

Autumn Newsletter 2020



Autumn Flowering Bulbs

This past Summer has been one many people will not remember with much fondness or joy. The massive Bushfires across the country have caused so much devastation, sadness and deep distress to many people – the loss of lives, homes, gardens, infrastructure, livestock and the tragic loss of so much of our unique wildlife. A very sad time indeed. Autumn brings refreshing, cooler weather, and welcome rain. At Open Gardens SA we hope you will take some time to relax, enjoy the Autumn weather, visit an open garden and especially take time to visit our inaugural **SA Landscape Festival** on the weekend of the 4 and 5 April 2020. The details, and a web link to book tickets, can be found on page 2 of this Newsletter. We hope to see you in the garden soon!

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Autumn Open Gardens

March 14 -15
McPherson Garden, Mt
Gambier

March 15 (Sunday ONLY)
Beaumont House, Beaumont

March 21 - 22
Churston, West Croydon

March 28 - 29
Forestbrook Estate,
Gumeracha

April 4-5
SA Landscape Festival, 10
Professionally Designed,
privately owned gardens in
various locations

April 18 - 19
Windspiel, Upper Sturt

**See the full program on our
webpage:**

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



SA Landscape Festival - A garden showcase, 4 and 5 April 2020



Welcome to the inaugural SA Landscape Festival - A showcase of beautiful, professionally designed, privately owned gardens.

Open Gardens SA, in partnership with the Master Landscapers of SA, are opening the gates to 10 of South Australia's most beautiful professionally designed and built gardens and showcasing the best in garden design from the Master Landscapers of SA. And, along with Open Gardens SA, it's a celebration of gardens, design ideas and problem solving. Over the weekend of the 4th and 5th April 2020, visitors will be able to spend time to enjoy the gardens, collect ideas and admire the work of our state's best garden designers. Gardens will be open 10:00am to 4:00pm daily.

This is an exclusive opportunity to walk through the gardens, meet the Landscape Designers and Contractors, view their work and ask them questions. In purchasing tickets to the SA Landscape Festival you are also supporting the SA Charity, [SCOSA](http://www.scosa.org.au). We are delighted to team up with a great organisation and such a worthy cause.

With a range of 10 gardens to view in a variety of locations from the suburbs to the Adelaide Hills, tickets are \$10 per garden or \$50 for an all garden weekend pass. Children under 12 FREE entry. No concessions.

Visit the official website to book your tickets today:

<https://salandscapefestival.com.au/>



Major Event Sponsor:



Event Partners:



Presenting partners:



SA Landscape Festival - A garden showcase, 4 and 5 April 2020 *(Continued)*.

This Festival showcases the best in garden design from the Master Landscapers of SA.

And we are proud to be partnering with SCOSA for this event. All proceeds from the SA Landscape Festival will support this great cause. SCOSA, provides vital in-home and community services and support to hundreds of South Australians living with a range of physical and intellectual disabilities, including cerebral palsy, autism, down syndrome and acquired brain injury. SCOSA create fun and engaging activities, leading to enhanced life skills and greater independence, and have done so since 1950 when they were founded in Adelaide. Visit their website to learn more about their important work: <https://scosa.com.au/>

We are pleased to introduce our designers for the Inaugural 2020 SA Landscape Festival. Each of these talented designers will be available at Festival gardens to answer any questions you have.

Ben Knapp – [Gardens with Style](#)

Gardens with Style – Woodside

A long drive bordered with young trees leads to a garden that is all about formality! Here you will see hedges with a backdrop of more hedges, set off by perfectly maintained lawns and softened with plantings of roses and grassy plants. **Please note: *The garden will not be open if it is a Catastrophic or Total Fire Ban day.***

Caroline Dawes – [Caroline Dawes Gardens](#)

Caroline Dawes Gardens – Norwood

If a flower filled oasis is what you dream of seeing, then this property will not disappoint. With lush green garden feel and beautiful cottage theming. The garden includes a recycled aspect whereby the plants were repositioned to ensure there was no wastage and to take full advantage of the plant life that was available.

Caroline Dawes Gardens – Millswood

A family friendly space with plenty of lawn for family play. Original trees have been kept and a flower filled green lush garden completes this beautiful oasis. The tone for the garden is a semi-formal rambling garden theme complete with a stone fire pit area which you approach through the slate steppers under the avenue of pear trees.

