

# Spring Newsletter 2023



*Lilac – beautiful perfume for spring.*

It's Spring! – a few days of sunny skies with the temperature slowly rising and the garden responds with flowering bulbs, blossom, and beautiful blooms. We have a wonderful program of open gardens for you to visit and we hope you will enjoy them and find some inspiration and pleasure in spending time in a few, or many, of these gardens. Our Newsletter includes some interesting articles including the list of our spring open gardens – if you are planning to travel, we have also included some ideas of where to find information on visiting gardens overseas in our article on page 3! We hope you enjoy our Spring Newsletter.

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## Early Spring Open Gardens

September 02 - 03, 2023  
Avondale – Rhyrie (1<sup>st</sup> Open)

September 10 (Sunday Only)  
Wilkinson Garden - Whyalla  
Jenkins

September 17 (Sunday Only)  
Beaumont House - Beaumont

September 23 (Saturday Only)  
Urumbula Garden - Port Pirie

September 24 (Sunday Only)  
Marybank Estate – Rostrevor

September 23 – 24  
Iron Knob Community  
Garden – Iron Knob  
Paul's Plants - Port Elliot

September 30 - October 01 &  
02 (October Long Weekend)  
Avondale – Rhyrie (2<sup>nd</sup> Open)

September 30 - October 01  
Pam White's Garden -  
Glenunga

October 07 - 08  
Clair de Lune - & Skilly House  
Garden – Watervale  
TickleTank – Mt Barker  
Orcombe Farm - Lyndoch

**See details of the full program  
on our website:**

<http://opengardensa.org.au/>

## Open Gardens SA - AGM and Election of Committee Officials

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 11 July 2023, and commenced at 6pm, at the SA Country Women's Association House, 30 Dequetteville Terrace, Kent Town.

### Order of Business

- Minutes from AGM 2022.
- Consideration of the Accounts.
- Report from Chair of the Committee.
- Election of committee members.

### Election of Committee Members

The election of Open Gardens SA (OGSA) committee members takes place at the AGM. The Committee comprises a minimum of 10 people and a maximum of 18 people. A committee member must be a current paid up member of OGSA Inc. Retiring committee members are eligible to stand for re-election without nomination.

Committee member and Chair, David Hancock had previously advised of his decision to not continue on the committee, and the acting Chairperson thanked and acknowledged David's contribution to OGSA in his absence. Alison Edwards, as a new nomination, and was welcomed to join the committee. All other committee members had indicated their intention to stand for re-election, and as the total number of committee members is less than the maximum of 18, a vote to elect members was not required.

### Election of New Committee Officials

At the OGSA Committee meeting following the AGM, also held on the 11 July 2023, the election of Officials took place. The appointed Officials for the next twelve months are as follows:

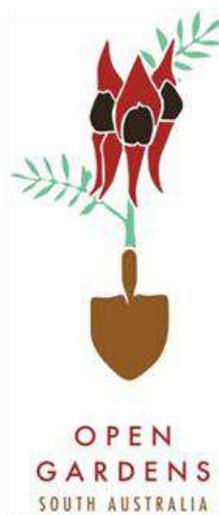
**Joint Chair:** Vick Winnall and Tom Wilkinson.

**Deputy Chairperson:** Alison Jones.

**Finance Officer:** Rob Andrewartha.

**Public Officer:** Rob Andrewartha.

**Secretary:** Lyn Edwards.



## Garden Owner Information Event

Each year Open Gardens SA invites our garden owners to our Information Event ahead of the commencement of our spring program. This year the event was held on the afternoon of Sunday 20th August, at the Mitcham Village Institute in Mitcham.



Garden owners were invited to join us to learn more about opening their garden, to meet garden owners who have opened before and enjoy a glass of wine, tea, coffee and refreshments. It is also an opportunity to collect the very useful and informative information kit provided to every garden owner.

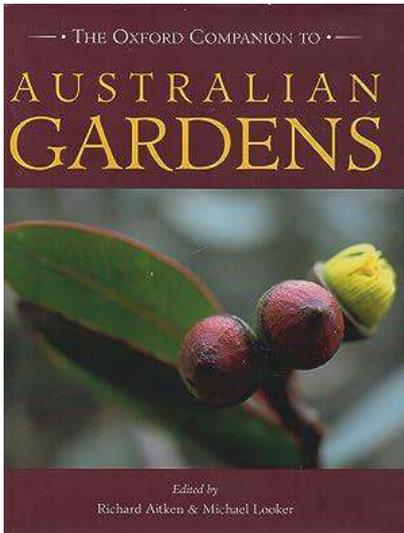


This event was proudly supported by the City of Mitcham's Grants Program. Open Gardens SA greatly appreciates the generosity and support of the City of Mitcham.

