



Winter Newsletter 2024



Tea Tree flowers.

It's been a very dry Summer and Autumn, and our gardens will benefit from some good rains this Winter – fingers crossed for steady soaking rains and no dangerous stormy conditions. Open Gardens SA doesn't usually open gardens during winter, however, this year our first open garden for the new season will be in late Winter when we open *Rob's Rescue and Replant* on the 24 and 25 August, and we are hosting a special event in July – details are on page 4. Winter is also the time to hold our Annual General Meeting and organise our information get-together for the owners of the gardens opening for the next season. Please enjoy our Winter Newsletter!

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- Plant Profile – Wintersweet
- Adelaide Parklands – Experience their Guided Walks

Selection of late Winter – early Spring Open Gardens - A full list will be available on our Website soon!

August 24 - 25, 2024

Rob's Rescue & Replant –
Bellevue Heights

September 07 - 08

Fifty Shades of Green -
Netherby

September 15

Al Ru Farm – One Tree Hill

September 28 – 29

Y Creigiau - Eden Valley

Details of the new season program will be available on our website soon:

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



Open Gardens SA – Celebrating 10 successful years!



This spring, Open Gardens SA will celebrate ten years of opening beautiful gardens and raising more than \$1.5 million for local good causes.

In the last decade, 206,000 visitors have enjoyed seeing more than 400 gardens, events and festivals. Hundreds of garden owners have allowed the public to look around their private gardens, and teams of volunteers have staged workshops, theatre shows and garden festivals, generating an impressive \$1.54 million to benefit the community.

Open Gardens SA charges a modest entry fee. After covering essentials, including insurance, IT, publicity, and card fees, garden owners received \$692,000 to distribute to good causes and charities of their choice.

Over the years, many hard-working and creative owners have enlisted their friends, and often the charities themselves, to help raise a further \$522,000 from plant sales, sausage sizzles and afternoon teas.

\$120,000 has been generated from events, including garden workshops and Theatre in the Garden by Blue Sky Theatre, which supports venues such as Adelaide Botanic Gardens, Hans Heysen Foundation, and various cancer charities. Two festivals support good causes directly. Two Landscape Festivals raised \$50,000 for SA’s Country Women’s Association, and the Harvest Garden Festival gave \$30,000 to OzHarvest.

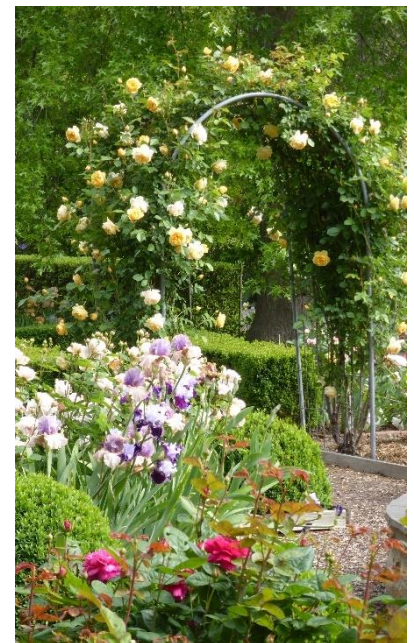
Open Gardens SA’s support program has given \$133,000 to projects that benefit the community, including assisting horticulture students through the Playford Trust, making small grants available to community gardens and making donations to BlazeAid to assist with bushfire recovery.

Tom Wilkinson, Open Gardens SA co-chair, says the volunteer team is proud to launch their tenth year this August and reach such an impressive milestone of community support.

“It’s most impressive and extremely heart-warming for our not-for-profit organisation to make such a difference to a huge range good causes,” said Mr Wilkinson.

“I acknowledge the generosity and hard work of garden owners, volunteers, event organisers and our committee, who’ve made this venture successful.

“I thank the visiting public for their enthusiasm and support, which ensures our scheme will flourish for another ten years.”



Open Gardens SA’s tenth season opens in August 2024, with another 40 gardens opening through to autumn 2025.



Open Gardens SA Annual General Meeting



OPEN
GARDENS
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Notice has been given that the Annual General Meeting of Open Gardens South Australia Inc (OGSA) will be held on:

Date: Monday 08 July 2024.
Time: Commencing 6pm to 7pm.
Venue: 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 committee members will take place at the AGM on 08 July, 2024.
- 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.
- Any other member who wishes to stand for election must be nominated by a current member of OGSA. Both the nominee and the proposer must sign the nomination form and send it by email to the Secretary.

