OPEN GARDENS SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

Autumn Newsletter 2018



Autumn colour in the garden

Following the scorching heat of a South Australian Summer, Autumn is always a very welcome season for gardeners. Cooler days with (hopefully) some early season breaking rain is a blessing for our gardens – and who doesn't love the sweet smell of rain after a dry spell. Open Gardens SA is opening some really wonderful gardens for you to visit during Autumn – and the colours of Autumn rival the exuberance of Spring in many ways. We have said it before, but it remains so true – our generous gardeners are the backbone of our organisation as without their commitment there would be no private gardens to visit. We hope to see you in an open garden soon.

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Autumn Open Gardens

March 3-4 Jan's Garden, Hahndorf

March 10-11 Frosty Flats, Birdwood

March 24-25 Trevelyan Street Garden, Wayville

April 7 Succulent Wreath Workshop, Mitcham

April 21-22 Casuarina, Mylor

April 28-29 Brae *Gairden*, Strathalbyn Serenity, Strathalbyn

See the developing program on page 10 and on our website: http://opengardensa.org.au/





Results from our 2017 Spring Season

We are delighted to share the fantastic results to date of Open Gardens SA.

As part of the 2017 Spring program we offered over 30 private gardens for the public to visit. More than 14,000 people visited these amazing gardens – and often enjoyed the added pleasure of a light lunch or Devonshire Tea while visiting. This activity assisted in raising approx. \$90,000 which has been generously donated to a wide range of charities.

Open Gardens SA has now welcomed more than 65,000 visitors through the garden gates since our beginning in 2015, and the charity dollars donated are estimated to exceed \$400,000.

A highly successful program of open gardens we can all be very proud of! Congratulations to everyone who has contributed to this amazing level of success.

The Re-Building of a Garden - Glenalta

By Trevor Nottle (Photos: Di Michalk)

Glenalta is a historic garden set on a 32ha property of pasture and rural paddocks in the Adelaide Hills. The garden of about 1ha is dominated by deciduous trees planted more than 100 years ago. It is heritage-listed because it's one of the few remaining intact examples in South Australia of a 1920s garden. Premier John Downer established the property after he spotted a row of Lombardy poplars along a creek in 1863; they are now 40m tall. His son JF Downer further developed the garden in the 1920s, and then it expanded under Henry Rymill, who owned it until 1972.



Like many other big Hills gardens, those of Glenalta have experienced periods of neglect, damage and change over the 153 years since it first began. It has seen periods of prosperity and hard times; times when the garden flourished and expanded, times when it was left to its own devices to survive as best it could. Different owners have had different objectives for it as an escape from the summer heat of the city, to a place for riding to hunt in winter and as a setting for business and political wheeling and dealing year round.



When Geoff and Robyn Stewart purchased Glenalta in 1987 the gardens were at a pretty low ebb. Previous owners had other priorities for the place and skilled labour was extremely hard to find. Men returning home after WW2 had no interest in going into low paid gardening positions; they had bigger plans for themselves and their young families. A nurseryman's life may have been hard but at least you were your own boss. At this time too, most women were not as keen about gardening for themselves as later became popular through the writings of Edna Walling in popular women's weekly magazines. So the big Hills gardens such as those at Glenalta suffered in the doldrums as families sought to rebuild their lives after peace was declared. Available money was directed into establishing new business enterprises and expanding old ones; almost none could be spared for remaking long neglected gardens.



The boom in minerals exploration and mining in the 1970's provided the impetus for establishing new streams of wealth and raised the general level of optimism in the SA community. Against this background interest in buying and rejuvenating old Hills homes and gardens grew quite markedly. Glenalta was one of the 19th C estates that benefitted from that positive feeling.

While work on the house was done to modernise services and décor things were taken somewhat more slowly in the garden. First steps were to remake the driveways and path systems that had been damaged by flooding and the growth of tree roots. Drainage systems also needed much remaking to carry away excess water that pooled where it was not wanted, further damaging the gravelled surfaces or swamping garden beds and lawns. Structural aspects of the garden also had to be repaired or rebuilt. Many stone walls had collapsed allowing earth to spill onto paths and into the creek, elsewhere surface rooting trees has lifted and made dangerous areas of paving. The 19th C irrigation system – bore, reservoir and distribution pipes were inoperative, rusted out, buckled and blocked, so an extensive programme of renewal was necessary. At every stage expert advice and professional services were used and advantage taken to install new technologies and delivery systems.