## Referencing Gardens to Visit.

By Trevor Nottle.

Readers of the OGSA webpages are lucky; they receive excellent information that is timely and well written thanks largely to observant garden owners and a skilful editorial team. Sometimes people who enjoy visiting gardens want just a little more information. In Australia



that can be found in THE OXFORD COMPANION TO AUSTRALIAN GARDENS which contains a good deal of background information about people, gardens and garden history relevant to the country. On another level the website AUSTRALIAN GARDEN CALENDAR delivers a good list of national garden events, conferences, shows, exhibitions and such like that is up-to-date and free. It is published by the SA branch of Horticultural Media Association – Australia with industry support.

Further afield are booklets and brochures such as NEW ZEALAND GARDENS OF SIGNIFICANCE and GUIDE DE JARDINS EN FRANCE which are published as print media or on-line. More specialised events are published occasionally by the California Gardens and Historic Landscapes Society, various historic houses such as FILIOLI, DESCANSO, DUMBARTON OAKS and the various presidential homes along the east coast like MONTICELLO, MOUNT VERNON and SAGAMORE HILL. There are many more with intriguing names and manicured gardens. Yet more will be found on the website of THE GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA and the US NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE which maintains many historic sites with garden interest such as the NATCHEZ TRACE while many local tourism and regional groups list gardens too good to miss: MIDDLETON PLANTATION, MAGNOLIA PLANTATION, DRAYTON HALL, BOONE HALL PLANTATION and CYPRESS GARDENS to mention but a few. The west coast is not without places worthy of exploration for gardens to visit especially those associated with the SPANISH MISSIONS as well as towns like CARMEL and MONTECITO which are virtual garden cities. Montecito has LOTUSLAND as a key attraction and further south along the main coast road is LA CUESTA ENCANTADA – the Enchanted Hill, built for William Randolph Hearst, a very wealthy newspaper publisher.

Of particular interest to Australian garden lovers' intent on travel and garden visiting are the Yellow Books published annually by THE NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME (UK) (<https://ngs.org.uk/>). With more than 3,500 gardens open every year the choices are amazing whichever part of the UK readers may be travelling through. The NGS also has a website that is equally comprehensive. These are all excellent and cover gardens in the UK which are open on set days, and

at set times throughout the year. The range is almost astonishing: individual gardens at house and on farms, whole streets that collaborate to create and present events that may last just one day or range over several weekends, or even run for an entire week. The



NATIONAL TRUST (UK) and HISTORIC ENGLAND are the owners of many great gardens that are regularly open, so their websites will be sure to repay perusal with some excellent gardens to add to any traveller's itinerary. And besides they also hold numerous garden related events. The GARDEN MUSEUM, based in London has a strong outreach programme which can be accessed by the website.

For more comprehensive and detailed information resort may be made to books such as THE OXFORD COMPANION TO AUSTRALIAN GARDENS, GARDENS OF EUROPE, THE OXFORD COMPANION TO GARDENS (international) and THE GARDENS OF A GOLDEN AGE (USA). While these are old technology, they are in an editorial sense more reliable than the more variable entries found for gardens in Wikipedia and Google.



OGSA Recommends...

**We recommend you always check our website to confirm garden opening details prior to visiting.** The website is an up-to-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 Spring Calendar

Entry Fee \$10 per Adult, Limited Concessions available, Under 18 free. We encourage visitors to bring cash as EFTPOS facilities may not always be available.

**SEPTEMBER 2023**

**02 - 03 September & again on 30 September, 01 and 02 October**  
Avondale – 146 Avondale Road, Rhynie

**10 September (Sunday Only)**

*Wilkinson Garden* - 83 Robinson Street, Whyalla Jenkins

**17 September (Sunday Only)**

*Beaumont House* - 631 Glynburn Road, Beaumont

**23 September (Saturday Only)**

*Urumbula Garden* - Mary Ellie Street, Port Pirie

**24 September (Sunday Only)**

*Marybank Estate* - 404 Montacute Road, Rostrevor.

