



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to

FIDDLESTIX

Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 October 2020 58 Holly Rise, Coffin Bay

Welcome to Fiddlestix, our garden which gives us so much, we hope you enjoy it too. The name 'Fiddlestix' comes from my childhood memories when mum would say "that's fiddlesticks", meaning "stuff & nonsense" – my rambling garden is full of 'stuff & nonsense', so the name is perfect!

Our garden is now a little over 5 years old, and in that time has grown substantially bigger than first planned! We started with a blank canvas, with lots of weeds, limestone rocks, kangaroos, emus, rabbits & very poor soil. I have worked continuously to eradicate the weeds (slowly winning) pick up rocks or reuse them in the garden, and by fencing off the main garden, have been able to keep the kangaroos & emus out and still be able to watch their comings & goings.

Improving the soil is something that we are always trying to do and will be ongoing. We have purchased tonnes of organic soil, we use manure from whatever source is available & I have 3 worm farms on the go, as well as piles of compost. During Covid lockdown, Mike dug me a compost trench with the backhoe, measuring 4 metres long, 1 metre wide & nearly 1.2 metres deep, which I set about filling! I have since used the amazing compost and am now in the process of refilling it. The compost has made a huge difference to the condition of the soil.

We didn't have reticulated water when we first started the garden, and we've progressed through carting water & hand watering everything, to now having a bore and the main garden being watered with overhead sprinklers. The veggie garden and any new trees I plant across the track are still hand watered, but once the trees are established, they have to fend for themselves. If you wander across the zebra crossing, you will find the large, limestone labyrinth and the beginnings of a pond area. The kangaroos and emus love to graze in this large, open area, which is why many of the trees still have guards to protect them.

I feel that we have become such a 'throwaway society', so I try to do my bit by collecting 'stuff' from dumps, op shops and giveaways to reuse in the garden. We have used recycled materials to make many of our garden structures, including the gazebo & gatehouse. I think it's great to see these old bits & pieces live on in a new life!

Since our last open garden 2 years ago, as well as maintaining what we already have, we have built the 'Best Exotic Marigold Hotel for Chooks' and our 7 'girls' have moved in (very entertaining & we love the eggs) planted numerous trees and built and planted a veggie patch. The first year I planted the veggies into the ground, but since then, Mike has built me raised beds... much better! It is great having fresh vegetables to pick and eat, preserve or give away.

To encourage outside play for our grandchildren and their friends, we have also added new swings to the playground.

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/>

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I use a lot of succulents in the garden...these are easy to care for, and apart from a regular tidy up, don't get a lot of attention. Geraniums & iris are other hardy favourites, thanks to cuttings & plants from my mother, and penstemon, daisies & osteospermum provide a lot of our colour. This year I have thrown around packets of flower seeds, so await their flowers eagerly.

I spend many, many hours in my garden because I love it.....it is just the best thing for my overall wellbeing and helps keep my body working!

My husband Mike, is, thankfully, always willing to do the jobs which are too much for me and he enjoys making new structures for the garden. I'm hoping, if you look across to the chook yard, you will see the new sculpture! It isn't started as I write this, but I live in hope!

Helen & Mike Bowyer

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.