David Baptiste – [David Baptiste Garden Design](#)

David Baptiste Garden Design – Medindie

This Medindie garden is symmetrical, stylish and sophisticated! The design is restrained, the maintenance perfect and the result a

formal garden that perfectly complements the architecture of the home and street-scape.

David Baptiste Garden Design – Hyde Park

The green-on-green formal front garden perfectly suits the symmetrical façade of the home but gives no hint of the surprises around the corner! Huge stepping stones lead through a rich profusion of pretty foliage and flowering plants to the back of the house and its Max Pritchard extension, the pool area and a switch back to a more formal garden style. There is a clever transformation of a garage into a stylish pool house.

Frank Ross – [Exterior Concepts](#)

Exterior Concepts – Highbury

This minimalistic with a formal feel garden offers manicured hedges to provide privacy for the pool without restricting views to the River Torrens and Linear Park.

A meaningful area was constructed to make effective use of available space and to provide the owner with a space for outdoor cooking, relaxing and entertaining. The plants chosen give a lush green feel with soft billowy grasses contrasting with the formal hedges.

Jackson Shaw – [Ground Design Landscaping](#)

Ground Design Landscaping – Blackwood

Both a landscaped front and rear garden that blend

beautifully with the Blackwood and Adelaide Hills surroundings.

Using curves, recycled materials, corten steel and an interesting selection of water efficient plants Ground Design Landscaping have created an inspiring natural look that is attractive, usable and low maintenance. A corner is dedicated to vegies and shows how they can be included and fit well in any garden.

From uniquely created firepit and seating areas this garden is impeccably presented. Not to be missed.

Nadia Matijevic – [Adelaide Garden Design](#)

Adelaide Garden Design – Burnside

An oasis has been created at this property complete with an informal, full and lush garden to complement the shady aspect and the wider landscape.

There is a visual connection to the nearby creek and reserve complete with areas for casual entertaining and a serene space for relaxation and meditation.

To round out the beauty of this property is has a custom designed and made urn with a simplified form and Asian influence. Hopefully when you visit you will see an array of birds and frogs that have taken up residence.

Peter Adley – [Yardstick Landscape Services](#)

Yardstick Landscape Services – Prospect

This space has been beautifully created to include a connection with the community and the street complete with a place to sit, relax and talk to neighbours.

A balance between a classic style home with a modern space that is softened with natural materials and relaxed planting scheme.

Numerous productive plants are included and there is a vegetable wash station.

Yardstick Landscape Services – Croydon

A family garden that will evolve with the children has been created at this property. Complete with a relaxing space and an entertaining area for the adults it also provides a much-needed shaded area for the kids to play.

With the shaded lawn provided by a thornless Gleditsia, it also provides the perfect climbing tree for the children.

Thanks to the generosity of the garden owners, this Festival gives you a rare opportunity to see inside private gardens that showcase the work of professional garden designers. Need ideas for your garden project? Then this is the weekend for you!

<https://salandscapefestival.com.au/>



Meet your OGSA Committee Members – Lyn Edwards



Lyn Edwards has always had an interest in gardens inherited from her mother, who had a beautiful garden. Thirty years ago, having no knowledge of gardening, but motivated by a love of gardens, Lyn bought a garden of 100 year's age and of one and a half acre's size. A very steep learning curve followed, and since the 1990's she has regularly opened her garden to the public and to gardening groups to share this interest.

Retirement has brought the opportunity of spending more time in the garden, but to also become involved with numerous garden-related activities. Lyn is a volunteer gardener at Mt Lofty Botanic Garden, a garden guide with the Adelaide Botanic Gardens and a garden guide at Carrick Hill. The act of gardening is often a solitary pursuit, so sharing the results of those efforts with others who love gardens is, for Lyn, a privilege and a pleasure.

On the Committee her particular task is to organise donations if funds are available. As OGSA is a not-for-profit organisation, giving away money to garden related organisations that aid education, conservation, and community use of gardens is a very pleasant task.

