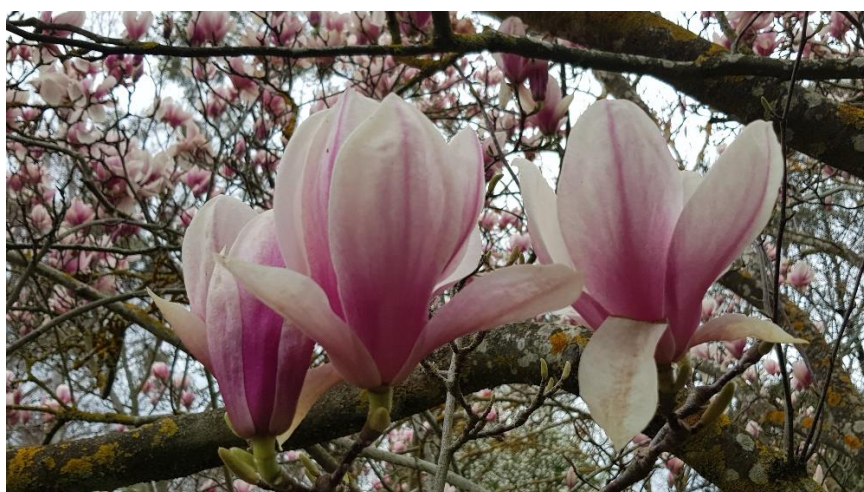


Spring Newsletter 2024



Magnolia soulangeana – beautiful blooms in early spring.

It's Spring – and we have already had our first open garden for the new season. In late winter, on the 24 - 25 August we opened *Rob's Rescue and Replant* in Bellevue Heights. Promoted in our winter Newsletter, this is an extraordinary garden filled with an eclectic mix of exotic plants to open our new season! We are very pleased with our new website and hope you have had a look at it as it includes all the open garden details you need to plan your visiting schedule – and we have a wonderful program of open gardens for you. Our Newsletter includes some interesting articles which we trust you will enjoy reading. Welcome to spring!

Inside this Issue:

- Open Gardens SA - AGM & Election of Committee
- Garden Owner Information Day
- Book Review - The Adaptable Gardener – a Life of Home Gardening.
- Spring program of Open Gardens SA
- Recent Special Events with a focus on Pruning
- Blue Sky Theatre – Jack and The Absolutes
- Plant Profile: A pathway for Spring
- Community Garden Grants 2024 – Applications Open
- Progress updates on previous Community Garden Grants

Spring Open Gardens

September 07 - 08

Fifty Shades of Green -
Netherby

September 15

Al Ru Farm – One Tree Hill

September 28 – 29

Y Creigiau - Eden Valley

October 05 – 06

Moorakynne – Robe

Toolache - Robe

Glasshouse Garden – Belair

Rosenthal Gully - Bridgewater

Brooker Garden - Nth Quorn

October 06 – 07

Indigo Blue - Port Elliot

October 12 – 13

Watendlath – Strathalbyn

Tickle Tank - Mt Barker

October 26 - 27

Ashgrove Iris Garden -

Gumeracha

Claire's Garden – Willunga

Christine's Cottage Garden -
Willunga

Fiddlestix - Coffin Bay

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

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

Open Gardens SA - AGM and Election of Committee Officials

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on Monday 08 July 2024, and commenced at 6pm, at the SA Country Women's Association House, 30 Dequetteville Terrace, Kent Town.

Order of Business

- Minutes from AGM 2023.
- 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.

Lyn Edwards recently retired from the Committee and two new members have joined the Committee - Emma Sadie Thomson, and Daniel Cooper. We look forward to their contributions!

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 08 July 2024, the election of Officials took place. The appointed Committee Officials for the next twelve months are as follows:

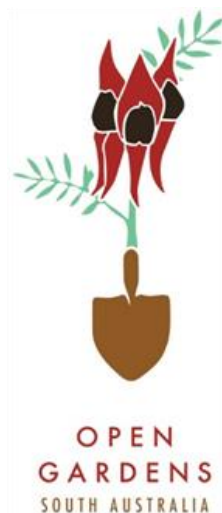
Joint Chairpersons: Vick Winnall and Tom Wilkinson.