With the basic essentials in place a larger and longer term programme of renewal and extension was undertaken in the gardens of the estate. Arborists, horticulturalists and

heritage garden consultants reviewed the garden as it was and gave advice concerning trees, shrubs, plants and design features that could be resurrected and those that required removal and redoing. Many senescent trees were cut down and replacements planted. A vast wisteria sitting atop a shattered and rotten pergola was gently lifted up, the pergola rebuilt and the brittle branches of the vine set back in place – a momentous task when the size and age of the plant is considered. The Secret Garden was uncovered from a thick tangle of dead growth, fallen branches, opportunistic blackberries, ivies, honeysuckle and other invasive woody weeds. Great sheets of periwinkle and garlic



weed (Allium triquetrum) were treated with selective herbicides. The creek was realigned, dredged and the walls rebuilt so that it flowed well and flood mitigation was possible.

New garden areas were developed too. The tennis court and pavilion were installed. A swimming pool was built and later a conservatory was added to the house. A perennial border was made and several pieces of hedging planted. A garden of David Austin roses was put in. The driveway was enhanced with an avenue of Candlebark gums (Eucalyptus rubida) – a local endemic.

Tree plantings were made to further screen the house from Carey Gully Road and the dam was constructed and planted.



It was during preparations for excavating the dam that a whole 'lost' garden was uncovered when tonnes of silt and mud were dug out along the creek line at the point where the woodland gives way to pasture. Some of the surviving plants – several kinds of bamboo and mahonia suggested the existence of a Japanese garden possibly made in the Edwardian era when such things became very popular.

Resisting any feelings to be 100% authentic and being equally concerned not to go overboard with any new fads Robyn, in particular, exercised her by now well-practised artist's eye to ensure that the magic of the garden was maintained and enhanced. The sense of enclosure and privacy was kept paramount but there is also plenty of delight in flowery incident, colour, perfume and texture. Shade is of primary importance as is autumn colour and a marvellous spring display.

This amazing garden has been open to the public on a number of occasions and last opened in 2016. Whether it will open again is unknown, however should the garden open sometime into the future, it would definitely be an opportunity not to be missed.

Meet your OGSA Committee Members – Lyndie Carracher.



Reflecting on my childhood, I realise that gardens and gardening have been a huge part of my life. My maternal grandmother was an organic gardener and very keen composter, and she had a "never waste anything" attitude. I remember she put out used orange halves with salt to kill the snails & slugs.

Throughout the whole year she always had something to pick and eat. We grandchildren climbed the fruit and citrus trees or cut the rich purple currant grapes. The front garden was mulched and had picking flowers for a pretty posy for a sick friend.

We had a large block so my father had beautiful apricot, peach and almond trees. He was in charge of the Fowler's Vacola bottling nights which meant we had fruit desserts throughout the year. Vegetables were his domain also. Each weekend my parents would work in the garden. We were included and as part of our pocket money it was our job to kill as many snails as possible; the remuneration was very small!

My mother grew wonderful hydrangeas and always had useful greenery and pretty flowers for a posy.

When I married and lived on the farm where shops were 63 kilometers away in Naracoorte, it was just a given to grow my own vegetables. We had free sheep manure and hay for mulch. The soil was heavy clay so I added lots of gypsum. However, there were frustrations when the cattle got in and ate everything, plus pugged up the soil.

Soil has always interested me because one of our heavy paddocks would get nematodes which, at the time, meant crop failure.

Although I continued working as a nurse when we returned to Adelaide, I also found time to go to Brookway Park at Campbelltown and do a Diploma of Horticulture and work in a plant nursery.

The Mediterranean Garden Society caught my eye with their philosophy of right plant, right soil preparation and right time of planting. I was a Committee person for some years, and I think it was my participation on the gate for our member garden openers that probably brought me in contact with the Open Garden Scheme/Open Gardens Australia, where I also became a committee member.

On the disbanding of Open Gardens Australia, many positive, generous people felt we could successfully run our own show. Hence, Open Gardens SA was born. We have a wonderful supportive and cooperative committee who have rescued the concept of Open Gardens for the enjoyment of thousands of garden lovers throughout the state.