**23 - 24 September**

*Iron Knob Community Garden* - Dickinson Street, Iron Knob

*Paul's Plants* - 16 Vanali Drive, Port Elliot

**30 September to 01 October**

*Pam White's Garden* - 48 Bevington Road, Glenunga

**30 September to Monday 02 October (Long weekend, 3 Days)**

Avondale – 146 Avondale Road, Rhynie

**OCTOBER 2023**

**07 - 08 October**

*Clair de Lune* - 217 Skillogalee Creek Road, Watervale

*Skilly House Garden* - 294 Skillogalee Creek Road, Watervale

*TickleTank* - 24 Hill Street, Mt Barker

*Orcombe Farm* - 49 Berryfield Road, Lyndoch



Avondale – Rhynie



Wilkinson Garden - Whyalla Jenkins



Beaumont House - Beaumont



Urumbula Garden - Port Pirie



Marybank Estate – Rostrevor



Iron Knob Community Garden - Iron Knob

OGSA 2023 Spring Calendar Continued...

**Entry Fee \$10 per Adult, Limited Concessions available, Under 18 free. We encourage visitors to bring cash as EFTPOS facilities may not always be available.**

**OCTOBER 2023**

**14 - 15 October**

*The Running House Garden - 381 Glynburn Road, Kensington Park*

*The Bower - 10 Fourth Road, Belair*

*Churston - 94 Day Terrace, West Croydon*

*St Mary's Vineyard - 563 V & A Lane, Penola*

**21 - 22 October**

*The Garden in Wilpena Street – 41 Wilpena Street, Eden Hills*

*Crabapple Cottage - 1 Jean Street, Leabrook*

*BostonVista - 125 Howard Avenue, Port Lincoln*

**28 - 29 October**

*Ashgrove Iris Garden - 53-55 Albert Street, Gumeracha*

*Kenton Park - 437 Torrens Valley Road, Gumeracha*

**NOVEMBER 2023**

**04 – 05 November**

*Highcroft - 231 Mail Road, Harrogate*

*Rosie & Mick's Garden - 4 Graetz Terrace, Springton*

**11 - 12 November**

*The Knoll - 6 The Knoll Crescent, Coromandel Valley*

*Nancy's Garden - 12 Miamba Street, Penola*

*Kidman Garden - 16 Hetherington Avenue, Penola*

*Weirs Lane - 77 Weirs Lane, Penola*

**19 November (Sunday Only)**

*Al Ru Farm - 1016 One Tree Hill Road, One Tree Hill*

**25 - 26 November**

*Jane's Cottage Garden - 80 Murray Street, Clapham*



*TickleTank - Mt Barker*



*Orcombe Farm - Lyndoch*



*The Running House Garden - Kensington Park*



*The Bower - Belair*



*Churston - West Croydon*



*St Mary's Vineyard - Penola*



*Paul's Plants - Port Elliot*



*Pam White's Garden - Glenunga*



*Clair de Lune – Watervale*



*Skilly House Garden - Watervale*

***View more photographs of our spring open gardens on page 11.***

## Garden Tours and Lunch on the Lawns at Government House

<https://www.governor.sa.gov.au/vice-regal/lunch-on-the-lawns>

Government House, Adelaide is the official residence and Office of Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia. The Vice Regal residence is not only the oldest public building in South Australia, but it is also the oldest Government House in Australia.



From September 2023, on the **first Friday** of every month, Her Excellency the Governor is opening the grounds of Government House for the public to enjoy their lunch picnic-style on the lawns. Each month, visitors can enjoy a performance by a local band or orchestra.

Visitors are invited to explore the Government House gardens and bring their own food, beverages, chairs and picnic rugs. The initiative reflects Her Excellency's commitment to welcoming as many people as possible into the Government House grounds.

For garden enthusiasts, earlier in the day, tours of the garden will be conducted by guides from the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide. Participants will learn about how the Government House garden has developed over time, its oldest trees, the history of its statues and sculptures, and more.

### **DETAILS:**

The free events will be held on the first Friday of the month from 12 noon to 2pm starting on Friday 1 September. Just come through the main gates and choose your picnic spot. Other dates are:

- October 6 2023
- November 3 2023
- December 1 2023
- January 5 2024
- February 2 2024
- March 1 2024
- April 5 2024 and
- May 3 2024.

