



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to

McPherson Garden

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 March, 2020 1 Harbison Street, Mt Gambier

Welcome to 1 Harbison Street, our home for the last 16 years. On entering the property, you will pass Backyard Blitz Lily Pillies and a screening hedge on either side of the driveway.

Originally the front garden was a semi-circle terrace planted with iceberg roses, miniature roses and agapanthus. Filling in that area with soil so that it gently sloped down to the path and entrance steps allowed us to plant lawn which gets a lot of tender loving care! A Japanese maple was well established, and it provides gorgeous colour especially in autumn. Garden borders and large river pebbles came next. Plantings of Liriopes, hellebores, a cordyline for structure and nandinas nestle amongst large lichen covered rocks. The low maintenance of this front garden allows more time to spend on the formal, colourful garden at the back of our property.

Entering through our garage opens out to our north facing rear garden. Large shade trees on 2 of the neighbouring fences, necessitated some shade loving plants. An original limestone wall separates the terraced lawns. Box hedging, kept low, borders the top lawn along with Ajuga.

When we revamped the front garden, we transplanted the iceberg standard roses, mini agapanthus and the small pink roses from the front garden to the back and they thrived! Pretty pink carnations now border the limestone retaining wall as well as colourful petunias.

Along the back fence is a gorgeous Black Sambuca, Crepe Myrtles, Gardenias, Coleus, Foxgloves, Hydrangeas, Geraniums and Petunias. A cubby house sits quietly waiting for little Belle and baby Ruby to visit. Behind this are some favourite plants popped in as space has run out elsewhere. Oakleaf hydrangeas, a lemon tree, apricot tree, Kaffir lime, butterfly plants, a young King Protea etc.

A small deck almost hides in the western corner where a kitchen garden has evolved. Two raised wicking vegetable gardens are planted with strawberries, beetroot, spring onions, cucumbers, tomatoes, lemongrass and basil. Nearby two dwarf orange trees give us fruit. A worm farm and two compost bins work their magic in the corner.

Along the back of the garage/deck area is a raised bed of strawberries. On the wall two varieties of espaliered apples flourish. The lower garden bed is mass planted with rows of Cinereas, Gerberas, Lily of the Valley and borders of Thyme. Bird attracting water features appear throughout the garden along with a rustic pear and bulrushes.

The supports of the deck attached to the house are used as a framework for pretty pink Pierre de Ronsard roses which climb up and fringe the deck edge. An absolute favourite in the garden. The deck and the view we have from it is well used, climb the steps and check it out. You will pass a copse of silver birches which provide for the shade loving plants. Once on the deck to your left, you will see pots of cycads growing happily on the flat garage roof.

What do we like most? The garden is a quiet and peaceful space, there is always shade to garden in or sun to warm you while you garden. Our deck is a great space for any weather, to read a book, have a glass of wine, to entertain or just to sit and enjoy and think about what else we could do in the garden!

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>