



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia Welcomes you to **HENLEY BEACH GARDENS**

Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd April, 2023

GARDEN 1: Henley Community Garden

A remarkable Community Garden – outstanding, orderly and vibrant! The many Individual and shared wicking beds are beautifully maintained by the enthusiastic members, who have worked together to plant an orchard, build composting bays and communal spaces where they can enjoy interactive activities. The raised beds are crammed with healthy edibles and a selection of flowering plants to attract pollinating insects, but this garden is more than a productive hub and lively mosaics and crafty objects add colour and charm. There is a frog pond, budgies, bees and a large mural featuring chooks embellishes the home of the very spoilt resident hens. Old shipping containers have been repurposed as storage space, there is a green house, solar panels, water tanks and plenty of compost bays. A deck for communal events was creatively constructed from timbers salvaged when the Grange jetty was rebuilt.

An inspirational, colourful and very friendly community garden!

GARDEN 2: Chester Street Garden (George & Moira's Garden)

Our medium sized suburban garden has diverse areas of planting including native plants, fruit trees, herbs and vegetables and ornamentals.

We have owned this property for twenty-two years and our initial attempts at gardening were a struggle in the poor sandy soil. The soil has been improved with the regular addition of compost, minerals and mulch. In more recent years we have also added worm tea.

Plantings have changed and developed over the years as we have worked out what grows best in our area. The back yard was partially redeveloped in 2015 when an inground pool was installed. We have two five thousand litre rainwater tanks, an irrigation system, chickens, worm farms and some wicking beds. We garden using organic principles and work on encouraging beneficial insects.

The front yard is planted with coastal natives, most are indigenous to the area.

There is a *Banksia marginata* "silver banksia" and several *Allocasuarina verticillata* "drooping Sheoak" with a understory featuring *Correa alba*, *Correa Pulchella*, *Eromophillas*, *Westringia*, *Lomandra Longifolia* and other grasses. The majority of the front yard is not on the irrigation system and has no watering once plants are established. Near the house there is a Eureka lemon and several other citrus in pots; market lime, grapefruit and chinotto.

There is a small water feature on the western side of the front door and many potted plants on and around the veranda.

On the Eastern side of the house the courtyard garden has several Frangapani, and a recently planted peach and dwarf mulberry. There are Hellaboeres, geranium and aster planted underneath the fruit trees and star jasmine on the fence. Clivia, bromeliad and Sansiveria are planted underneath the frangipani. The large climbing yellow rose is the only plant that predates our ownership of the property. There is a small water feature, a Buddha statue, and potted Fushia, Gardenia, Clematis and ferns.

Fruit trees in the back yard include a fig, and blood, navel, mediterranean and Valencia oranges, quince, Santa Rosa and Satsuma plums, mandarin, Tahitian lime, pomegranate, jujube, persimmon and an apricot. There is also an ornamental pear. The Eastern Garden bed around the pool has underplantings of succulents,

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clivia, astrolmeria, salvia and plectranthus argentatus. At the southern end thyme and mint are planted under espaliered oranges. There are grape vines climbing at either end of the back fence and a hardenburgeria. The Western side of the pool features the chook run and a veggie patch. At the northern end in the shade of the veranda there are Camillas, hydrangeas, fuchsia and begonia. On the back veranda are potted succulents and hanging baskets of Hoya, rapsalis and more succulents. We are attempting to establish frogs in the water feature which contains a variety of water plants and bromeliads planted behind it.

There are wicking beds, and a continuous flow worm farm constructed from a wheelie bin near the shed and a few other in ground worm farms made from buried plastic buckets scattered around the garden. The shed, rainwater tanks and clothes line are shielded from view by a slat fence planted with climbing roses, hardenburgeria and jasmine. The bed here has english lavender, plectranthus argentatus, Agastache mexicanus "sweet lilli" salvias, and annuals underneath the apricot and persimmon. Tree dahlias grow near the rainwater tanks.

Down the Western side of the house is a propagation and potting area with a sink, bench, pots and small green house. There is also a wicking bed and potted succulents. There is a Little Gem magnolia planted near the fence.

GARDEN 3: Henley on Sea – (Chris & Peter's Garden)

Enter this property from the rear lane way, next to 319 Military Road to access the back garden. Then head right onto North Street to access the front garden.

The rear garden features a number of water features (4) and garden sculptures, look out for the ceramic birds made by the owner. There is a raised garden bed that features a variety of berries and also houses an in-ground worm farm. Dracaena plants add to the sculptural elements favoured by the owners. They grow well in sandy soil. Grow bags are used for seasonal plantings of vegetables. Check out the Olla pot that helps water the grow bags.

There are a couple of wicking beds, one for vegetables and one for herbs. Both located near the back door. They are on wheels and can be moved when needed. The owners have a shade sail that can be pulled out over the whole back yard in extreme heat, protecting the plants in the height of summer.