Open Gardens SA Bushfire Fund

What a terrible summer we have had here in South Australia due to the bush fires, along with the rest of the nation. Our heartfelt praise and thanks go out to the CFS, SES and SAPOL and all the volunteers who worked in horrendous conditions to save lives, homes and property and battle the fires.



Open Gardens SA established a Bushfire Fund a couple of years ago and we feel that it is important to use these funds to assist in rebuilding our

communities. There is an organisation called BlazeAid that takes a very practical, hands-on approach in this process. BlazeAid is a volunteer-based organisation that works with families and individuals in rural Australia after natural disasters such as fires and floods. Working alongside these families, volunteers help to rebuild fences and other structures that have been damaged or destroyed. Equally important, volunteers also help to lift the spirits of people who are often facing devastating losses through bushfires. BlazeAid volunteers work in a disaster-affected area for many months, not only helping individuals and families, but also helping rebuild the local communities and repair the local economy by their very presence in supporting local shops and businesses. BlazeAid set up a base camp at Lobethal in the Adelaide Hills in January as soon as an appropriate site was identified. Another base camp has been established on Kangaroo Island, and they have another two South Australian camps located at Edithburgh (work here was just recently completed), and at Kingston in the South East.

In early January Open Gardens SA made contact with BlazeAid and we have provided our Bushfire Fund money in the form of a donation towards the rebuilding work BlazeAid is coordinating here in South Australia. We are confident these funds will be put to excellent use in assisting our communities in need. The fires have been a dreadful event, and this is exactly the situation for which these funds were put aside – and now is the time to use them.



Open Gardens SA Community Gardens Funding Grants 2020

Do you have a community garden project that needs funding, or want to establish a community garden but don't have funds? Open Gardens SA (OGSA) would like to hear your plans and ideas!

Due to the great support from the South Australian gardening community, OGSA has some funds available which we would like return to our South Australian community. Five grants of \$3,000 each will be made available to help support community garden projects. If you have a project in mind, let us know about it and how \$3,000 would make a difference. Send us your proposal and our Committee will award grants to the five projects judged most worthy.

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. However, it will assist your application if you are able to provide copies of written quotes for proposed project works.

Applications are now open and close on 31st March 2020.

Grants will be awarded in late April 2020. This is a new round of grants and previous applications which were unsuccessful are welcome to apply again and of course, new applications are encouraged!

Send a detailed proposal and tell us why your project should be awarded a grant to:

admin@opengardensa.org.au

Theatre in The Garden Conquered the Weather!

There was an unexpected player in Blue Sky Theatre's outdoor productions this summer – the weather.

Unseasonal rain played havoc on several occasions but failed to dampen the spirits of the audiences, the cast and the crew of *She Stoops to Conquer*.

As drizzle turned to showers at one performance at Stangate House in Aldgate, everyone carried on stoically. The massive oak tree provided some shelter as the rain fell more steadily. Eventually the director called off the show as heavy rain continued to fall.

Who would have thought it would happen again with more than 30mm of rain falling in late January causing us to postpone our shows at Wittunga Botanic Gardens. Thankfully, most audience members were happy to re-schedule to see the shows on another night when the weather was kind, the play was just as funny and the costumes looked stunning in the setting sun.

Early in January, we were back on the rolling lawns of Nol and Rob Parkyn's stunning property in Lower Inman Valley providing a lovely backdrop of gum trees and a chorus of Kookaburras. Hans Heyen's home, The Cedars, was a popular new venue. Everyone was impressed with the colourful, well-tended garden setting near Hahndorf.



She Stoops to Conquer was Blue Sky 1920's take on Oliver Goldsmith's warm-hearted comedy of manners delivering laughs, dancing and a live jazz band. As

always, the actors were hilarious, the costumes were wonderful and the whole experience was enchanting.

As one reviewer put it "Outdoor theatre is alive and well in the hands of Dave Simms. He can take one of the corniest 18th Century plays in the history of theatre and trick it up to a funny, zany, and delicious garden entertainment. The secret not only is in the adaptation of the play to a chic and accessible period, in this case the 1920s, but the rallying of a cast of versatile actors who have the professional oomph to deliver old school projection clearly audible to all."

Our thanks to our sponsors Howards Wines and Matthews Hospitality for their support of the bar, run by the team from OGSA's events committee.

