Autumn Newsletter 2023





Stunning Autumn Colours at Cooinda – Mt George.

Open Gardens SA is delighted with the result of our inaugural Harvest Garden Festival – a great result with visitors enjoying fabulous productive gardens over two days in February and as a result \$30,000 was donated to OzHarvest. It's always a pleasure to be able to open such interesting and inspiring gardens for our visitors. And we have another special event in April – the SA Landscape Festival is on the weekend of the 15 and 16 April 2023 – don't miss it! We also have our regular program of open gardens for you to visit. We hope to see you at an open garden this Autumn!

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2023 Autumn Open Gardens

March 11 - 12 Frosty Flats - Birdwood

March 11 – 12 - 13 Midway Park – Rosslyn Park

March 18 – 19 Lucy's Garden - Port Willunga

April 01 -02
Henley Beach Gardens (5) +
community garden and
HAGAS art centre

April 08 - 09 Marchrismick - Milang

April 15 – 16 SA Landscape Festival

April 23 (Sunday Only) Stangate House – Aldgate

April 30 (Sunday Only) Videon Wells Garden -Springfield

May 14 (Sunday Only) Cooinda – Mt George

See details of the program on our website:

http://opengardensa.org.au/



Harvest Garden Festival 2023 - Productive Gardening ... A wonderful success!



The inaugural Harvest Garden Festival was held over the weekend of the 11 and 12 February 2023.

Twelve garden owners from Strathalbyn to Semaphore opened their gardens to allow visitors the opportunity to explore the productive side of gardening ... the event having a key aim of bolstering the increasing trend for growing your own fresh fruit and vegetables at home or in one of the increasing numbers of community gardens.

It proved to be a very successful concept that struck a chord with the gardening community and beyond, with an estimated 8,000 visitations. Feedback from all participants was extremely positive. Visitors were able to ask questions and receive valuable advice from experienced gardeners. Advice and demonstrations were available on a range of topics including productive gardening,



permaculture, organic gardening, compost making, wicking bed construction, preserving food, attracting beneficial insects, etc.



All proceeds from the Festival were donated to OzHarvest, our charity partner for this event, to support their food rescue operations and food relief services.

Open Gardens SA Chair, David Hancock said "We are very pleased that some seriously good logistics and planning paid off and that, for this event, the weather Gods were on our side".

"We are delighted to be handing over a sum of \$30,000 to OzHarvest raised through this Festival... we know it will make a difference. We thank the garden owners and the public for the incredible support."

OzHarvest save surplus food from ending up in landfill and deliver it to charities that help feed people in need. In South Australia, OzHarvest operate in Adelaide and Victor Harbor. They rescue over 20 tonnes of quality surplus food each week from more than 100 food donors including supermarkets, restaurants, cafes, hotels,



airlines and food outlets and deliver directly to more than 100 charitable agencies. Every \$1 donated to OzHarvest ensures 2 meals can be provided to men, women and children in need.

The funds raised from the Harvest Garden Festival will have a significant, positive impact:

- 60,000 meals delivered to vulnerable South Australians.
- 30,000 kg of food saved from landfill.
- 198,000 kg of CO2 emissions prevented through avoiding food waste.
- 4,290,000 L of water saved.



A wonderful achievement – we are delighted with this result!

Open Gardens SA / Playford Trust / TAFE SA Awards

In partnership with Open Gardens South Australia, the Playford Trust offered up to three (3) awards of \$3,000 each in 2022 for TAFE SA students studying **Environment, Conservation and Horticulture**.

These awards provide support to those interested in a career in gardens and who will inspire an interest in gardens in others.

Successful students are asked to share their experience with Open Gardens SA and talk about how they have been able to use the award to further their career, or foster an interest in gardens, and about their future aspirations.



Congratulations to the 2022 Playford Trust TAFESA Awards winners, held at TAFE's Tonsley Campus on Thursday 24 November 2022.