OGSA Members are welcome to attend the AGM. Please RSVP by June 30, to: info@opengardensa.org.au. Please note there will be no guest speaker this year.



Open Gardens SA – Photographs of some of the beautiful gardens opening this coming Spring!



Rob's Rescue & Replant – Bellevue Heights



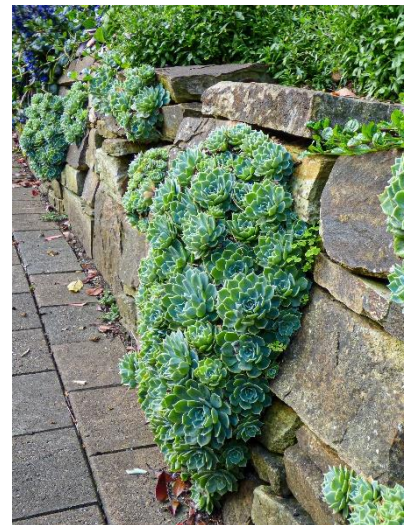
Fifty Shades of Green – Netherby



Al Ru Farm – One Tree Hill



Y Creigiau – Eden Valley



Rosenthal Gully - Bridgewater



The Glasshouse – Belair



SOMETHING ABOUT THAT PINE - Open Gardens SA Special Event at the Himeji Garden, Sunday 14th July 2024

*Himeji Gardens, Corner South Terrace and Glen Osmond Road,
Adelaide.*



"Matsu" - the Japanese Pine tree is long considered as the "King Tree" in Japanese garden culture. Why is it so special? How do they create these living sculptures? Open Gardens SA invites everyone to come along to the Adelaide Himeji Garden to learn and discover the magic of the Matsu.

Lectures + Q&A by master Japanese gardener **Shinya Ueda**.
Large tree demonstration by chief groundsman **Anthony Griffin**.
Tiny tree demonstration by bonsai specialist **Matt Sharp**.



"After this experience you will be able to stroll through the Himeji garden and see it in a new light!"

Session 1 Lecture and Demonstration 11am
Session 2 Lecture and Demonstration 2pm

Cost \$40pp, includes light refreshments. Tickets are limited, so book early! To find out more and to Book visit:
<https://www.opengardensa.org.au/events>

Parking is available on South Terrace.
Public Toilet on Glen Osmond Road.
Weather protected marquee.

Adelaide Himeji Garden
Adelaide Himeji Gardens, also known as the Garden of Tranquillity, is a traditionally-styled Japanese garden, a gift from Adelaide's sister city, Himeji in 1982. It is located in Park 18, one of the southern parts of the Adelaide Park Lands in Adelaide. The entrance is from South Terrace, between Pulteney and Hutt streets. Step past the ornate gates of the Adelaide Himeji Garden and take a little green getaway to experience the beauty of Japan.

The two styles of garden within the walls offer plenty of nooks, ideal for settling into a deep meditation. Sit beside the 'kare senzui', dry garden, where patterns combed into the rocks and sand evoke the presence of water, and even the sea itself. Perch on a rock by the water in the 'senzui' (lake and mount garden), where the water coupled with your imagination create images of vastness and grandeur.

Features:

- Ideal for deep meditation
- Surrounded by water and a water fountain
- Garden features a lake, rocks, sand, and statues

For more information on the garden, including opening and closing times, visit:
<https://www.cityofadelaide.com.au/park/adelaide-himeji-garden/>



Open Gardens SA 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/>

During the Winter months Open Gardens SA takes a break from opening gardens to the public – the Committee spends much of this time planning for the Spring program and we have a very exciting and busy spring 2024 program of open gardens. Enjoy a glimpse of our anticipated early spring gardens.

Subject to change so please always refer to Open Gardens SA website for the most up to date details -

<https://www.opengardensa.org.au/current-season>

The full garden details will available on the OGSA website prior to the commencement of the spring program.

OGSA 2024 Selection of late Winter – early Spring Gardens
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.