Deputy Chairpersons: Tom Wilkinson and Vick Winnall.

Finance Officer: Rob Andrewartha.

Public Officer: Rob Andrewartha.

Secretary: Rob Andrewartha. (Meeting Agenda & Minutes: Alison 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 21st July, at the Mitcham Village Institute in Mitcham.



Garden owners are encouraged to attend as this is an important part of the process of preparing to open their garden to the public. It's an opportunity to learn more about opening their garden, to meet garden owners who have opened before and enjoy a glass of wine and refreshments. It is also an opportunity to collect the information kit we provide to every garden owner.



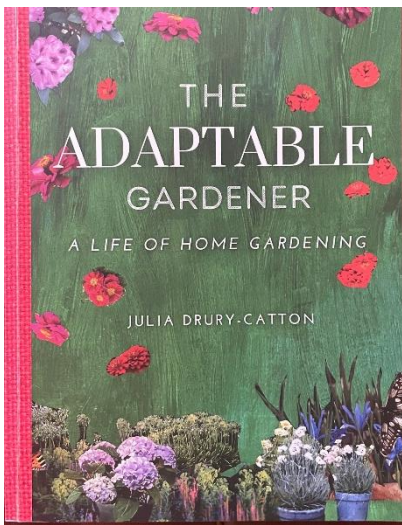
This event was proudly supported by the City of Mitcham's Grants Program. Open Gardens SA greatly appreciates the generosity and support of the City of Mitcham.

Book Review - THE ADAPTABLE GARDENER – a Life of Home Gardening.

Julia Drury-Catton, privately published, 2024.

By Trevor Nottle.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book by local author Julia Drury-Catton. In describing her as local I am being somewhat narrow as Julia has made six gardens in all and only two of them in the Adelaide Hills. Even so her attitude to making a garden is that it must be, first and foremost of its place be that Carey Gully, Balhannah, Lemnos, an island in Greece or Emerald in the Dandenongs.



Hers are personal spaces developed in tune with her life at the time she was creating it, and with the people with whom she shared her garden as well as the setting and local environment. In summary her approach is much like that of other home gardeners who read these pages. The difference is that Dr Catton has had the experience of making six home gardens in six very different places.

The learning journey and her psychological insights are what makes the book so different from many other books of this genre of garden journaling including travels and self-discovery. It is quite a journey; one that is undertaken with acceptance, growing understanding and humility. The stories are free from the trivial problems described in similar books: the non-existent plumbing, the roof leaks and the builders from Albania, the unhelpful, persnickety local government clerks and the neighbours trespassing on traditional rights of way. Instead, they feature quite ordinary situations rendered less stressful by a balanced and philosophical approach; not that this is overstated in any kind of proselytizing way but simply applied by the author to every situation she meets with. Changing locations, changing environments, changing roles, changing personalities or changing relationships are dealt with subtly and without angst, resentment or depression. And it sits so lightly in the text.

Dr Catton was particularly concerned to provide her readers with a positive way of dealing with the many worries and stresses that confront them every day with relentless bad news and negative opinions about the future of the world and the fate of mankind. Even on a personal level the news seems all bad with ageing, health, housing and safety all presented as huge problems that are almost insurmountable. Her outlook is positive. She suggests

making and tending a garden are a part of the answer easily achieved and so relaxing. I have no hesitation in recommending this book. Julia Catton has hit the nail on the head. Gardening is definitely a terrific way to relax and gain a positive perspective on life.

Resilient, nurturing and always adapting to circumstance I found much to like about this book and the fact that much of it is set in diverse settings the ideas of gardening in ways that are compatible with the climate shine through as a source of inspiration.