A dwarf pomegranate and passion fruit vines are on the western side of the garden. Potted plants include a bay leaf tree, hydrangea, and a monstera. Aloe Vera is grown for medicinal purposes. Entering from the front of the house you'll see verge plantings and a large Canary Island Date Palm.

There are 4 water features and a number of ceramic sculptures featured throughout. There are several potted plants, particularly succulents which are very low maintenance, to be found on the verandah. Small garden areas contain a variety of plants including euphorbia's. A narrow side entrance contains ferns and other shade loving plants. There are several hanging pots which also contain ceramic birds.

There are several galvanised grape rinsing baskets hanging along the fence, that contain a variety of hardy plants and bulbs. There are a variety of planters on the verandah, including wooden, ceramic and recycled old boxes.

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.

GARDEN 4: Grevilleville – (Simon’s Garden)

A small native garden, close to the sea, it is a collection of standard, shrubs and ground covers of Grevillea’s amongst other native plants.

No lawn mower, edge trimmer blow/vac, or pop-up sprinklers required, this garden is compact, green, water wise and very private. A careful selection of trees to fit a small block and requiring little maintenance was critical, the understory plantings is a collection of medium to small native plants compliments the feature trees.

Privacy is provided by a line of bamboo strategically planted on the western fence line to filter the summer afternoon sun; jasmine vine screens the eastern fence.

A touch of the tropics is achieved with a border of bromeliads and ground ferns and small water features looking out from the backyard pergola.

There is still room for food production with two wicking beds in the back yard and two on the front veranda, these provide a good supply of summer and winter produce.

The aim of the garden was to be relaxing, private, low maintenance and be a haven for fauna.

GARDEN 5: Coast Haven – (Veronica & Charles Garden)

Over the years the garden spaces have had many iterations as the family has waxed and waned with children and grandchildren. More recently with the help of Landscape Association Gardeners the garden has become much easier to manage and combine different needs.

The front garden has been enhanced by three vegetable wicking beds and low maintenance native and flowering hardy plants, water tanks and space to sit for a cuppa and enjoy the garden and greet passers-by.

The side garden was once a cricket and footy pitch and now a small courtyard featuring back access to a wooden garden shed, a central Crepe Myrtle and Murraya hedge leading up to a deck that enlarges and enhances the house’s indoor/outdoor living space.

In the back garden the attractive but awkward shaped pool has posed a challenge over the years, with 5 attempts to integrate garden with our lifestyle.

The expert help with the deck and garden design has finally been achieved - with pool safety, and a balance of function (garden shed, water tank, pool equipment clothes-line) and small lawn and plantings to soften the backyard. night-time lighting gives the garden a ‘party feel’.

GARDEN 6: Cottage Corner - Athena’s Garden

I love colour and all variety of flowers, so my garden has a cottage feel to it. In the late summer and early autumn, it is the dahlia blooms, hibiscus, and colourful alstroemerias and zinnias that make a joyful contribution to the garden canvas. Inherited roses, hardy cistus, geraniums and pelargoniums, day lilies and natives delight with an array of colours from spring into summer. Other standouts are the climbing bougainvilleas, particularly those in the back garden that range in hot colours of red, orange and gold along the back fence to fuschia in the very centre of the garden.

From the original garden I have retained the walnut tree, which creates its own micro-climate in the back garden for plants like the hydrandreas in need of a cooler spot, as well as the tree hibiscus, frangipani, and lavender along the side fence on the south side of the house. The ‘raspberry department’ as I call it along the

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same side fence started as an experiment and has been a great joy as I harvest fresh raspberries from early December until mid/late March. The raspberries seem to thrive in this location as they are protected from the hottest part of the day in summer by the house.

Other fruit trees in the garden also provide plentiful produce at fruiting time. The 'Million Dollar' peach tree in the front garden draws a lot of comments for the size of its peaches as passersby observe them grow each summer. The cherry tree opposite the water tap in the front garden was another of my experiments given we're in a coastal location, but the winters so far have been cold enough that I am getting a good fruit crop in early December each year. I decided to grow all the citrus trees in the back garden in pots to contain their size, but the cumquat tree opposite the garden shed appears to be the happiest as it provides many kilos of fruit almost the size of mandarins each winter! The challenge I have in growing citrus is dealing with the leaf miner invasion on new growth, particularly on the blood orange and emperor mandarin trees in the very back of the garden behind the shed.

My garden has been a constant work in progress over the past 15 years as I have observed which plants are happy and thrive in their location and those that struggle and need to be shifted or discarded, but that is also the joy my garden brings – to be immersed in a living canvas of colour and to be always thinking creatively about having something in flower each month of the year.

Henley & Grange Arts Society (HAGAS)

HAGAS is a catchment of community creativity and colour on canvas, clay, ceramics and glass. Members have collaborated to produce a collection of unique pieces featuring flowers, foliage and gardens. Varying from nostalgic to classic, contemporary, crafty, bright and definitely quirky with all pieces on display will be for sale.

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