate to enable planting of a much wider range of plants. Although, we still lose plants to the most severe frosts, losing a handful in the last couple of months. Gardening is a continuum of course, you never finish.

There's a range of natives in the garden including – Eucalyptus, Leptospermum, Callistemon, Acacia, Melaleuca, Banksia, Adenanthos, Dodonaea, Correa, Eremophila, Grevillea, Hakea, Myoporum, Prostanthera, Xanthorrhoea, Chamelaucium, Philotheca, Ziera, Persoonia, Kunzea plus many more.

Jane has a special interest in succulents and adjacent to “The Shelter” are her succulent gardens. Adjoining this area is our small “Bush Tucker” garden which has Kangaroo Apple, Appleberry, Warrigal Greens, River Mint, Muntries, Bush Banana, Lemon Grass, Native Raspberry, Youlk, Midgenberry, Native Leek, Native Currant, Creeping Mint, Yam Daisy, Tasmanian Mountain Pepper and Salt Bush.

We have placed few seats in the garden, some made from recycled sleepers, a rock etc. and we use them as often as we can. We believe one of the best things for one's soul is to sit quietly in the garden and appreciate the wonders of nature and listen to the birds and insects. It gives a sense of fulfilment and satisfaction to know you have created habitat for wildlife to thrive and multiply.

Thank you so much for coming and sharing our garden, we hope you enjoy your time with us.

In nature – is where we belong.



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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