Photos - Spring Open Gardens



Edenwood - Woodside



St Mary's Vineyard – Penola



Bellosguardo – Birdwood

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 2024 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 2024

07 - 08 September

Fifty Shades of Green - 23 Netherby Avenue, Netherby

15 September (Sunday Only)

Al Ru Farm - 1016 One Tree Hill Road, One Tree Hill / Sampson Flat

28 - 29 September

Y Creigiau - 20 Keyneton Road, Eden Valley

OCTOBER 2024

05 - 06 October

Moorakyne - 4 Sturt Street, Robe

Toolache - 20 Sturt Street, Robe

The Glasshouse Garden - 18 Fourth Ave., Belair

Rosenthal Gully - Rosenthal Road, Bridgewater

Brooker Garden - 31 Park Tce., North Quorn

06 - 07 October (Sunday & Monday Public Holiday)

Indigo Blue - 28 Basham Beach Road, Port Elliot

12 - 13 October

Watendlath - 11 Hillview Road, Strathalbyn

Tickle Tank - 24 Hill Street, Mt Barker

26 - 27 October

Ashgrove Iris Garden - 53-55 Albert Street, Gumeracha

Claire's Garden - 14 St Peters Terrace, Willunga

Christine's Cottage Garden - 17 St Peters Terrace, Willunga

Fiddlestix - 58 Holly Rise, Coffin Bay



Fifty Shades of Green –
Netherby



Al Ru Farm - One Tree Hill /
Sampson Flat



Y Creigiau – Eden Valley



Moorakyne – Robe



Toolache – Robe



The Glasshouse Garden – Belair

**View more photos on pages
3, 5 and 8.**

OGSA 2024 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.

NOVEMBER 2024

02 – 03 November

Anna's Garden - 26 Gladys Street, Clarence Gardens

03 November (Sunday Only)

The Heritage Rose Garden - 12 McCord Lane, Gillentown (Sevenhill)

09 - 10 November

Drouin - 12 Mossop Court, Littlehampton

10 November (Sunday Only)

Edenwood - 10 Hutchens Road, Woodside

16 - 17 November

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

Bellosguardo - 107 Blocks Road, Birdwood

Pam's Garden - 3 Edgecombe Tce., Rosslyn Park

30 November – 01 December

The Mosaic Garden - 376 Glynburn Road, Kensington Gardens



Claire's Garden - Willunga



Christine's Cottage Garden - Willunga



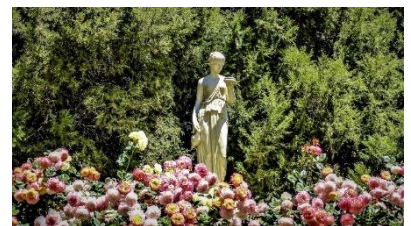
Fiddlestix – Coffin Bay



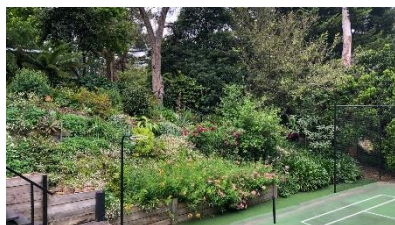
Anna's Garden - Clarence Gardens



The Heritage Rose Garden - Gillentown (Sevenhill)



Drouin - Littlehampton



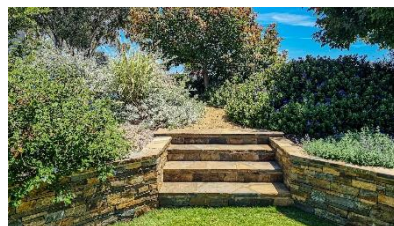
Rosenthal Gully - Bridgewater



Brooker Garden – North Quorn



Indigo Blue – Port Elliot



Watendlath - Strathalbyn



TickleTank - Mt Barker



Ashgrove Iris Garden - Gumeracha

Open Gardens SA - Two Recent Special Events with a focus on Pruning

Open Gardens SA was delighted to host two special events during our winter break from opening private gardens to the public.