It has been hard work, a lot of fun, and the public have been very appreciative – and the wonderful thing about visiting gardens is the amazing, generous people you meet along the way.

OGSA AGM – 19th June 2018

The next Annual General Meeting (AGM) for Open Gardens SA will be held on the evening of Tuesday 19th June 2018 at Mitcham. Further details will be provided to our Members closer to the AGM. If necessary, an election of committee members will take place at the AGM.

The OGSA Committee comprises a minimum of ten (10) people and a maximum of eighteen (18) people. A committee member must be a current paid up member of OGSA. Retiring committee members are eligible to stand for re-election without nomination.

Any other OGSA 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 (available from our Secretary, Jane Knowler) and send it by email to:

interest@opengardensa.org.au or by post to PO Box 1184 Stirling SA 5152.

Autumn

Autumn – the most wonderful of seasons! The baking heat of Summer is over and the shorter days are mild and refreshing. The sweet smell of rain after a hot dry spell is magical. The foliage on many trees and shrubs takes on a whole new cover of stunning Autumn hues. The falling leaves are not to be viewed as a problem, but a beautiful carpet of colour covering the earth – and free mulch for the garden to be highly valued. Autumn – the most wonderful of seasons, so take a deep breath and enjoy every moment!





OGSA Publicity and Media Officer

OGSA is delighted to welcome Trisha Helbers to the role of Publicity and Media Officer. Trisha commenced in this important role in February this year, replacing Gail Heritage who has regrettably stepped back due to other work commitments. Trisha previously worked full-time with the City of Holdfast Bay as Corporate Communications and Media Advisor. The Committee would like to sincerely thank Gail for her work, dedication and support during the time she fulfilled the Media Officer role. Gail will be remaining on the OGSA Committee and will continue to provide assistance when appropriate.

Open Gardens SA Autumn Program

The full listing of our open gardens with all the details and beautiful photographs is available on our website: <u>http://opengardensa.org.au/</u>

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.





Special Event: Succulent Wreath Workshop – 7 April 2018

Open Gardens SA will be hosting another Succulent Wreath Workshop on Saturday 7 April 2018, 11am to 3pm, at Mitcham.

The cost is \$65 per person and is limited to 20 attendees.

Wire Wreaths, sphagnum moss, soil and wire will be supplied along with a lunch of soup and cake. There will be succulent plants for sale.

As these wreaths require numerous succulents, participants are encouraged to bring a supply of their own plants.

These workshops are very popular! Visit our website to make a booking for the next Succulent Wreath Workshop:

http://opengardensa.org.au/events



Opening my garden 'Frosty Flats' – firsthand experience of a garden owner.

By Alex Kowald of "Frosty Flats" (Photos Di Michalk)

Well, where do I start! Opening my garden each year has helped me to appreciate it more, rather than always just seeing what needs to be done! A month or two before each opening I must admit that I do have a 'panic planting' session. I see gaps or an area that just isn't how I like it, so I make a trip to the nursery. 2 - 3 weeks out from my open garden I have listed in my diary everything that needs to be done each day in preparation. It takes the pressure off maybe forgetting something and I like crossing things off a list.



I usually open mid-March because my garden has more height and a greater assortment of flowers. I find it is harder work than when I have opened in Spring. Fewer gardens open in Autumn so visitor numbers tend to be higher and it's just a beautiful time of year.

Late August all roses get fertilised with 'Sudden Impact'. I am usually already planning from early spring, tidying and tucking bulbs away under surrounding plants. By early December I can start deadheading roses and try to get through all the beds once before Christmas. Depending on rainfall I start drippering every 2-3 weeks if it's dry. I start cutting Aquilegias and Bearded Irises down to the ground as they finish flowering before Christmas, which can (and usually) drags out till early January. Early January Daylilies are starting to finish also so they are cut to the ground as well to get rid of all the dead and yellowing leaves underneath, by March they will have re grown nice and lush. Penstemons are deadheaded lightly and Alstromerias are pulled ready for re growth.

Mulching is a necessity to keep moisture in and weeds down, so beds are checked for a top up of pea-straw. Not my favourite job as it is very fiddley with my close plantings. As all these jobs are being done there is still continuous rose deadheading and with 800 roses in the garden this can take a while. Spraying paths and boundaries to prevent weeds from seeding is also a continuous job especially if we have summer rains.

