



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to

Laurel Leaf Garden

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September, 2019 1a Wootoona Terrace, St Georges

The name Laurel Leaf came about when a friend gave me a cutting from her laurel bush 30yrs ago. From that one cutting we grew hedges, standard trees and gave away dozens of laurel bushes to friends. When you walk around the garden they are like exclamation marks throughout the garden.

The new front garden design incorporated the pre-existing Strawberry tree which offered shade and structure to the hottest western part of the garden. The garden re-design transformed the previous "front yard" of two sheds and a long concrete driveway into new functional garden spaces. The terraces offer unfolding green spaces, texture and structure that connects retaining walls to the footpaths. The perennial bed against the white wall staggers the plant heights to create formality because it introduces perspective - that is creates a foreground, middle ground and background with the Manchurians trunks against the white wall.

Classic gardens are all about symmetry and balance proving that elegance and simplicity never go out of style. Laurel leaf has a formal style with strong architectural features displayed in the retaining walls, red brick steps which lead you into different garden rooms. These are softened by floral plantings and repetitive planting of juniper Spartan with the juniperus horizontalis below. The pencil pines have a columnar habit and add height to a narrow eastern garden bed in the absence of any significant trees along that boundary.

On the west there is a hidden path that guides you along a stand of macadamia trees to a park bench under the shady strawberry tree. In springtime there are hundreds of macadamia flowers out each 100mm or more long, born on racemes with 100–150 flowers. The flowers fill the garden with life, colour and a sweet honey smell.

The Seasons

Winter; the rain comes to replenishes the soil and the garden returns to shades of green from being parched over summer. The deciduous trees give the garden an extra sculptural feel and the retaining walls become dominant feature. Pruning trees and roses, removing dead growth and reshaping bushes, weeding and generally tidying up.

Spring ; the garden has a colourful display in the perennial bed with the Manchurian pear blossom above, the macadamia flowers displayed, [filling](#) the garden with life, colour and a sweet honey smell. Also a large hanging basket display of dendrobium blooms emerge early spring.

Summer; the garden is grateful for the shady trees and umbrellas are needed now days for protection from the harsh sun. The glory vine over the courtyard offers a cool place to relax in the hot afternoons. The eastern lawns with deep peat beneath have been built up over four decades of mulching. They hardly need watering even through mid-summer. The front lawn is in early development but the aim is the same....deep subsoil and peat to make it resilient.

Autumn; my favourite time in the garden. The cooler days produces beautiful golden and claret colours from the leaves of Boston ivy, acers and glory vine. The Boston ivy gives the garden a wonderful sense of movement as the breezes rustle the claret leaves.

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>

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

What I really love about this garden is that it's got its own personality and it's not clipped and manicured to within an inch of its life. The garden was created with a formal look, but by using interesting plants, that have a unique texture and special to the personality of the owner and the architecture of the house. The strong geometric design of the house is mirrored in the landscape. In some places it's softened or blurred by plantings, while in other corners more pronounced.

Thank you for visiting Laurel Leaf Garden and I hoped you enjoyed the garden and Peter's sculptural exhibition.

Trees List

Strawberry tree – *Arbutus*

Macadamia tree –

Glaucous pencil pine - *Cupressus sempervirens*

Manchurian pear - *Pyrus calleryana* 'Capital

Laurel trees - large standard bay trees

Citrus - lemon, orange, lime, plum

Bunya pine - *Araucaria bidwillii*,

Chinese pistachio - *Pistacia chinensis*

Acer - cultivar

Ficus - potted, Moraceae

Silver birch - *Betula pendula*

Crepe myrtle - *Lagerstroemia indica*

Planting notes

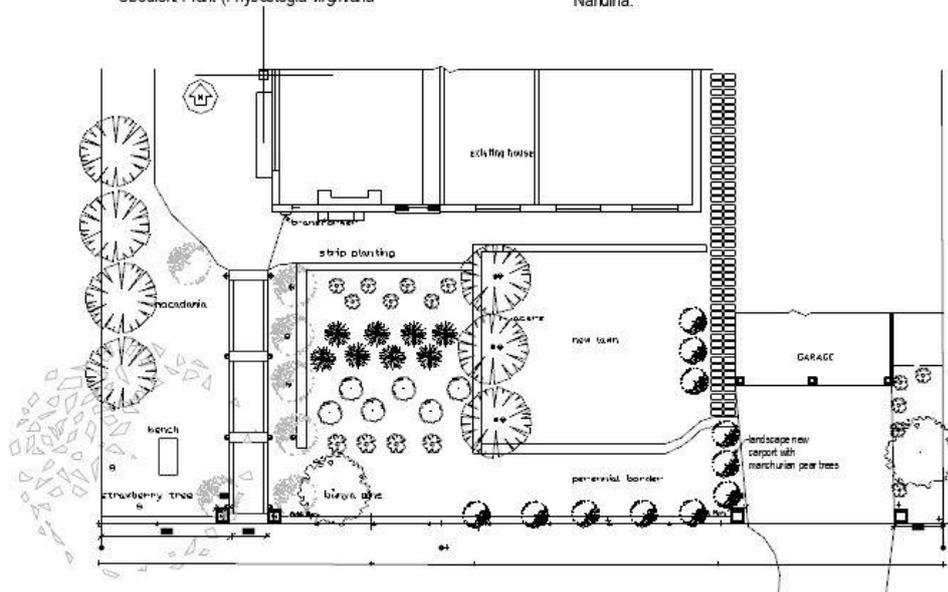
The Hardest of Hardy Perennials

Alpine Rock Cress (*Arabis alpina*)
Tiarella
Blue Dogbane (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*)
Liatris (*Liatris spicata*)
Dwarf Goldenrod (*Solidago spachelata*)
Yarrow (*Achillea*)
Creeping Phlox (*Phlox subulata*)
Obedient Plant (*Physostegia virginiana*)

8 Hardy Plants for hot conditions

Tickseed. Drought-resistant, perennial tickseed, also known as coreopsis, is a perennial that grows well just about anywhere. ...
Sedum. Colorful perennial sedum succulents spread easily in containers and in the garden. ...

Coneflower. ...
Mint. ...
Begonia. ...
Hosta. ...
Nandina. ...



Proposed Terraced Garden Plan 1a WOODTOONA TERRACE

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.