The first event, “*Something About that Pine*”, was held at the beautiful Himeji Gardens in the Adelaide Parklands on Sunday 14 July 2024. This event gave a unique insight into the

Japanese art of pine tree pruning. Our experts showed participants how Japanese gardeners create stunning living sculptures. Two sessions were held in the comfort of a weather-protected marquee and included lectures plus Q&A by master Japanese gardener Shinya Ueda; a large tree demonstration by chief groundsman Anthony Griffin; and a tiny tree demonstration by bonsai specialist Matt Sharp.

Both sessions sold out and the participants provided feedback on how much they enjoyed this event.

The second event again focused on specialised pruning techniques and was held on the morning of Saturday 31 August 2024 at the Piccadilly Community Hall.

Cloud pruning is a type of topiary where you train trees and shrubs into shapes resembling clouds.



Participant numbers were strictly limited, and they joined us for a morning with Craig from Hedgehogs Gardens where he explained and demonstrated the art of cloud pruning.

During this event participants discovered the background to cloud pruning; looked at examples of beautifully cloud-pruned trees; learned about the correct tools to use and had an opportunity to practice on a plant in a group activity.

This event was very popular and sold out quickly! We hope to be able to host similar events in the future.



Blue Sky Theatre – Jack and The Absolutes.

A groovy kind of love in gardens this summer.



‘Theatre in the Garden’ performances continue to delight audiences each summer in collaboration with Open Gardens SA.

This January 2025, Blue Sky Theatre will present outdoor performances of **Jack and The Absolutes** — a groovy reimagining of *The Rivals* set in 1969.

Jack Absolute is the lead singer of a successful pop group, and he’s in love with Lydia Languish, the wealthy fashion designer. But Lydia has just returned from Woodstock, where she’s seen the light and wants to forgo fame and fortune and live a bohemian lifestyle with Johnny Beverly, the group’s chilled-out sound guy.

But Lydia's aunt, Mrs Malaprop, can never allow such a lowly love connection. And Jack’s mother, Lady Antonia Absolute, is

determined that her son marries well, whether he likes it or not. Jack plans to disguise himself as his rival to win Lydia's love. But he has more challengers than he realises — the rest of the band are planning to woo Lydia, too!

Director Dave Simms says Richard Brinsley Sheridan's original comedy was written in 1775 and introduced the infamous Mrs Malaprop.

"She's one of theatre's greatest characters renowned for using the wrong words when trying to impress," explained Dave. "You could say she's a parsonage of great lexicographical dexterity and faultless electrocution!"



There will be nine shows in three venues during January, and the money raised will support various charities, including the Hans Heysen Foundation and Adelaide Botanic Gardens Foundation.

Date and Venues

10, 11 & 12 January 2025 in Lower Inman Valley, VICTOR HARBOR.

17, 18 & 19 January 2025 at The Cedars, HAHNDORF.

24, 25 & 26 January 2025 at Wittunga Botanic Garden, BLACKWOOD.

Tickets are \$40 on sale from 01 October 2024, available at blueskytheatre.com.au



Plant Profile: A pathway for Spring

By Trevor Nottle. Photos by Trevor Nottle

From the mailbox to the front door is a short journey of delight in Spring for the path is lined with small bulbs that bloom in that season. Most of the bulbs are small and nothing incredibly rare but all have been in place for 30 years and longer. The multiplier effect over time has turned one or two bulbs into dozens and the impact is a sight to see.

The bulbs have been bought from specialist growers or raised from seed grown by me at home, and several have been gifts from older gardeners now deceased like Otto Fauser, Marcus Harvey, Graham Flemming and Will Ashburner. All of them grow in a load of Mt Compass sandy soil dumped over the base layer of a former cemented driveway. The soil tends to be very wet in Winter but the substrate layer ensures reasonable draining and the bulbs have

thrived despite stiff root competition from adjacent shrubs and trees that are pruned every year to keep the sunshine bearing down on them. Without this simple operation the bulbs would probably dwindle away in a few years.