Once Cannas start flowering about mid-December they get a regular deadhead to stop them getting too top heavy and it looks neater. Any

of the soft green deadheading I do, except for roses, is cut up and goes back onto the garden for mulch. The Callistemon hedge has a fabulous flush of flowers in November, so mid-February after they have put on some growth and look a bit shabby, I give it a prune - but not too close to my open weekend because I don't like that 'just pruned' look.



If we don't get rain around late November or late January the roses miss out on their 'Sudden Impact' feed because I need at least 6mm of rain to wash it in. This year it looks as if fertilizer won't be applied because of lack of rain, but this hasn't been unusual for my garden the last several years. 'Bounce Back' is applied in summer and winter and 'Rapid Raiser' in spring and autumn on all other plants if we have rain.



Another full rose deadhead throughout the beds is planned to be finished by late January ready for a March flush, although extreme hot weather

delays and prolongs deadheading because I want to keep leaf on the bushes to shade them from sunburn.

I will leave the green seed heads on early flowering Agapanthus so it gives a different texture and height in that area of the garden.



Mid-February I start organising my entrance gate roster.

With a few weeks to go I check my diary each day for the jobs that can only be done closer to the open weekend. Cobwebs under the pergola and verandah are dealt with and the house windows get their annual clean! I time my water drippers to be all up-to-date by the end of the week prior to opening as

well as watering pot plants under the verandah and pergola. The last mow is the middle of the week before opening so it recovers a little.

A few days before the open garden the hoses are stored away, ponds and birdbaths are topped up and paths are raked a couple of times to save work closer to the weekend. Mind you that only works if the weather doesn't turn windy!

So this last week before my open days I'm trying not to stress! I'm getting better my husband and daughter tell me. I can't worry about the weather because it's totally out of my control.

The afternoon before, I put up my OGSA road signs around the district, I only did it once the morning of my open days and never again! The time melts away and before I knew it I was way behind schedule and I was stressed. I set up my Café under the pergola, Green bins get hidden. Husband Neil puts up rope and signs around no entry areas.



Morning of! A bit nervous! I hope someone will turn up. I do a drive-by to check road signs put up the day before. My trusty caterer turns up early and does a fabulous job preparing for an unknown number of people with Devonshire Teas and light lunches. Neil puts up the entrance Gazebo and table. Once the entry table and visitor book is set up it's time for a coffee and a stroll around my garden while waiting for our first visitors to arrive. I can now relax knowing that all that can be done, is done. It's amazing at this point, and over the weekend, how many things I see that I hadn't noticed before, plants that have decided to flower or areas that just look fabulous. I find my Open Garden SA weekends such a blessing! I love seeing people enjoy what God has created through me.



I have learnt not to tell people what I didn't get time to finish or what I'm not happy with because they won't even notice unless I bring it to their attention. My garden will never be as perfect as I want it to be. Gardeners' curse I think!



I have loved every open garden experience since my first opening back in 2011. I realise that everyone sees my garden differently to me and not to be so critical of myself, no one else sees my errors, just the beauty of the garden! Talking to so many other gardeners is a real blessing, sharing stories and knowing that gardening is a lot of trial and error.

Alex Kowald

'Frosty Flats' at 2891 Onkaparinga Valley Road, Birdwood, is open to the public on the weekend of the 10 and 11 March 2018.



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In The Grip Of The Grape

By Trevor Nottle

With the grape-vine (*Vitis vinifera*) so prominent in our landscape it is worth asking if there are any of the genus that are garden-worthy. There certainly are, though many of them are not so easily found nowadays.



The most common by far is the ornamental grape, CRIMSON GLORY, which is found on many a shop veranda front and mall pergola, as well as many homes where its Summer shade is most welcome. Not so agreeable is the necessary pruning to

keep it within bounds, nor are the falling leaves so favourably looked upon except by those who love making compost; the large leaves rot down fairly quickly especially as Winter rains keep them damp all through the process. The every-day name has been questioned by botanists among others and been found to lack authenticity. Other suggested names appear to come down from research conducted at the Roseworthy campus of The University of Adelaide (which was home to a world renowned collection of grape cultivars) and the then taxonomic department of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. Among the synonyms identified were ALICANTE BOUCHET, TEINTURIER and TEINTURIER MALE. Completely underwhelmed by the science nurserymen and home gardeners continued with the popular name they had always known – CRIMSON GLORY.