Open Gardens South Australia Award for Environment, Conservation and Horticulture:

Kobey Knight - Kobey has his hort 111 certificate and is involved in his diploma of horticulture. He has been employed by the Adelaide Botanic garden and the State Herbarium and plans to use the award to do a 4 week placement with the Eden Project in the future. He is very motivated and plans to mentor others in horticulture. He has been awarded numerous times as a rising star in the industry.

Tahlia Webster - Tahlia is a certificate 111 horticulture student with a special plan to educate others in permaculture. She is presently working in the industry at Newman's nursery and is responsible for their social media input. She is committed, has done well in her course and has a vision for her future.

Natasha White - Natasha White is studying for a diploma in Landscape Design and has already made plans to join the industry. She has a certificate 11 in horticulture and is working with the State

Flora Nursery. She would use the award to provide further resources to equip her to further her design endeavours.



Tahlia Webster and David Hancock



Natasha White and David Hancock Congratulations to Kobey Knight, Tahlia Webster and Natasha White!



Open Gardens SA Seasonal Program

The full listing of our open gardens with all the details and beautiful photographs is available on our website:

http://opengardensa.org.au/

Our aim is to promote the enjoyment, knowledge, and benefits of gardens and gardening in the South Australian community, and to build strong public support for the development of gardens across the state.

Plant Profile - Scadoxus multiflorus - a bulb from the east coast of Africa.

By Trevor Nottle.

Kwa-Zulu Natal is a province of the Republic of South Africa in the north-east corner of the country adjoining Mozambique. The climate is sub-Tropical with a summer wet season. The native plants are very varied occupying many micro-climates and a diversity of soils and environments. The bulbous flora includes some very attractive species which are beginning to appear in the sales lists of specialist nurseries in Australia. Growers in the northern coastal region of NSW and coastal Queensland are gradually building up stocks of good things that, with a little care, can be grown in South Australia.



Photo: Margaret Nottle

Plants from the sub-Tropics abhor frosts and drought and are grown best in pots or in sheltered garden beds that are warm, watered and watched with care. *Scadoxis multiforus* is one such plant that deserves the attention of gardeners. It is a member of the Amaryllidaceae family, related to Belladonna's, Haemanthus and Nerines. The bulbs make a

permanent root system and can be deciduous in Temperate climates such as South Australia. In their habitat Scadoxis grow in the leaf litter, mosses and leaf mould found on rocky ledges and well drained soils in dappled light on the edges of forests and wooded areas. Cultivation is easy if these indications from Nature are followed: very well drained soil or potting mix, dappled shade, attention to watering over summer and light feeds of low nitrogen fertilizer.

The results should be spectacular. Astonishing red flowers that resemble an explosion of petals and stamens and an umbrella of lush leaves in a broad rosette atop a tall stem. The flower stalks rise beside the leaf stem in early summer are in full flower by mid-February. A single bulb will slowly multiply and gradually develop a very satisfying clump.

As a general guide flowering size bulbs cost around \$30 while immature bulbs can be found at significantly cheaper prices. Should the flowers ever set seed plant it as soon as the seeds are fully developed, water and wait. Germination is usually seen in a week or ten days, keep the seedlings in a warm place in good light and feed to keep the tiny plants growing as long as possible. Flowering sized bulbs will develop within four to five years.

SA Landscape Festival 15 – 16 April 2023



For one weekend only, Open Gardens SA and the Master Landscapers of SA (MLSA) open the gates to some of our state's most beautiful, professionally designed and built, privately owned gardens for the SA Landscape Festival 2023.

In April 2021 the MLSA and Open Gardens SA staged the inaugural SA Landscape Festival, welcoming over 2,500 patrons through the gates of twelve of our states most beautiful and professionally landscaped gardens.

SA Landscape Festival is a celebration of landscape design, construction, and maintenance, that allows visitors to spend time in private gardens, collect ideas, and admire the work of some of our state's best landscapers.

Both Open Gardens SA and the Master Landscapers of SA and are incredibly proud to have created and present this uniquely South Australian Festival. The inaugural 2021 SA Landscape Festival supported the outstanding work of the South Australian Country Women's Association, raising over \$22,000. Proceeds from the 2023 Festival will once again be donated to the SA Country Women's Association, and we thank them for their continued support.



