



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

## Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to

# The Wilkinson Garden

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2023

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Our garden is a mixture of plants, natives, rare and endangered plants, shrubs, annual and perennial plants, orchids, succulent garden beds, wicking beds and a variety of fruit trees, a fire pit and pergola, a green house and wide pathways giving good access. We carefully planned our garden layout and are happy with the result after about eight years. We spent many years in far North Queensland where gardening was relatively easy with great soil, lots of rain and a good climate for most plants. Hence, if you planted it, it usually grew. Here in Whyalla, we have found we have to compensate for a low rainfall, very strong winds, temperatures nearing fifty degrees, frosts and the constant onslaught of hungry blackbirds, picking out the newly planted plants, scratching through the mulch and spreading it over the pathways. Three of the garden beds have a border of small smooth stones which have successfully stopped the blackbirds' onslaught. Previously we have tried wire netting but had no significant result. One other garden bed has a small section bordered with pine cones and this appears to be working quite well and is cost effective as the cones can be gathered from around town under the pine trees.

There was something that influenced me to grow some arid land plants. When I was in my early teens, I grew up in the Simpson Desert and the abundance of plants, wildlife, animals and birds astounded me. At school I was taught about the hardship of the Simpson and did not to see such a variety of life. The nights gave a spectacular, clear view of the milky way and I rode horses through the desert, regularly slept under the stars and was at ease in the so called desert and felt as though I was part of it and that feeling has never left me. I guess that is why I naturally gravitated to the variety of Australian native plants that we have today. I have to give much credit to my wife for our garden as she has been the green fingers and is responsible for most of the plantings, whereas I mostly look after the heavy work. I have endeavoured to keep reasonably wide paths throughout the garden as I have two friends restrained to wheelchairs and like to have a tour around the garden occasionally to see what might be new. The lawn was so placed at the rear of our home as to catch some of the dust from collecting around the patio area when the unwanted, very strong North winds arrive and indeed it does.

We are both getting on in years now and our focus is turning to having plants that do not require a lot of attention. We find ourselves most often working together in the garden and that brings about a peace of mind and satisfaction of creating something we enjoy. The extent of the satisfaction is that often as lunchtime approaches, we don't notice the time and many a day we have had a late lunch. We will continue to find pleasure in our garden and some of that pleasure is being able to share it with you and we sincerely hope that you have found something that you can take home with you, be it only a memory. Travel home safely and thank you for visiting our garden.

Our kind regards  
Barry and Barbara.

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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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