AUGUST 2024

24 - 25 August

Rob's Rescue and Replant – Bellevue Heights. An extraordinary garden filled with an eclectic mix of exotic plants! Gigantic old dragon trees, ponytail palms with trunks that resemble an elephant's foot, bottle trees, palms, cycads, succulents, spiky plants and ferns rescued from demolition sites have been replanted to create an eclectic mix of bold shapes and fascinating foliage.

SEPTEMBER 2024

07 - 08 September

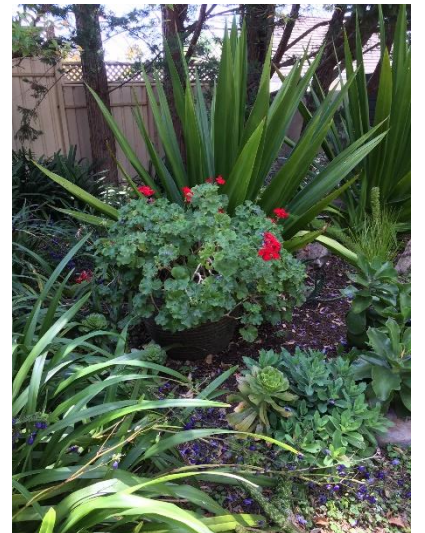
Fifty Shades of Green - Netherby. The garden features a well thought out selection of tough Mediterranean climate plants – both Australian natives and exotics chosen for their shape, the texture and colour of their foliage and their low water requirements. A dramatic and arresting feature is the strongly sculptural seating which frames the fire pit as you enter the garden.

15 September – Sunday ONLY

Al Ru Farm – One Tree Hill. Ruth Irving, drawing inspiration from gardens worldwide, has skilfully applied her extensive plant knowledge to convert ten acres of Al Ru farmland into a vibrant and creatively designed garden filled with an array of colours.



Rob's Rescue and Replant – Bellevue Heights



Fifty Shades of Green – Netherby



Al Ru Farm – One Tree Hill



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Book Reviews – Winter Reading

By Trevor Nottle (Image courtesy SA Gardens & Outdoor Living 2015)



Some Winter rain at last. We need more and encouraging that to happen is a challenge every gardener must face. Rain dancing seems a remote possibility and does cloud seeding and towing icebergs from the Antarctic coast. A simple answer is close at hand, however and

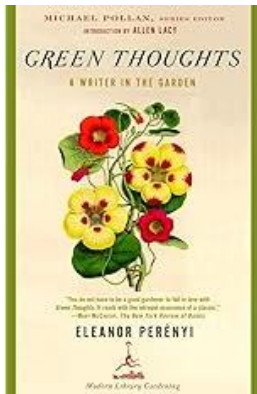
everyone can do it in the warmth and privacy of their own sitting room. I refer to reading gardening books as that is the precondition for rain in most instances. No sooner are a pile of books set down on a chairside table than rainclouds gather and down it comes.

To my mind nothing too serious is wanted for reading matter in this situation.

First order of the reader's day should be a comfy chair near the fire, or radiator, a knee rug if you prefer, some chocolate to nibble, a good reading light and a side table for the books.

But before you take a seat it's best to find something worth reading. Though not new, I have found these occupy a few pleasant hours without getting bogged down in how to compost farmyard muck.

William Boyer *Honey Gardening Heresies and Devotions*, Faber and Faber, 1939 – almost heretical in some parts.

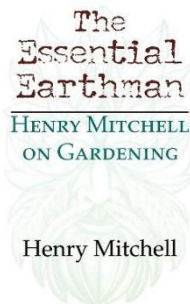


Eleanor Perényi *Green Thoughts*, Random House, 1981 – a garden writer and a writing gardener.

Katherine S. White *Onwards and Upwards in the Garden*, Farrer, Straus and Giroux, 1958 – 11 printings and a great record at *The New Yorker*, and she was a gardener too.

Henry Mitchell *The Essential Earthman*, Houghton Mifflin

Company, 1981 – a renowned journalist for the *Washington Post* “*You wonder after many years if any of it was worth the bother. The answer is, I guess, more or less yes.*” Thought provoking to say the least.



Allan Lacy, *Home Ground*, Farrer, Straus and Giroux, 1984 – opinionated, memoirist and companionable.

Observant readers will have noted that none of these books is new. But I have read them for the fifth time in the last few months. They

were all first published before feminism really took off in popular literature, and there is a pretty fair gender balance between women and men. They were all written by educated and trained journalists.