### **Lunch on the Lawns**

Gates open from 12-2pm, corner North Terrace and King William Road.

**Entry is free, no bookings required.** Visitors must bring their own food, rugs etc.

### **Garden tours**

10.45am-11.45am.

**Entry is free, bookings are required: tel 08 8203 9800.**

### **Gardens & Grounds**

The gardens and grounds of Government House, the official residence and workplace of South Australian Governors since 1840, is an important landmark that is steeped in historical, cultural and environmental significance.

The grounds have accommodated the functions of 35 Governors for almost 200 years and include original plantings of trees, including Moreton Bay Figs and Palms, as well as plants of botanical significance.

Bordered by King William Road, North Terrace, Kintore Avenue and the River Torrens, the total area of the grounds of Government House is 5.6 hectares.

Many of the trees located on the grounds are ceremonial plantings and include a Golden Elm planted by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh during the late Queen Elizabeth II's first visit to Australia in 1954, a descendent of the Lone Pine at Gallipoli planted by His Excellency Sir Eric Neal, and a Claret Ash planted by Her Excellency Marjorie Jackson-Nelson.

The completion of the Eastern Wing of Government House in May 1849, also known as the Kingston Wing, resulted in the beginning of a proper garden in the grounds, with a sentry walk completed during this period.

The garden underwent significant changes between 1849 and 1855, including the beginning of a planting scheme involving the first Director of the Adelaide Botanic Garden, George Francis.

A boundary wall around Government House was constructed in 1849 and a permanent guardhouse, based on the same architectural style as the Hamilton Wing, was built in 1855.

The first of many changes to the boundaries of Government House occurred around the same period, with the widening of North Terrace and the continuation of King William Street.

In 2015, the Kintore Avenue boundary of the grounds of Government House was stepped back to enable the construction of the ANZAC Centenary Memorial Walk.



## Blue Sky Theatre – *The Government Inspector*, *A laugh-out-loud satire of small-town officialdom.*



This January, 2024, Blue Sky Theatre will present outdoor performances of *The Government Inspector*.

It's 1937 on a small Greek island, and the corrupt mayor learns that an undercover inspector is coming to investigate how his town is run.

It's not good. Not good at all. So, the officials decide to clean up their act.

When a stranger arrives, they hurriedly shower him with food, wine, and a good time, hoping he'll pay no heed to what's happening.

After all, every man has his price.

But are they bribing the wrong man?

This riotous portrait of rampaging self-destruction is a witty adaptation of Nikolai Gogol's classic comedy. We all know how badly politicians can behave, so prepare for groans of familiarity and lots of laughs.

Blue Sky Theatre's productions in gardens continue to delight each summer. The gardens open from 4pm, with the show at 6.30pm, so there's plenty of time to enjoy a picnic washed down with a drink from the bar.

*Date and venues:*

**12, 13 & 14 January 2024**  
Second Valley Farm,  
SECOND VALLEY

**19, 20 & 21 January 2024**  
The Cedars, HAHNDORF

**26, 27 & 28 January 2024**  
Wittunga Botanic Garden,  
BLACKWOOD

**Tickets are \$40 on sale from 1 October 2023.**

Presented by Open Gardens SA and Blue Sky Theatre Productions with thanks to Grant and Wendy Pember, Hans Heysen Foundation and Adelaide Botanic Gardens.



### Open Gardens SA Seasonal Program

The full listing of our spring 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.*

## Adelaide Botanic Gardens – What’s On? – Free Guided Tours!

<https://www.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au/whats-on>



*In 2022/23 the Botanic Gardens attracted 1.2 million visitors. Adelaide has stunning Botanic Gardens, an absolute delight to visit so why not enjoy a FREE guided tour!*

The Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium of South

Australia is a State Government statutory authority as defined by state legislation. The Gardens, together with the State Herbarium, are governed by the Department for Environment and Water and the Board of the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium.

The Adelaide Botanic Garden is an oasis in the cosmopolitan heart of the city, featuring beautifully landscaped gardens, majestic avenues and stunning architecture. Spanning 50 hectares, the historic garden features some of Australia's finest plant collections. The Adelaide Botanic Garden is public garden at the north-east corner of the Adelaide city centre, in the Adelaide Park Lands. It encompasses a fenced garden on North Terrace and behind it the Botanic Park. Work was begun on the site in 1855, with its official opening to the public on 4 October 1857.