Every year when I judge the roots are becoming active, around mid-April, I sprinkle Tupelo Grove Mediterranean Mix fertiliser in it's prilled form to keep the bulbs well supplied with nutrients.

While the bulbs continue to grow, multiply and flower I do not dig them or split the clumps; some even self-seed and germinate around about their parent plants. That's a bonus as far as I am concerned though I keep a close eye on Grape Hyacinths (*Muscari botryoides*) as they multiply rather too enthusiastically. To prevent a take-over, excess of this bulb is removed and put in the green bin. The bulbs are killed by the high temperatures reached during the composting process.

Good bulbs to look out for should you wish to try making a walk or border of spring bulbs are:

- *Narcissus x 'Little Missus'*
- *Narcissus x cyclamineus* hybrids, there are many to choose from.
- *Narcissus x 'Beryl'*
- *Narcissus x 'Roger'*
- *Narcissus jonquilla*.



Photos:

Narcissus cyclamineus

Narcissus x 'Angel Wings'

Interplanting with colourful bulbs of other small genera will only increase the pleasure.

Consider:

- *Tulipa saxitalis*
- *Tulipa clusiana*
- *Cyclamen coum*
- *Cyclamen hederifolium*
- *Anemone nemerosa* – there are many varieties in shades of blue and pink, as well as several white kinds.



Two More Spring Open Garden Photos!



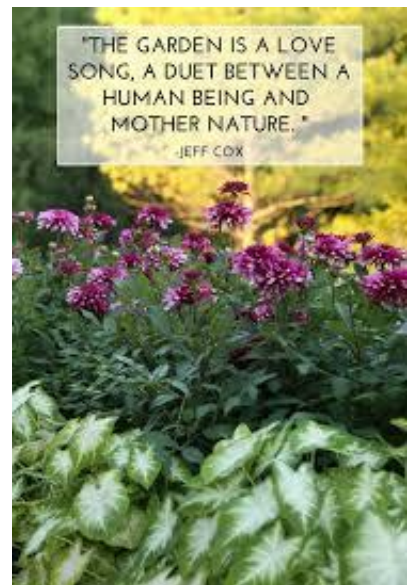
Pam's Garden - Rosslyn Park



The Mosaic Garden - Kensington Gardens

A Little Quote or Two!

"Let's normalize giving saplings, heirloom seeds, fruit tree cuttings, and seedlings as gifts, instead of the disposable presents we usually go for these days."



Follow OGSA on Facebook and Instagram



Open Gardens SA Community Garden Grants 2024 – Applications Open!

Do you have a community garden project that needs funding or would like to establish a community garden but don't have funds? Open Gardens SA would like to hear your ideas.

Due to the great support by the gardening community of South Australia, Open Gardens SA has some funds available which we would like return to our community.



Up to three grants of \$3000 will be made available to help support community garden projects. If you have a project in mind, let us know about it and how \$3000 would make a difference.

We do not specify a set Application Form as we don't wish to constrain your applications into "ticking boxes" to comply with a form – we simply want you to describe your project and how your group would appropriately utilise funds if your application is successful. And the application needs to be for a specific project – for example funds to be utilised for a new irrigation system, wicking beds, purchase of appropriate gardening equipment etc.

It will assist your application if you are able to provide estimated costs.

Applications close on 30th November 2024 and should be sent to Vick Winnall at victoriawinnall@me.com



Progress updates on previous Community Garden Grants

Open Gardens SA follows up on the progress of various projects which we assist with funding grants. The following information has been provided to our committee by four recent grant recipients. We are always delighted to receive these updates and to know that our funds have been utilised to benefit these Community Gardens.

Grange Community Garden

The Grange Community Garden is a not-for-profit and organic community garden located at Lot 66 on Military Road, just south of the Grange railway station off Military Road in Grange.



They provided this update in June 2024:

“We are so grateful to Open Gardens SA for the grant last year. We will use these to build wicking beds with these funds, and then lease these beds out to individual members for a fee on top of the membership fee. We were waiting for the hot

Summer to pass before building these however, we recently came across a second method to build these beds from another experienced community garden in our council area. The dimensions of the wicking beds from the two methods are the same. We are completing a cost analysis to compare which of the two methods is more cost effective, and we are developing a site map to confirm the suitable positioning of the beds.