As always both Blue Sky Theatre and Open Gardens SA will use the proceeds from these performances to fund their artistic and horticultural endeavours. Plus, Adelaide Day Centre for Homeless People, the National Trust, the Hans Heysen Foundation, and the Adelaide Botanic Gardens Foundation will also benefit from the funds raised.

It's good to know that when you buy your tickets, sip your drinks and laugh at theatre in the garden, you are also doing your bit to support local good causes.

Open Gardens SA AGM – Tuesday 9th June 2020

The next Annual General Meeting (AGM) for Open Gardens SA will be held on the evening of Tuesday 9th June 2020 at the Reade Park Croquet Club. 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

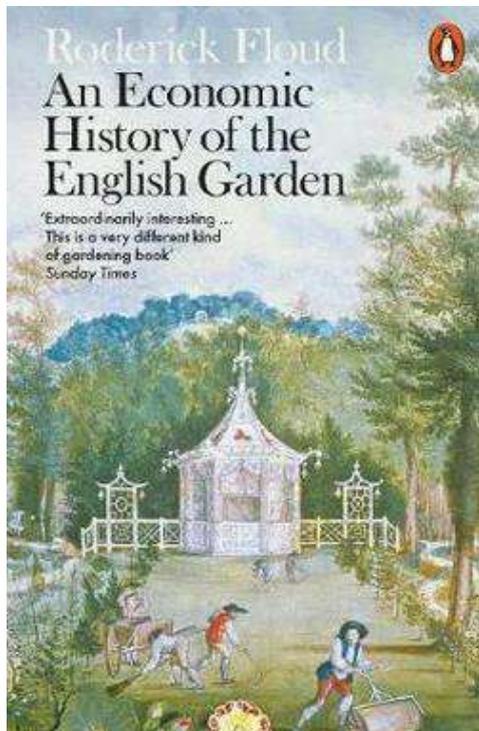
Or by post to:

PO Box 1184, Stirling SA
5152.



Book Review - An Economic History of The English Garden, by Roderick Floud, pub. Allen Lane / Penguin, London 2019

Review by Trevor Nottle



Here is a book title promising enough to put anyone off picking up the volume, let alone buying it. Such a dull subject economics, such a dry prospect for a work about history, such a boring piece of academic indulgence. The sort of publication that demonstrates that someone, in a remote ivory tower knows more and more about less and less.

First impressions are, fortunately, incorrect. Roderick Floud has delivered to gardeners a remarkable, fresh perspective on gardens that

covers entirely new ground: the costs and financial rewards of gardening. Not only is the book innovative in its approach, it is more importantly deeply researched and well written in an engaging and accessible style. The author is a knight of the realm, a renowned economist and a highly respected academic.

By taking the approach he does, Floud is able to look a gardens in a completely new light: the costs of making a garden, especially the great gardens of the past, the costs of gardeners and their wages over the centuries; the costs and charges made by landscapers and garden designers – no wonder ‘Capability’ Brown died a very wealthy man, the value and costs of technical developments that have benefitted gardens, and the costs of garden productivity – especially the economics of the kitchen garden.

What Floud reveals is most interesting. Well, it was to me. He uses old Royal household accounts and those of the great ducal estates to show that huge sums were spent by Kings and Queens, and others to increase their prestige and the power of their courts among the common herd and foreign powers. He quotes some truly staggering sums: for one tulip tree 25 feet high Frederick, Prince of Wales and future King George III, paid £21 in 1734 – today’s equivalent would be £38,120. Clive of India, on returning to England brought with him a fortune, mostly gained from his share of the spoils of war, *i.e.* loot won by his armies in India a fortune of some £40,000

(today worth £70 millions). He was 28 years old! After his second tour of duty there he came back worth £400,000 (=£668 millions) of which he paid ‘Capability’ Brown and a builder some £41,700 (= £50 millions) to build a house and landscape his Claremont estate. Most of it went on Brown’s bills. He had other properties too.

The expensive hobby is recorded through four centuries at the level of patrons, customers, nurserymen and workers. It is utterly fascinating.

If readers spend \$11 buying a 6 pack of seedlings they should feel utterly thrifty alongside the costs of gardening in the past.

Highly recommended.