It wouldn't be fair to give anything away about how the books develop or how far they range but take it from me they will keep you happy and occupied on days when rain is pelting down unrelentingly, and on days when you are restless and just taking snatches of time to read; they are good for reading before going to sleep. In fact, I found them good enough to read anytime.

It's unlikely you will learn a single practical thing from these books but they will transport you to far away places and challenges you don't even have to think about. And on reflection you may be brought to realise that nothing much has changed for gardening folk over the last 50 years or so.

To add to rainy day occupation why not search out these books on the internet? My first port of call would be <book finder com> followed by <abe.com> which I have found to be the best portals for out-of-print books of all kinds. Happy reading.



Community Gardens – Celebration of a Successful Garden Grant Project.

By Lyn Edwards, OGSA committee member.

On Sunday 03 March 2024, I attended a very joyous event - the opening of the Brukunga Community Garden. Following the devastating Cudlee Creek fires of 2019, a Community Association was established with 9 members and various sub-committees and helpers.

This acted as a catalyst to unite, bond and start to heal the community after its losses.



As well as rejuvenating the Brukunga Hall, the garden around it was re-landscaped and planted, and a community garden was planned, with an aim of ‘shared growth, bonding and green initiatives.’

Photo is of the bush tucker beds with (L to R) committee members Dione Thompson, Heidi Sawerby, Kelly Northy and OGSA committee member Lyn Edwards.

Last year the Association applied and successfully gained a grant from Open Gardens SA for a native bush tucker garden and some workshops to educate the community about its uses.

When I first visited the garden there was huge enthusiasm and goodwill, but little progress with the garden at that stage. Association members were very active in gaining other grants and the help of the Mt Barker Council.

On Sunday 03 March, I saw the results of hard work, community spirit and pulling together of shared skills to establish a garden which has clearly become a hub for the community.

There were speeches from the Mayor and local Member of Parliament before the garden was officially opened. It seemed as if all the residents had turned out to have a coffee and sausage sizzle, listen to music by local musicians and to share in the event.

Raised garden beds of flowers, vegetables, trees and shrubs in tubs, a shed and fences have been established as well as the wicking beds full of bush tucker plants (as seen in the photo above).

Workshops and coffee mornings have been held and many residents have learned about the garden and its care together.

It is a pleasure for us at Open Gardens SA to be part of a rejuvenation like this. Plans are already in place to extend and enhance the garden with more projects in mind.



Blue Sky Theatre – *Di and Viv and Rose*

Open Gardens SA is very privileged to have an ongoing collaboration with *Blue Sky Theatre* in presenting Theatre in the Garden performed in a delightful garden setting each Summer. This collaboration is greatly valued and appreciated by Open Gardens SA and is a wonderful inclusion in our annual program of activities! We thought our readers would be interested in the Winter performance from the talented *Blue Sky Theatre* cast and crew - *Di and Viv and Rose*.

Three best friends take us back to when they first met in the ‘80s.

Blue Sky Theatre presents *Di and Viv and Rose*, by Amelia Bullmore from August 2 to 11, 2024.

Di, Viv and Rose would never have crossed paths if they hadn’t shared a house at uni in 1983.

At 18, they’re Best Friends Forever.

But will their friendship survive the triumphs, disasters and changes that lie ahead or are some bonds so strong they never break?



30 years on, the women retell their story in a wise and witty look at friendship’s impact on life and life’s impact on friendship.

Starring Kate Anolak, Nicole Ruddy and Allison Scharber.
Directed by Angela Short with Dave Simms.

Domain Theatre / Marion Cultural Centre 287 Diagonal Road, Oaklands Park. The

Marion Cultural Centre is a five-minute drive from Adelaide’s picturesque coastline and only twenty minutes from the CBD. Parking is available in the Westfield Marion and Bunnings car parks.

Dates:

- Friday **August 2** at 7.30pm
- Saturday **August 3** at 4.00pm
- Sunday **August 4** at 4.00pm
- Friday **August 9** at 7.30pm
- Saturday **August 10** at 4.00pm
- Sunday **August 11** at 4.00pm

Tickets \$40. Visit the Blue Sky Theatre website for details and to book tickets: <https://www.blueskytheatre.com.au/current-production/>

By arrangement with ORiGiN™ Theatrical on behalf of Nick Hern Books

Blue Sky Theatre garden productions are a popular summer favourite. Now their winter shows are also gathering regular audiences. Indoors.