### **Adelaide Botanic Gardens Foundation**

[The Adelaide Botanic Gardens Foundation](#) raises and administers community funds to assist the Gardens with its important work in scientific research and education, and the maintenance of living collections.

### **The Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide**

The [Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide](#) is a volunteer organisation that supports the Botanic Gardens of South Australia, offering guided walks, self-guided trails, tours and community events.

### **Free guided walks**

Specially-trained and passionate volunteer Garden Guides from the Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide conduct FREE guided walks for the public at Adelaide, Mount Lofty and Wittunga Botanic Gardens, and Botanic Park.

Each guided walk lasts about an hour-and-a-half and no booking is required (*unless in a group of five or more*).

Please note that all guided walks are cancelled on days forecast to reach 36 degrees or more.

Walks are not held on Christmas Day or Good Friday.



### Adelaide Botanic Garden, North Terrace, Adelaide.

Guided walks at Adelaide Botanic Garden leave from outside the Visitor Information Centre on the Schomburgk Pavilion at **10:30am daily**. They are Free – just rock up, and each week the guided walk takes a different path, providing variations to the regular walk (some people regularly attend as each walk is different!).



### Mount Lofty Botanic Garden, 16 Lampert Road, Piccadilly.

Guided walks at Mount Lofty Botanic Garden depart every **Thursday** from the Lower Car Park (entry via Lampert Road) at **10:30am**.



Wittunga Botanic Garden,  
Shepherds Hill Road,  
Blackwood.

Guided walks at Wittunga Botanic Garden depart every **Tuesday** from the car park on Shepherds Hill Road at **10:30am.**

Botanic Park, Hackney Road, Adelaide.

Guided walks depart every **Monday** from North Lodge, Plane Tree Drive, at **2:00pm.**

### Booked walks

Groups of five or more can book walks in any of the three gardens, and you may be interested in a special-interest walk on a topic such as Gondwana or Aboriginal plant use. A small charge may apply. Guides can also be booked for bus tours of the Mount Lofty Botanic Garden (available on weekdays).

*To book a walk call the booking officer on 8226 8803.*

### Self-guided trails

Hit the trail by yourself! The Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide prepare monthly or seasonal guided trails for each of the three gardens.



## Mangonistical catastrophony outsmarts non-mechanical mavens.

*From Trevor Nottle - A short puzzling piece!*

Is that what this thing is? And how has it outsmarted the mavens, even though they be non-mechanical? Feelings of discombobulation may be aerating the surface of minds numbed by this statement of the not-so-obvious, seething and bubbling like Mock-Turtle Soup, intriguing and oleaginous and seeping into our consciousness, unknowable but known; always running to lake or sea but never leaving its bed. So familiar it looks but like a river, running on forever without us being able to grasp exactitude from the form of it.



Can you identify this object? Is it an antique?

*Hints:* It is not a Cornish love token, nor is it a Scandinavian example of Concrete surrealism, neither is it a musical instrument designed by Percy Grainger. Furthermore, it has absolutely nothing to do with Dame Nellie Melba.

What is it?

*Answer: Sneeboer St Valentine's trowel / multi-tasker.*



Plant Profile:

*Narcissus cyclamineus*

*By Trevor Nottle. Photos sourced online.*



‘It is an absurdity that will never be found to exist.’ (Rt. Revd. Dean Herbert, 1840).

Here is a small garden treasure that has been grown for centuries. The first recorded illustration of this very distinctive flower dates from 1608 in *Jardin du Roi, Henry IV* and it appears again in *Theatrum florae* of 1633 but it was not described botanically until 1816. Over the time of this gap the little plant somehow managed to get ‘lost’ from gardens and from the minds of botanist gardeners. Hence the pronouncement of Dean Herbert that it didn’t exist. For a well-educated man-of-the-church and a noted 19<sup>th</sup> century plantsman and daffodil enthusiast it seems remarkably odd that he didn’t research more deeply before making such a statement. Even a copy of Gerard’s great herbal would have shown him a very clear image of the plant

whose flower resembled that of a cyclamen.