Special thanks must also go to the generosity of our participating garden owners, without whom the SA Landscape Festival could not give visitors the opportunity to see inside the vast array of privately owned gardens showcasing the exceptional work of the MLSA Landscapers.

Visit for only \$10 per garden or \$50 for an all-garden two-day pass to view all ten participating gardens. Children under 12 FREE. No concessions. Visit the website for full details and to book tickets https://salandscapefestival.com.au/

Our Ten 2023 SA Landscape Festival gardens.

Dawley, Leabrook - Caroline Dawes and The Great Outdawes.



Mature trees and a large area in front of the impressive Tudorstyle home provided an opportunity to create a remarkable garden. A long, curved drive surrounds a generous lawn edged with garden beds crammed with

pretty flowering plants and grasses with stone walling adding structure and interest. A rotunda in the back garden has been beautifully restored, the pool modernised, a superb chook house built and the pair of gates that are a family treasure have been creatively included as a lovely feature in this timeless garden.

Dragon Tree, Medindie - David Baptiste.



A handsome and large Dragon tree planted early 1900 on the boundary within the adjacent park dominated the front garden and was the impetus for the design and plant choices. Unfortunately, the tree

was vandalised which brought infection and it slowly died being removed by Council about a year ago. As a tribute a new dragon tree has been planted close to the original location.

The rear garden has had the biggest change undertaken to reflect the age of the children now in their late teens and early twenties. Gone are the sand pit, swing set and artificial lawn replaced by a suspended fire place that seconds as a pizza oven, concrete bench and timber day bed with chill-out deck and bean bags under the shade of the original London Plane tree.

Auricht House, Hanhdorf - Hills Classic Gardens.



The large, beautifully designed garden around the newly renovated historic home is a modern take on traditional style. Tonnes of soil was moved and meticulously crafted sandstone retaining walls constructed to create level usable space with generous lawns and wide meandering paths that lead from formal areas with box hedging to informal spaces filled with cottage garden plants. A pair of substantial feature pergolas planted with wisteria and roses were added and the original outbuildings, existing old trees and a fishpond are skilfully integrated into the design.

Seaside Stables, West Beach
- Husk Projects and Ground
Design Landscaping.



Cleverly designed, meticulously landscaped and easily maintained, this small courtyard garden is big on wow factor! Contemporary in style with a focus on texture and shape, lines and curves have been creatively combined in the varied hardscaping materials and in the plants. The space is multi-purpose; an inspirational entertaining area that doubles as a carpark whilst maintaining its aesthetic appeal. An outdoor shower, a water bowl with a bubbler add soothing sound and clusters of stylish pots are a classy touch.

Habitat Haven, Oakbank - Nicki King Landscape Design.



Naturalistic, low maintenance and designed to attract wildlife, the garden is filled with a beautiful combination of grasses, mixed natives, exotic and productive plants. A pathway meanders over a

small creek to a fire pit and sunken entertaining area retained by fabulous curved steel panel and stone walling. A second entertaining area has a well-used wood fired oven and a bespoke timber battened pool fence. Steel, stone and wood are repeated elements that blend perfectly with the soft pallet of selected plants.

St Michael's College – Reflection Garden, Henley Beach - SA Waterscapes.



Renowned for their expertise in constructing water features that imitate nature, SA Waterscapes created an alluring watercourse as the centrepiece of the St Michael's College

Reflective Garden. Biologically filtered water gently trickles along a rocky stream bed through several little waterfalls and under a bridge to a tranquil pond that is home to aquatic plants, fish and frogs. The soothing sound of water has added a sense of calm, restfulness and wellbeing in this lovely quiet green space dedicated to learning and reflection.

St Githas, Bridgewater - Sphere Landscape Design and Garden Partner.



The beautiful big old home required an elegant and equally grand garden and Sphere created a modern take on classic formal style. Features include a pair of magnificent twin arbors bordering

the back garden, stone walling, eye-catching paving detail, a terrace, a superb cast iron fountain and sculpture, all placed for maximum visual impact. Hedges play a big part in the design creating axis to focal points and providing living structure and form to the many roses and profusion of perennials that provide year-round interest.