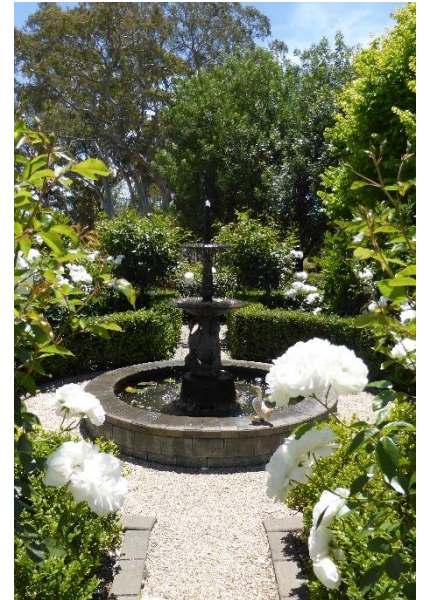


Open Gardens SA Seasonal Program

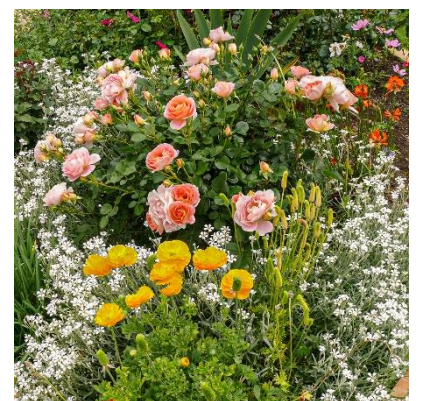
The full listing of our spring open gardens with all the details and beautiful photographs will be available on our website in late winter: <http://opengardensa.org.au/>

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 garden inspiration to look forward to!



Drouin – Littlehampton, opening late spring 2024.



Christines Cottage Garden – Willunga, opening late spring.



Heritage Rose Garden – Sevenhill, opening late spring.



Winter Solstice 2024

The winter solstice, also called the hibernal solstice, occurs when either of Earth's poles reaches its maximum tilt away from the Sun.

This happens twice yearly, once in each hemisphere.

Also called: Midwinter; the Shortest Day; the Longest Night.

The Winter Solstice 2024 in the Southern Hemisphere will be on Friday, 21 June 2024, 6:20 am.

(*Central Australia Time*).

The Winter Solstice astronomically marks the beginning of lengthening days and shortening nights.

The Winter Solstice happens at different times of the year depending on where you are in the world. In the Southern Hemisphere, the Winter Solstice normally occurs on or around 22nd June. If you're in the Northern Hemisphere, the Winter Solstice occurs on or around 22nd December.

What Is the History of the Winter Solstice?

The Winter Solstice has been celebrated for thousands of years. It is thought that the Winter Solstice may have been observed as early as 10,200 BC, in the Neolithic Period.

There are Neolithic monuments found in Ireland and Scotland that are aligned with the sunrise on the Winter Solstice in the Northern Hemisphere. It is also thought that Stonehenge may have been a place where people had rituals during the winter.

In ancient times, the Winter Solstice was seen as the symbolic death and rebirth of the sun or of a Sun God.

All over the world, traditions, and celebrations were created around the Winter Solstice. Here are some examples of these traditions and celebrations:

The Romans celebrated Saturnalia where Saturn, the god of agriculture, was honoured with food and drink.

In Scandinavia, people celebrated Yule - During Yule, families brought home large logs and lit one end of it, they feasted until the fire burned out, which usually took up to 12 days.

In China, people took part in the Dongzhi festival - This is where families got together to feast and celebrate the year.

gardens where, as a 3m tall shrub it is well established though not very common.



Chimonanthus fragrans is its Latin name. The specific name telling us all we need to know: it is fragrant. Apart from that it has a pretty quiet impact on the garden scene but since it flowers at a time when few other things do it is always welcome. It is one of those old-fashioned shrubs that must be searched around for. It won't be found among the specials and cheap plants at the big shed outlets. It will have to be ordered in, and it is best to enquire at a nursery known for its service and ability to find sources for plants now considered unusual.

