



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to Denise's Garden

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th October, 2021

In 2004 as novice gardeners, we commenced planting up a bare block including retaining walls and topsoil fill. I have encountered many failures over the journey of establishing the garden mainly due to planting in the less-than-ideal position e.g., too much sun or not enough.

The garden is very shaded from morning sun and receives very hot afternoon sun. Over time I have replaced the failures with suitable plantings.

I commenced in the front garden planting standard roses all tequila sunrise which was initially chosen to complement the orange tiled roof of the house but is now black, but it still works. The roses border a white gravel path to the front portico. I chose gravel to introduce a more tactile experience walking on gravel rather than pavers etc however not suitable as a weed suppressant, but I continue to persevere.

Due to the hot afternoon sun on the western side of the house a wisteria arbour was planted which is a very effective cooling system for our house and provides a shade environment for my camellias, however the wisteria is very vigorous and slowly destroying the retaining wall.

I planned a formal structured garden which has turned into a semi structural, with rambling plantings filled with lots of colour. I describe the back garden to be separated into garden rooms bordered by tall Escallonia flowering hedge and smaller box hedge. Entry and exit via rose arches. I have had many failures to the small box hedge mainly due to my cat that loves to jump into the hedge supposedly chasing mice, there have been many replanting's, which I have replaced by layering from the other box plants.

The vegetable garden bordered by a picket fence provides abundant produce throughout the year if not eaten by feral rabbits. Much of the produce is given away to neighbours and friends. Rabbits over the past few years have eaten spring bulbs, annuals, and vegetable plant seedlings, luckily the garden has been saved from the rabbits this year.

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.

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The orchard area contains 3 cherry trees, nectarine apples oranges, muscatel grape vine and a large walnut tree. This area is covered with a steel structure covered with bird netting which fails badly to keep birds out, this remains, but each individual tree needs to be covered with bird netting.

Further down the back there is a chicken house for shelter at night with a free-range area amongst the large establish gums and wattle trees during the day.

There are around 95 roses which include bush, standard, climbing, and pillar roses. Many of the roses are from cuttings and unfortunately not ever expecting to open our garden I have forgotten many of the rose names. I have plantings of clematis with most of the climbing roses but unfortunately will not be flowering in spring.

Camellias are another favourite of mine I have around 25 some which may still be flowering come open day.

Path edges and retaining wall edges are planted up with rows of perennial geranium. This plant not only looks pretty and hardy it also is very effective to stop birds scratching out mulch and making a mess the prime reason for planting them initially.

The large veranda at the back of the house is home to a large staghorn, many fine and common maidenhair ferns, large sword fern, together with a large tree fern, hoya in a hanging basket and a large potted hoyo. Also under the veranda are 2 terrariums (converted fish tanks) which are failing badly as I think the hills weather is too cold, but I continue to persevere with different plantings and maybe I will succeed in time.

Many local people on their daily walk stop and chat about the garden and have adopted it as their happy garden. A variety of cuttings and variety of bulbs have been swapped with the locals and friendships have been fostered from mutual garden interest.