Brighton South - Yardstick Landscape Services.



An imaginative low maintenance garden planted mainly with natives and water efficient species and perfectly complementing the sustainable strawbale home. Hidden to the side is a small secluded sitting area with a pergola and quietly bubbling water feature. The back garden is designed for relaxation and entertaining with a swimming pool, sauna, pizza oven, chooks, raised veggie beds and a cute garden shed! Providing privacy and a sense of fun are several eyecatching corten steel panels laser-cut with designs relevant to the owners' interests.

Fulham - Yardstick Landscape Services.



Yardstick are renown for maximising the potential of small spaces and have excelled in this garden, fitting a superb outdoor kitchen with pizza oven, entertainment area, outdoor fire place, swimming pool with spa, raised veggie bed and fruit trees into a tight 165m2 space! The garden is resort-like, functional, stylish and crammed with different

textures, high quality products and innovative features. Rendered walls accented with insets of foliage contrast with slim vertical timber slat panelling, effectively disguising the boundaries and adding personality and interest.

Whitehouse, Stirling - Hills Classic Gardens.



Starting from a blank canvas, Hills Classic Gardens designed and constructed an award-winning modern cottage garden around an attractive and recently renovated white weather-board home. Stone

is used extensively – large boulders retain the slope, curved stone retaining walls are a feature and create level usable spaces, there is a custom-built timber and steel pergola and screen. Connecting different areas are stone steps and superb oversized steppers bedded in the lawn. This restrained use of materials along with the pretty white picket fence give a cohesive look, beautifully in tune with the home.

MAJOR EVENT PARTNER

















Theatre in the Garden triumphs again.



Blue Sky Theatre's production of *The Scarlet Pimpernel* was a triumphant success, with many audience members commenting that it was the best Theatre in the Garden production yet.

As the story was set during the French Revolution, the production team needed to create scores of colourful costumes, including elegant uniforms, beautiful

coats and stunning ballgowns. The cast transformed into more than fifty characters to tell the tale, and period music added to the atmosphere. Of course, the story of daring-do would only be complete with a guillotine.

While many of the cast were familiar as they've appeared in the ensemble year after year, it was pleasing to see some new faces on the stage, including Emily Currie as Marquerite and Eddie Sims as the dashing Pimpernel.

With face masks and social distancing a thing of the past, surely COVID-19 would be less likely to impact the performances. How wrong we were.

During the first weekend of shows at Pat and Gerald Uppill's garden first one, then a second cast member, tested positive. But the show must go on, so a few of the cast took on additional roles,

the assistant stage manager stepped in for his absent wife, and even director, Dave Simms made an unplanned return to the stage, script in hand.



During the following week, the cast and crew succumbed one by one. With fourteen affected, the production team postponed the following weekend's shows until everyone returned to good health.

After a week off, the show returned to Wittunga Botanic Garden. The Cedars audience finally got to laugh at the story by the first weekend in February.

Proceeds from these shows benefit good causes. This year's donations helped Fleurieu Cancer Support Foundation to buy another vehicle for their patient transport service, assisted Wittunga Botanic Gardens' restoration project following the December storms, and helped The Hans Heysen Foundation continue upgrading The Cedars.

The season was sold out as early as December, demonstrating the audience's enthusiastic support for Theatre in the Garden each year. Blue Sky Theatre and Open Gardens SA are also grateful for Howards Wines and Matthews Hospitality's sponsorship.

The Scarlet Pimpernel provided the audience with enjoyable, energetic and entertaining evenings under the stars in three delightful gardens.

Open Gardens SA – Autumn 2023 Gardens

All gardens open from 10am until 4.30pm on the dates listed unless indicated otherwise. General entry to each garden is \$10, and \$8 for Open Gardens SA Members and for a Commonwealth Government Pensioner Concession Card or Health Care Card. Children Under 18 free entry. We encourage visitors to bring cash as EFTPOS facilities may not always be available.

OGSA Recommends....

