



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

## Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to

# AVALON

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 October 2018     20 Willowbridge Grove, Burnside

Welcome to Avalon. The garden is named after the Isle of Avalon from the book the Mists of Avalon. During the troubling times in King Arthur's reign, women of the time with special powers would go to the Isle of Avalon which they described as their haven.

We bought the house in 2010 and over the next 12 months enjoyed the garden that was here but we felt much more potential could be unlocked in terms of feel and functionality of the space. Yet ideas and inspiration were lacking.

We contacted Nadia Matijevic from Adelaide Garden Designs. Nadia was very busy at the time so it was about a year later and after much collaboration, we had our plan - but it was worth the wait. We had asked for a blue and white theme with an outdoor entertaining area and plants that were fairly water efficient. Her design brought it all together; with the view from the park, a tranquil setting and a stunning vista from the upstairs rooms. We loved her design.

The landscaping was carried out by Chris Constantis from Raintree Landscaping who did a great job and has become a dear friend.

The bird bath in the front garden, the large urn (water feature) and the pots on the deck were made for us by Mark Heidenreich, Terra-Villa Pottery. We were very pleased that we were able to support a local talented artist.

A number of plants were retained from the original garden, strelitzia, wisteria and many of the agapanthus, all were relocated from other positions. New homes were found for the other plants. The back garden was completed towards the end of 2012 and the front garden early the next year.

The reserve which our garden backs on to is called Michael Perry Reserve, named after Michael Perry - Councillor, Alderman and Mayor from 1958 to 1983 and was originally part of the Clifton Manor Estate.

### *A brief history of the area*

In 1852 a local flour miller George Sismey purchased a section of land (80 acres) along Second Creek at Stonyfell and built a grand Tudor Gothic style two storey mansion which was called Clifton Manor. In 1872 a lawyer, Nathaniel Knox leased and then purchased the Stonyfell mansion and extended the gardens and planted many European trees and shrubs. The land was subsequently subdivided twice, once in 1926 and again in 1976, leaving the mansion with just two acres. Today Clifton manor is surrounded by suburban homes with very little land attached to the estate.

We were told that this house and garden stands where the blacksmith, a Mr William Wood once worked and we found a couple of pieces of old iron from forgings in the garden and one embedded in the elm tree.

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**Open Gardens South Australia Inc:** 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.

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

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

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While you're here we recommend a walk through the park, it can be accessed from the end of our street, will take you about 20 minutes and will give you a feeling for what it was in its heyday. The creek running through the reserve is Second Creek.

The area is blessed with much wildlife with kookaburras that sit on our balcony, a heron that sits on the deck balustrade, the occasional koala in the nearby gum trees, black cockatoos, rainbow lorikeets and more. There are three types of frogs in Second Creek: the Marbled Frog, the Common Froglet and the Eastern Bango - named because its call is similar to a banjo – but one that's out of tune and is not particularly rhythmical. They are often heard at this time of year so you may be lucky.

We also have a lot of possums and you will see that our lemon tree has suffered and the Solanum Wendlandii creeper over the pergola of the shed in the front has been decimated.

If you are interested in knowing what the plants are you will find a copy of our garden plan on the back wall of the house, however as with all gardens some things didn't work and substitutions have been made.

We have steps, stairs and slopes so please be careful.

If you don't wish to retain your garden notes, please recycle them by dropping them off at the front table when you leave. Thank you

Proceeds from today will support PANDA (Perinatal Anxiety & Depression Australia). This charity does great work helping mums affected by post-natal depression

Pam Gerrard and Brian Marks

Open Gardens South Australia is aiming to significantly reduce its impact on the environment and we hope you support us in this endeavour. Please return your garden notes as you leave so they can be reused and recycled.

The gardens that open for us 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.