The plant in question is *Narcissus cyclamineus*, a very small daffodil from the damp valley bottoms of the Douro River in Portugal. It has also been found in three similar locations in Spain from where it has been eliminated by modern housing and tourist developments.



Fortunately, it is very much alive and prospering in the collections of daffodil and alpine plant enthusiasts everywhere, even in Australia and New

Zealand. It is easily raised from fresh seed which is the preferred way of handling it. Bulbs for sale are found extremely rarely, and since they are quite small, they do not travel well as dry specimens. Seeds scattered in a seed pan filled with gritty free-draining soil and barely covered with a thin layer of sprinkled grit will germinate during the Winter and Spring, and with good cultivation flower in 2-4 years' time. No chilling or pre-sowing refrigeration is necessary.

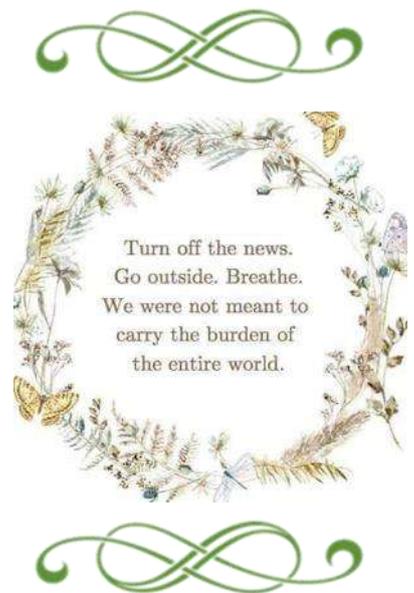
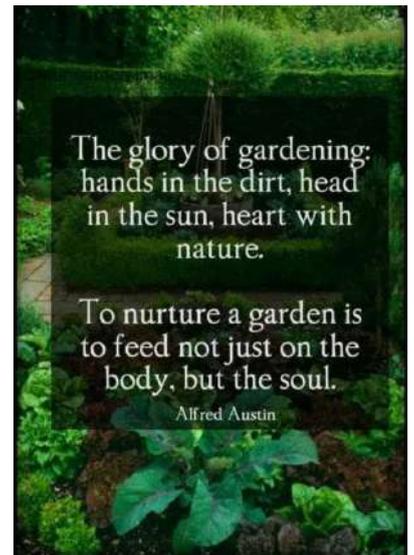
My own bulbs, now some 7-9 years old are all grown in the seed pan in which they were first sown. I do not re-pot them each year but I do make sure to feed them from when they appear until they show signs of yellowing off prior to dying down and becoming dormant. I find they do not mind becoming dry during their dormant period but never leave the pot exposed to the Summer sun. Keeping them cool is the most important thing to remember.

Bulbs do multiply by division and splitting but the process is very slow which is why most collectors grow their stocks from seed as it hastens the building up of stocks and the development of a prolific flowering patch of the bulbs. Apart from the usual risks of slugs and snails, and getting stepped on, the bulbs only substantial requirements are for feeding. I have found using Troforte fertiliser granules in light applications provides just what they need for good growth and flower production.



In the past growers have selected out and propagated at least three distinct forms of *Narcissus cyclamineus*: one that is tall to 25 cm whereas 12-15 cm is more usual, one that has a wide flaring serrated trumpet and one that has serrations but no flaring. Now that Australia has new Quarantine regulations that make importing seeds from anywhere expensive it is difficult to know if these forms will be perpetuated inside the country.

### A Little quote or two...



## A Few More Photographs Of Our Spring Open Gardens...



*Garden in Wilpena Street – Eden Hills*



*Crabapple Cottage – Leabrook*



*Weirs Lane - Penola*



*Boston Vista - Port Lincoln*



*Ashgrove Iris Garden,  
Gumeracha*



*Al Ru Farm - One Tree Hill*



*Kenton Park – Gumeracha*



*Highcroft – Harrogate*



*Jane's Cottage Garden -  
Clapham*



*Rosie & Mick's Garden – Springton*



*The Knoll - Coromandel Valley*



*Nancy's Garden – Penola*



*Kidman Garden - Penola*



*Follow OGSA on Facebook  
and Instagram*





*Garden Art at Weirs Lane Garden in Penola.*

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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.**

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/opengardensa/>  
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/opengardensa/?hl=en>

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