We recommend you always check our website to confirm garden opening details prior to visiting. The website is an upto-date, reliable and informative site which lists each open garden with a description of the garden, address (including a map), photographs, the availability of refreshments etc. The official Garden Notes written by the garden owner are also provided which you can read in advance or print and take a copy with you for your garden visit. Importantly, our website will always list any late additions or cancellations to our garden opening program. http://opengardensa.org.au/

OGSA 2023 Autumn Calendar

Entry Fee \$10 per Adult, Limited Concessions available, Under 18 free. March 2023

11 - 12

Frosty Flats – 2891 Onkaparinga Valley Road, Birdwood

11, 12 and 13

Midway Park – 2 Angove Court, Rosslyn Park – opening at 9.30am

18.19

Lucy's Garden - 29 Caffrey Crescent, Port Willunga

April 2023

01 - 02

Henley Beach Gardens (5) + community garden and HAGAS art centre. Entry \$15 - No concessions

08 - 09 (Easter)

Marchrismick - 33 Stirling Street, Milang - Open to 7pm Sunday

23 April (Sunday Only)

Stangate House - 3 Edgeware Road, Aldgate

30 April (Sunday Only)

Videon Wells Garden - 18 Hillside Road, Springfield

May 2023 - 14 May (Sunday ONLY)

Cooinda – 8 Fowler Road, Mt George



Frosty Flats, Birdwood



Midway Park, Roslyn Park



Lucy's Garden, Port Willunga



Marchrismick, Milang



Stangate House, Aldgate



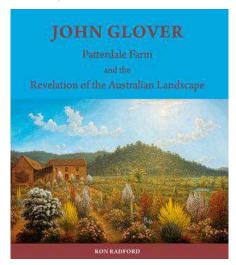
Videon Wells Garden. Springfield



Cooinda, Mt George

Book Review - JOHN GLOVER: Patterdale Farm and the Revelation of the Australian Landscape. by Ron Radford, Ovata Press, Launceston (Tas.) 2023.

Review By Trevor Nottle



Readers of this journal may well remember Ron Radford from his time as Director of the Art Gallery of South Australia before going on the be Director of the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra. There will be others too, who recall see John Glover's painting A View of the artists house and garden at Mills Plains, van Dieman's Land, 1835 that is the jewel of the Colonial Galleries at the Adelaide Gallery.

In this book Dr Radford delivers a highly detailed assessment of the artist, John Glover, his life, family, career, development, productions and how all these parts of the man came together in his life in Australia. In particular Radford develops his case that Glover is unique among Colonial artists in his capacity to interpret the new landscape, and light, in which he painted following his arrival in van Dieman's Land on April 1st 1831 at the age of sixty four years. Having left behind a successful career in London Glover, with his family, moved to Australia to start life as farmers and land-owners. He continued to paint in his new country and despatched consignments of paintings to his London agent to be exhibited and sold to his patrons there.

Radford traces this history in remarkable detail, supporting it comprehensively with references to Glover's sketch books and paintings. Not being any kind of art historian I couldn't critique Radford's analysis of Glover's development of observation and painterly techniques that were applied so brilliantly to conveying the qualities of light, and the subtle botanical differences that were presented to his eyes when he went out to sketch or paint. I can only say that Radford is right: Glover was the first to capture the quality of Australian light, and to master the forms of native trees and their foliage.

For gardeners it seems a pity that Radford's researches did not take him among the Dutch Flower Painters and their practice of depicting flowers from all seasons in one painting. Had he done so his analysis of Glover's garden, as shown in his view of his garden at Mills Plains might have been more acutely observed. Still, that is a very small quibble that will worry few and detract not at all from the overall authority that Radford brings to his subject.

2023 Autumn Calendar, Henley Beach Gardens, photographs of Henley Community Garden















Selecting gardens to open as part of our Open Garden program.

Have you even wondered how gardens are selected to open as part of our program? The gardens we open are carefully chosen because they represent the best of their kind in each region of the State.