The plants seems indifferent as to soils and pH growing as it does on the alkaline soils of the Adelaide Plains as well as the neutral to acid soils of the Adelaide Hills.

As a garden plant *Chimonanthus* makes a medium tall shrub to approximately 3m x 2m. To do well it needs to be planted in a sunny position though shade or dappled shade for part of the day will suit it just fine. It appreciates a mulch of roughly shredded leaves and twigs, small branches and the like. In our Hills garden it is not watered in Summer but on

Plant Profile: *WINTERSWEET*

By Trevor Nottle.

Almost as soon as the last leaves are blown off the Wintersweet begins to open its waxy yellowish blooms sending a spicy scent through the garden. It is found in older gardens in some Adelaide

the Plains, and in gardens where competition for moisture in Summer is high it will benefit from a decent soaking every two months or so.



We have not observed any pests or diseases on our thirty year old bush. Occasionally it can be colonised by scale insects but they are easily dealt with by conventional means.

Treatment and management call for a light hand. Pruning, if necessary is best done when the flowers finish and before new growth begins in Spring. Often cutting branches and twigs for indoor decoration is enough to effectively maintain shrubs in a good state of growth. Hard pruning with a saw or chainsaw will reduce overgrown bushes with no lasting damage. Regrowth with the Spring flush will be strong and can be safely recommended.

Wintersweet mixes happily with other medium sized shrubs. It is best planted where passers-by will be close enough to enjoy the fragrance of its flowers as they pass.



Adelaide Parklands – Experience their Guided Walks

Information sourced from the Adelaide Parklands Association – visit their website for more information: <https://www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/>

World's First

Adelaide's Parklands are a world's first because they were the first **planned** PUBLIC park. In the 1830's Parks were something that belonged to royalty, the nobility, to lords of the manor. They were not available (by right) to labourers or the working class. They were allowed to enter such parks only when they were invited onto them.

Remember how long ago this was: In 1837, the USA still had slavery. Slavery had been outlawed in the British Empire only four years earlier, in 1833 and was still being phased out. Women did not have the vote anywhere in the world, and would not get it in Britain for another 90 years. At that time in Britain, anyone who was not Church of England faced real legal discrimination in employment.

In decades prior, the Industrial Revolution had seen people migrate from the countryside into dirty, crowded cities, often living in cramped tiny workers' cottages with little to no greenery nearby.

In this climate, social reformers of the 1830's in London were promoting a radical idea – that it would be good for the working classes to have access to nature. Before trying it out in the UK, they said, it might be tried first in a new colony, on the other side of the world. Colonel Light read those pamphlets and agreed it was a good idea. After your Adelaide Park Lands were set up in 1837, the world's next planned public Park came 10 years later, in 1847, Birkenhead Park at Merseyside in England.

World's only

And of course it's not just any Park. It's a huge one. Adelaide is the **only city** in the world built INSIDE a Park. It's not a loop or circle – it's a figure 8 wrapping around the city & North Adelaide.

It's been arbitrarily divided up into 30 Parks and 6 squares. Each of them has a name, but each one is merely a section (like one jigsaw puzzle piece) of a single treasure – the garland of the entire Adelaide Park Lands.

Guided Walks

The Park Lands are so big that each of the regular

Guided Walks focuses upon just one part of the Park Lands at a time.

The Adelaide Park Lands are more than twice as big as Central Park in New York – about four times larger than Centennial Park in Sydney. They are almost double the size of King's Park in Perth. But their area of about 700 hectares is dwindling, especially in the middle part of the 'Figure 8' that wraps around the city. A lot of former Park Land between the City and North Adelaide has been built over; especially along North Terrace.

There are three great ways to get exploring in the Adelaide Park Lands:

- On foot, with the Park Ambassadors in their scheduled Guided Walks.
- On screen, with the “Explore” pages on their website; or
- On foot, with the Trail Guides (i.e. self-guided walks).

All of the Trail Guides and Guided Walks are on the traditional lands of the Kurna people. The Adelaide Park Lands Association acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future traditional custodians and elders of these lands.



*Park 14
Rymill Park
Rose
Gardens*



*Park 18
Adelaide
Himeji
Garden*

Flowers that brighten our winters.



Banksia.



Hellebore.



Iris unguicularis.



Camellia – Lady Loch.



Camellias – Beautiful winter flowering shrubs.

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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