The garden is progressing very well, and we have gained a lot of momentum since you visited last year. We have opened the garden for membership now and host routine Sunday work bees (first Sunday of month) and Tuesday work bees (second Tuesday of month). The Council generously assisted us in leveling a large central area of the site, which was essential to position wicking beds on the sloping site”.



Woodville West Community Garden



area. Next will be the pergola installation once the council decide what they are doing with the tree.

The Woodville West Community Garden used the \$4,000 grant provided by Open Gardens SA to pave an area that will be covered by a pergola.

Unfortunately, they have had a hold up in the construction of the pergola due to council assessing a tree nearby for its health and the potential need for remediation (the tree was hit by lightning last winter). The OGSA grant paid for this paved

Blanchetown Community Garden and Exchange

Blanchetown and their community garden were decimated in the 2022-23 flood. Their successful application was to assist in the restoration and reconstruction of the gardens by setting up new wicking beds, creating inclusive pathways of compacted screenings to define new beds and plantings. The Blanchetown Community Garden also provided a detailed update on their progress!



“We had a Wicking bed workshop here at the gardens in March which was well attended. Mark Smith of Adelaide Hills Vegie Gardens presented a workshop on the principles of wicking and how the WaterUps work. Some of our local gardeners and a neighbouring town community garden were inspired to devise their own versions in timber or IBCs in their gardens. We acquired the wicking beds and the Stratco shed with a State Govt. Community Development Recovery grant. It took us a while to set them up and fill with the special wicking soil donated by Jeffries Soils and delivered by De-Construct who were here working on demolitions in the flood zone area, organised by

Sophie Thomson. The beds finished and planted out with an assortment of winter veggies. It didn't take long for the sulphur crested cockatoos to see them and pull them out just for fun so we have rigged up temporary netting until we can organise something more permanent using the existing poles. We still have some OGSA grant money which will go toward this.”

Port Elliot Community Garden

The Port Elliot Community Garden (PECG) was the grateful recipient of a generous grant from the 2022 round of OGSA Community Garden Grants. The grant of \$4,000.00 has facilitated the paving of the main pathways in the garden, creating aesthetic and safe access to the garden for all members and visitors. The following report was provided by the PECG.

“Early 2022 - a large quantity of secondhand pavers was donated by a local landscaper. The pavers were sorted and stacked during working bees ready for the paving project. Alexandrina Council staff/machinery in-kind funding assisted with site preparation

Early 2023 – paving commenced and continued throughout the year. Most of the paving has been completed by a dedicated few, but many other members have lent a hand on odd occasions.

March 2024 – the pathways and the meeting space paving completed.



A small area of paving adjacent to the eastern side of the shed and an extension to a path along the eastern boundary will be completed soon. The exact location of the eastern path extension depends on the site of a garden gazebo, that

has been donated to the PECG.

The completion of the paving has provided easy all-weather access to all the key areas of the garden.

The broad paved path from the entrance gate makes quite a statement and leads visitors past raised garden beds and through a citrus grove (this will be more obvious when the trees have grown!) to the garden shed and the adjacent paved outdoor meeting area.

All members are thrilled with the functionality of the paths, particularly our member Betty, who rarely misses a work session, arriving on her Gopher - Mobility Scooter. We have also had others who have visited the garden in wheelchairs and with prams – access only possible because of the paved pathways.



Photo: Betty negotiating her way around the garden with ease on her Gopher!

The timeline for projects in the community garden is determined by when funds become available from various grants, so we wish to express our sincere thanks to OGSA for the financial support of the Pathway Paving Project.”

Open Gardens SA congratulates these community gardens on the positive progress they have made with the assistance of our donated funds.



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.



Spring Blossom - Crabapple.

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 605, STIRLING SA 5152

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/opengardensa/>

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

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