Older gardens, particularly around country gardens will often be found to contain table grapes that are delicious and succulent. Their names are frequently long forgotten so they are difficult to know but popular varieties from the 19th C include BLACK HAMBURG (very large, round and sweet), ITALIA (musk flavoured, sweet, plump and white), MUSCAT HAMBURG (white), THOMSON SEEDLESS (white, sultana type), WALTHAM CROSS (white, sultana type) and MUSCAT of ALEXANDRIA (white, sweet), HAMBRO (white, muscat type) and the Strawberry Grape, or Fox Grape (*Vitis labrusca*) along with Raisins and Sultanas which can be dried as well as eaten fresh.

This last, the Strawberry Grape, is regarded by some as more of a novelty but its small brown-ish, thick-skinned fruits are quite sweet. This grape comes from woodland margins on the upper East Coast of the USA where the name Fox Grape refers to its 'musky' smell. Perhaps this was too un-genteel for English gardeners when it was first introduced by Tradescant Jnr. There are other grapes in old gardens too, but in the main these will be found to be wine grapes which are not first rate for eating, being tart, sharp or acidic, sufficiently so to render them less attractive to the palate.



Two further grape species are occasionally found in early gardens and these are purely decorative, the fruits being few, small and unpalatable. The Purple-Leaved Grape, Vitis vinifera ssp 'Purpurea' is as the name suggests simply a form of the common wild grape that has purple-ish leaves. The leaves are more deeply indented and more lobed than other grapes. Pale and reddish when they unfurl the leaves develop darker purple tones as they mature. In Autumn the leaves turn redbrown with the purple still predominant. The vines are generally not so vigorous as wine grapes or CRIMSON GLORY. This seems hard to find, maybe because being botanically identical to Vitis vinifera it carries a risk of being, or becoming, a vector for Phylloxera, hence it being impossible to import from other states such as Victoria where it is grown. I suspect that it is here though, another early introduction by horticultural acclimatisers and improvers.



Vitis Coignetiae

OPEN GARDENS SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC. AUTUMN 2018

Vitis Coignetiae is a native of Japan, Korea and Sahkalin Island on the Russian mainland. It was introduced in 1875 from Shanghai by two Taipans of the British East India Company, Jardine and Matheson traders, bankers and financiers. It is conceivable that they bought their plants from Chinese nurserymen with establishments in the Fa Te area on the Huangpo River opposite the city where they operated the trading 'factory' for the company. The area is now known as Pudong where the huge Futurist city stands. It was introduced again by Frenchman Henri Degran in 1884. He was searching wild grape stocks trying to discover a variety impervious to attack from the Phylloxera aphis. This Vitis wasn't the one for the task. The vine itself is astonishing. Huge rounded dark green leaves, rugose above and underfelted with pale gold hairs densely clothe the vines that given room and water can scale 30m and higher. Rich Autumn colours are a striking highlight at the end of each season – rich purple, scarlet, crimson and gold hues make a vibrant finale to the garden season. The specific name is confusing as there were two Mons. Coignet in France at the time and it is not clear to which one the vine gives honour. Capt. Jean-Roch Coignet (1776 – 1816) served in Napoleon's Imperial Guard and wrote a very popular book (still in print) about his heroic adventures in the Waterloo campaign. The other was Mons. Francois Coignet (1814 – 1888) who invented steel-framed concrete construction – a huge advance in building technology. Both surely worthy of having a plant named after them, but which one was it?



We Want Your Photographs!

Open Gardens SA would love to see your photos to assist us in promoting our program of Open Gardens.

If you have high quality suitable photographs, at least 1-2 megabyte (MB) in size, we would be delighted to receive them and you might just see your photo in the print media, on the OGSA website, Facebook or on our Instagram page!

Please label your photos with your name as the photographer, the <u>name of the garden and the date</u> when the photo was taken. You can send suitable photos to our email address at: photos@opengardensa.org.au



The Sweet Smell of Rainfall – Petrichor

(From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

Petrichor (/'petriko:r/) is the earthy scent produced when rain falls on dry soil. The word is constructed from Greek $\pi \epsilon \tau \rho \alpha$ petra, meaning "stone", and $i \chi \omega \rho$ īchōr, the fluid that flows in the veins of the gods in Greek mythology.