Gardens can range from tiny inner city courtyards to large country estates. There are historic gardens, productive gardens, organic gardens, formal gardens, professionally designed gardens, Australian native plant gardens and plantsmen's gardens showcasing specialist collections. They must all have a very high level of maintenance, offer *at least* 30 minutes of interest to visitors and be safe and accessible. Our Garden Selectors also consider garden design strength and quality, significant plant collections, historical significance, good plantsmanship, an original or imaginative approach to the garden, and difficulties with site, soil, or climate being managed well & successfully designed.

When a potential garden is identified by OGSA, our Head of Selectors will arrange to visit the garden and explain the selection and opening process to the garden owner. The Selector will assess the garden and should the garden be selected to open, provides support and advice to the garden owner throughout the process of preparing to open.

The aim of OGSA is to provide a different and varied program every year. Accordingly, being selected to open your garden for OGSA does not mean you will automatically be asked to open again. We are fortunate that there are some outstanding gardens who are invited to be included every year, but most garden owners prefer to only open every second or third year to allow them time to undertake new projects or to simply have the time for other activities or to visit other gardens.

Gardeners thinking of nominating their garden to open under the banner of OGSA need to be aware of our strong selection criteria. When a Selector assess a garden it might be determined that although the garden is good, it may need a year or two to 'mature' or there may be some recommendations to (for example) address safety or access concerns, before a possible opening on a future date. And our regular garden visitors like to visit new and different gardens.

Most gardens open on the weekends on both Saturdays and Sundays. The standard open hours are 10am to 4.30pm both days. The entry fee to each garden is set by OGSA and is currently \$10 per adult, \$8 concession, and under 18 free. The gate takings are shared 50:50 with the Garden Owner (many who choose donate their share to charity).

Our Committee members and Selectors are volunteers – the time and "behind the scenes" work committement to open a garden is considerable. Once selected there is detailed documentation to be completed and approved, photographs, website listings, publicity and social media, garden notes to be printed and delivered, to highlight just a few of the requirements of our volunteer committee! We appreciate the consideration and committement of the garden owners in assising us assisting them, in opening their gardens to the public.

If you have a great garden or know of one which meets our specific criteria and very high standards, please contact us!

2023 Autumn Calendar, Henley Beach Gardens Open Saturday 01 and Sunday 02 April 2023 \$15 Entry Fee, No Concessions.



Henley Beach Gardens, Chester Street



Henley Beach Gardens, Coast Haven



Henley Beach Gardens, Cottage Corner



Henley Beach Gardens, Grevilleaville



Henley Beach Gardens, Henley On Sea

Autumn Cooking – Plum Crumble Cake.

Recipe and Photos - Di Michalk.



Looking for alternative ways to use up excess plums? This easy and delicious cake is a tempting treat and it also freezes well.

Line with a 28cm x 18cm slice pan with baking paper.

Preheat oven to 180C.

Ingredients:

Approx 6 ripe plums (Satsuma are good).

Cake Mix:
125g butter, softened
125g sugar
2 large fresh eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla essence
250g SR Flour
Milk to mix.
Crumble Topping:
125g plain flour
100g sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon

Melted butter to mix.



Method:

Slice the plums into moderately thick slices, remove and discard the stones.

To make the crumble topping, combine the flour, sugar and cinnamon in a bowl. Pour in the melted butter (approx., 120g) and stir together gently, allowing the flour mix to form clumps – the clumps should vary in size.

To make the cake base, cream together the softened butter and the sugar. Beat in the vanilla essence, and then the eggs, one at a time. Mix well. Gently fold in the sifted SR flour with enough milk to make a smooth cake batter. Evenly spread the cake mix into the lined slice tray. Place the sliced plums in a single layer over the top of the cake mix and them sprinkle the crumble topping over the plums. The plums will cook as the cake bakes. Bake for approx. 50 minutes or until the topping is a light golden brown and a skewer comes out clean when testing the cake.



Allow to cool before slicing and enjoy with a fresh cup of tea or coffee.



A Little Quote or Two







Erigeron. Erigeron is a large genus of plants in the family Asteraceae.

Open Gardens South Australia 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.

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

Our mailing address is:

Open Gardens SA Inc PO Box 1184 STIRLING SA 5152

Website: http://opengardensa.org.au/

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