Follow OGSA on Facebook and Instagram



Garden Diversity

The gardens that open for Open Gardens SA are chosen to reflect a great diversity of styles and may even challenge the conventional view of what constitutes a garden. While aspects of a garden may not be to your taste, we urge you to celebrate this diversity.

Please remember you are visiting a private home and show respect and sensitivity for the owners who have so generously shared their garden with you. Thank you.

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/>

Open Gardens SA 2020 Autumn Calendar

Entry Fee \$8 per Adult, Limited Concessions available,
Under 18 free.

March 2020

14 – 15 March

McPherson Garden, 1 Harbison Street, Mt Gambier

15 March - Sunday ONLY

Beaumont House, 631 Glynburn Road, Beaumont

21 – 22 March

Churston, 94 Day Terrace, West Croydon

28 – 29 March

Forestbrook Estate, 254 Checker Hill Road, Gumeracha

April 2020

4 – 5 April

SA Landscape Festival, 10 professionally designed, privately owned gardens in various locations, please refer to page 2 and 3 for details

18 – 19 April

Windspiel, 2 Parkgate Place, Upper Sturt



McPherson Garden, Mt Gambier



Beaumont House, Beaumont



Churston, West Croydon



Forestbrook Estate, Gumeracha



Windspiel, Upper Sturt



SA Landscape Festival, 10 professionally designed, privately owned gardens



Plant Profile - Nerines

By Trevor Nottle. Photographs (this page) by Di Michalk.

Nerines are native to Southern Africa from the Summer dry West coast to the Summer wet East coast. According to the habitat of different species success in cultivating them varies with the ability of gardeners to meet those climatic and soil conditions. Modern hybrids, with wonderful colours, are a group of complex hybrids that can include species from West and East which means the flowering times can be very variable and almost unpredictable. A few species also require a low-burn grass fire to trigger flowering – a condition that few gardeners would bother to risk in their home gardens.



Hybrid nerines have been bred in places far different from their natural range in South Africa. Prominent among them have been Switzerland (Sir Peter Smithers), New Zealand (Sir Heaton Rhodes), Australia (Alister Clark), England (the Rothschild family at Exbury) and by commercial flower breeders in The Netherlands. In most of

these places the bulbs have been raised and grown in controlled greenhouse conditions. All this complex background has created a mystique and a puzzle about growing nerines. How do you get them to flower – consistently?

The wild forms *Nerine sarniensis*, *Nerine filamentosa* and *Nerine bowdenii* are the most widespread nerines grown in Australia and may be found quite frequently in old gardens where they have been left undisturbed for many, many years. Flowering in March the bulbs frequently surprise gardeners by popping up unexpectedly. In recent years modern, named hybrids, often described as ‘diamond dusted’ have been available at moderately high prices from specialist bulb growers and importers. 25 species are recognised by botanists and as a general rule they are placed in three groups: winter-growers, summer-growers and evergreens.



Cultivation is best done in the ground with care taken to see that the bulbs are left undisturbed to ensure they clump up and become congested. This seems to be the best way to induce flowering. The bulbs must be planted with the long ‘neck’ above the soil level – too deep and they will fail completely or dwindle away until they die out. Sandy loam with good drainage is their preference with the addition of small gravel or scoria to ensure water does not hang about and cause rotting. Fertilising nerine bulbs is, as garden tradition tells, not necessary when bulbs are grown in the garden. Potted nerines can be fed with a low nitrogen fertiliser such as is used for tomatoes. Nerines have very few pests but for snails and slugs which can be dealt with according to the rules by which you garden – organic or chemical.

With the increasingly unreliable weather patterns now being experienced a heavy watering in late February or early March is the best way to trigger the formation of flower buds deep

inside the hearts of mature bulbs.



Allied to nerines are the Oriental bulbs known as Lycoris. The Golden ‘nerine’, *Lycoris aurea* is also a very desirable bulb that originated in Japan along with several other species sometimes found in gardens, especially

on the East coast around Sydney. *Lycoris squamigera* and *Lycoris radiata* have a similar spidery form to the golden variety. They seem to prefer dappled shade whereas nerines like a sunny position. Most often *Lycoris* are grown in pots and tubs for safe keeping.