The term was coined in 1964 by two Australian CSIRO researchers, Isabel Joy Bear and Richard G Thomas, for an article in the journal Nature. In the article, the authors describe how the smell derives from an oil exuded by certain plants during dry periods, whereupon it is absorbed by clay-based soils and rocks. During rain, the oil is released into the air along with another compound, geosmin, a metabolic by-product of certain actinobacteria, which is emitted by wet soil, producing the distinctive scent; ozone may also be present if there is lightning. In a follow-up paper, Bear and Thomas (1965) showed that the oil retards seed germination and early plant growth.

In 2015, Massachusetts Institute of Technology scientists used high-speed cameras to record how the scent moves into the air. When a raindrop lands on a porous surface, air from the pores forms small bubbles, which float to the surface and release aerosols. Such aerosols carry the scent, as well as bacteria and viruses from the soil. Raindrops that move at a slower rate tend to produce more aerosols; this serves as an explanation for why the petrichor is more common after light rains.

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OGSA Recommends....

We recommend you always check our website for garden opening details. 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 2018 Autumn Calendar

Our Autumn program is currently being finalised. Please visit our website for further open garden listings as they are added to our program.

Garden Entry Fee \$8 per Adult, \$6 Concessions available, Under 18 free. Standard opening times are 10am to 4.30pm on the dates listed.

<u>March</u> 3 - 4

Jan's Garden, 4 Kavel Drive, Hahndorf

10 - 11 *Frosty Flats,* 2891 Onkaparinga Valley Road, Birdwood

24 - 25 *Trevelyan Street Garden,* 38 Trevelyan Street, Wayville

<u>April</u> 7 – Saturday only – booking required Succulent Wreath Workshop, Mitcham

21 - 22 *Casuarina,* 52 Sheoak Road, Mylor

28 - 29 Brae Gairden, 41 Avenue Road, Strathalbyn (Old Scottish spelling!)

28 - 29 Serenity, 775 Old Bull Creek Road, Strathalbyn





Jan's Garden, Hahndorf



Frosty Flats, Birdwood



Trevelyan Street Garden, Wayville



Casuarina, Mylor



Brae Gairden, Strathalbyn



Serenity, Strathalbyn



Theatre in the Garden – A Scandalous Success!

Following the sell-out success of *Sense and Sensibility*, Blue Sky Theatre was back during January and February with Pimms, picnics and plenty of intrigue in four wonderful SA gardens.

Crozier Hill at Inman Valley provided a breezy backdrop of hills and birdsong, Rosebank at Mount Pleasant featured rolling lawns, magnificent gums and very loud cockatoos, Carrick Hill was hot but the audience found plenty of shade beneath a magnificent oak tree.



Finally we all returned to Stangate House where agapanthus and hydrangeas matched the costumes to perfection.

This new version of Sheridan's *The*

School for Scandal was a delightful comedy of manners, full of lies and wicked fun. The cast of eleven were crystal clear and perfect for their roles, with boundless energy despite everything the weather threw at them, be it wind, rain or boiling heat! Last year was memorable for the actors mimicking dogs, this year it was a day at the races which gave us hysterics as the actors literally became jockeys on horseback. Audience participation provided some extra giggles among the theatregoers as friends were chosen to stand in as family portraits.

Reviewers were appreciative of the splendid fun, sparklingly directed by Dave Simms, with special reference to the exuberant hats and costumes in a brilliant colour palette ranging from conservative mid-blue through to screaming fuchsia. Congratulations to Rob Andrewartha and his incredible sewing and millinery team.

Close to 2000 people attended the ten shows across the month, laughing and clapping enthusiastically while munching on their picnics and sipping beer, wine, soft drink and, of course, Pimms! Our thanks to support from Howards Wines, Coopers Beer, Bickford's and Pimm's for their support of the bar, run by the team from OGSA's events committee.

Our ticket buyers were full of praise for the whole experience, many already looking forward to 2019 in the hope that the collaboration between Open Gardens SA and Blue Sky Theatre Productions continues to provide theatrical joy in enchanting garden settings.

Who 'nose' what next year's show may be?

















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

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