



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia Welcomes you to **Metzger Garden**

Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th January, 2022

Welcome to our piece of heaven, the Metzger Garden. It could also be called the garden of 1000 passes, which has been created by Reo and Barbara Metzger nearly a third of century ago. Nothing was actually planned, the plantings, the passes, the colour scheme, nor all the big and little surprises you will find scattered throughout the garden.

When we bought this piece of paradise in 1988, it was an empty block with an abundance of blackberries, as well as fallen and half fallen and upright willow trees and a lot of rubbish. All choking a creek, trying to find its way. The willows and black berries were removed and the creek could find its way, forming stunning waterfalls and little ponds along its way to the neighbours.
(With a little engineering help of Reo)

We discovered our own little spring, which is feeding our pond, keeping the ferns alive during hot summer's days.

Under the canopy of various Maples, Acer, Prunus, Liquid Amber and Paulownia you'll find over eighty Dixonia Antarctica ferns (measuring up to 3 metres in height) a number of Cyathia Cooperii towering over the garden at over 5 meters in height. Under the ferns is an array of Hellebores, Monstera, Gingers, Bromeliads, Hydrangeas and Clivias to name just a few. On both sides of the creek are over 35 different kinds of camellias and many azaleas found, complimented by a variety of spring bulbs. At the entrance of the garden is an impressive Magnolia tree and some more are found throughout the garden. Not forgetting the statues, sculptures and artistic works of Reo.

Firstly the house was built and the excavated earth was piled up at the rear of it. That was the start of the landscaping, as there was a very steep embankment along the rear and both sides of the house. How do you build a natural retaining wall? Easy, you plant thousands of agapanthus. Their roots will hold the soil, they are evergreen, do not burn in bushfire, and produce the most beautiful flowers in the summer months.

On the opposite side, taking you up the hill, passing two citrus trees and wonderful flowering and perfumed brugmansias, through a gate, our summer vegie patch is situated, more deciduous trees, Irises and a row of camellias display themselves.

Our lawns we mowed regularly in summer however leaving the mowed grass which in turn feeds the lawn again. We prefer to use our own compost and as a supplement natural fertilizers.

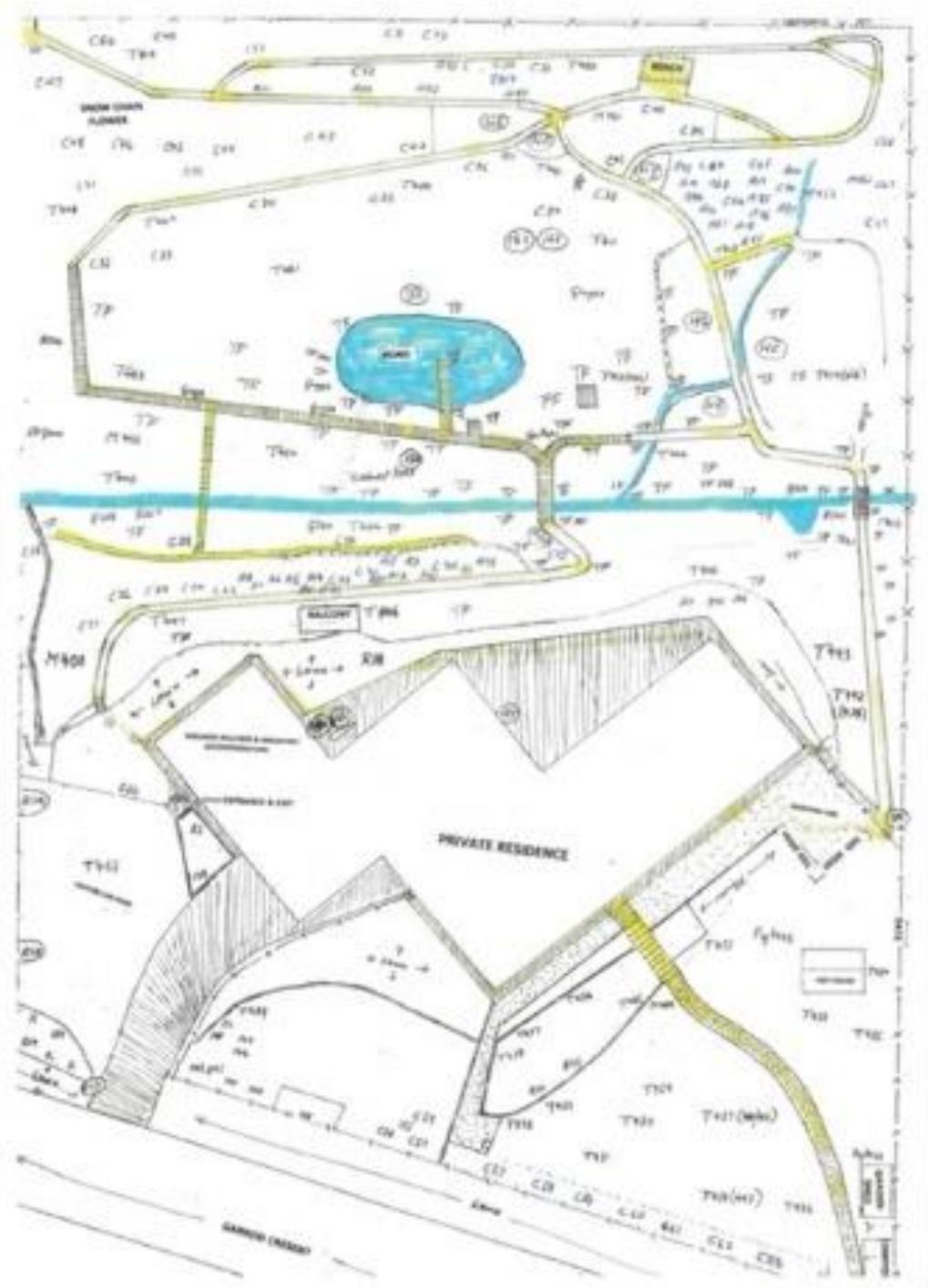
Many native animals, furred, feathered or otherwise call our garden home, for our enjoyment and our B&B guests.

Refreshments, trading table of all kinds of edible and other goodies (including plants) can be found on the patio and family room through the sliding door. Proceeds towards leprosy treatment in remote places, where leprosy is rampant.

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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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.