



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening  
Open Gardens South Australia  
Welcomes you to  
**Lelant**

Saturday 30th & Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2021 1 Waller Street, Clare

---

Welcome to “Lelant” (named after a village in west Cornwall). We bought this bare block nineteen years ago and, coming from another property “Trelawney” (opened for the Open Gardens Scheme in 1998) that was flat with ‘delicious’ soil, we found that this was just the opposite. I wondered what I would do as I didn't have a major plan and the topography of the site ruled my thinking.....panic!! However, several loads of loam and four ute loads of plants from the farm later and I began.

The back bank was the first to be attacked! Topsoil from the house base was put down and a full large bale of pea straw was rolled out and secured by cyclone wire to hold the slope. I planted myoporum (creeping boobialla), with pigface along the top then callistemon, eriostemon, correa and a spiky grevillea which is a haven for the birds.

You will notice repetition, it being a fundamental law of design. Mass or repeated plantings can be effective when flowing gracefully into another of the same species. If something grows, gives colour, loves its home, and only needs rain then it is worth its place in the garden. The challenge I had at first was moving rocks, and more rocks! I didn't opt for terracing, as some would have done. The larger shrubs that were first planted now hold the soil, and the pencil pines add a little bit of Tuscany! I pack down home-made mulch and pea straw each year and the blackbirds spread it!

An old corrugated iron tank was a bargain at \$10! I had it placed up the slope behind the house then had the top cut off and the bottom part I filled with good soil and it became the perfect raised bed for growing my vegetables. My two friendly chooks live next to my ‘veggie tank’ and keep me supplied with eggs. The top section of the tank is further up the hill and has become my fire pit – a lovely place to sit and enjoy a twilight drink and look out over the garden and Melrose Park.

The plants in my garden are all ‘toughies’ that don’t require too much water – mostly Australian natives and others from Mediterranean regions of the world that will survive without TLC. The native plants attract the birds with their nectar and they also provide shelter and habitat. Kangaroos visit and a wily fox was seen early one morning searching for rabbits!

Jack Frost is no friend and often he is a frequent winter visitor but this year he has spared us! The agaves often suffer but will come back later. Over all, this so-called retirement life suits me having lost my dear husband John after 60 years of marriage. My garden is my Solace in the sad moments. I still play golf but the garden wins most times. There are bits of quirkiness about – I have Grandies and Great Grandies and fun and a bit of whimsy in a garden is important for most of us.

Thank you for coming to my spot on the globe! Big or small gardens are life.

Gypsey Sandow

---

**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>