The name nerine refers to a guardian sea-nymph sent by the goddess Venus to rescue Vasco da Gama’s armada which got lost en route to India; in itself an entirely fictitious event first invented by a 15th C Oxford botanist. Even then such were the pressures to make new scientific discoveries.



Silverhill Seeds and Books, South Africa

(<http://www.silverhillseeds.co.za/>) is a good seed source for all Amaryllids including nerines. All seeds are sold fresh immediately after harvesting. Seeds should come through quarantine with no trouble as they are properly cleaned and certificated.

Playford Trust - Open Gardens SA, TAFE SA Awards 2019

Open Gardens SA (OGSA) was delighted to again partner with The Playford Trust in offering up to three awards of \$2000 each for students studying horticulture or conservation and land management at TAFE. The aim is to support young people who not only have an interest in gardens themselves but who will inspire a love of gardens in others.

Since we formed OGSA we have continued to be very successful. As OGSA is a not for profit organisation, we are in a position to give back some of our profits to the South Australian community. We currently donate to three main areas - community gardens and community activities, garden conservation and sustainability, and to encourage educational activities for future gardeners. It was with this in mind that we partnered with the Playford Trust - an organisation who could link us with students of horticulture,

arboriculture, aquaculture, conservation and land management and garden design.

The Trust has enabled us to provide three awards to promising students who are likely to create careers in these areas and ensure professional input into the continuation of gardens in SA.

Congratulations to the three successful candidates who received this funding support at the 2019 Playford Trust TAFE SA Awards Night on the 28 November 2019.

Jason McVicar, Certificate III in Horticulture, Urrbrae and Barossa TAFE SA.



Jason was in his final year of a three-year traineeship with Burnside Council. He worked with a law firm for a number of years before deciding to jump from the corporate ship and work in the area he loves – gardens!

The council allocated him his own round of parks and gardens to look after. He believes the leadership team gave him this responsibility in acknowledgment of his maturity, hard work and trustworthiness.

Peter Raine, Diploma of Conservation and Land Management, Urrbrae TAFE SA.



Pete worked as an intensive care nurse before changing his career focus to the natural environment.

In 2009, he began working for the then National Parks and Wildlife Service, before switching to the local government sector, initially at the City of Burnside, and then to the City of Adelaide, where he is

now part of the Biodiversity Team. He is currently working through a Diploma of Conservation and Land Management at Urrbrae TAFE, on a part-time basis.

Pete is an active volunteer with the Friends of Belair National Park. He instigated a monthly Saturday bush care session for people unable to attend the usual mid-week sessions, and also runs an annual bus trip for the group, visiting places of environmental interest.

Pete wants to use his award to support his ongoing work in the conservation sector, and to continue to learn, teach and foster interest in conservation in both a professional and volunteer capacity.

Rebecca Stevens, Certificate III in Horticulture, Urrbrae TAFE SA.



Rebecca has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Human Movement and a Bachelor of Education and taught Physical Education, Outdoor Education and Home Economics at Trinity College, Gawler. Teaching inspired in her a deep interest in environmental landscapes, regional

biodiversity and the concept of paddock-to-plate, ultimately leading to her studying Horticulture at TAFE.

Through her active involvement with the Rare Fruit Society of SA, Rebecca has learned to grow, graft and bud unusual and heritage fruit trees.

She is a founding member and co-ordinator of the Happy Patch Community Garden and The Happy Pantry Food Co-operative, both in Aberfoyle Park. Rebecca and her family live on a semi self-sufficient permaculture-designed property in the Adelaide Hills where they grow organic produce, 60 varieties of fruit and run a small flock of chickens.

Visit the Playford Trust website for more information on the 2019 Awards:

<https://playfordtrust.com.au/open-gardens-tafe-sa-playford-trust-awards-28-november-2019/>



Jason McVicar



Peter Raine



Rebecca Stevens



Open Gardens SA Seasonal Program

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

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

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



Open Gardens South Australia is a not for profit organisation
opening private gardens to the general public.

The purpose of Open Gardens SA is to educate and promote the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of
gardens and gardening in South Australia and to build strong public support for the development of
gardens.

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

Our mailing address is:

Open Gardens SA Inc
PO Box 1184, STIRLING SA 5152

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

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

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

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