



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to

The Dominican Peace & Sophia Gardens

Sunday 16th October, 2022

DOMINICAN PEACE GARDENS & SOPHIA GARDENS

History 1868-2022

1868: Seven young Dominican Sisters, under the leadership of Mother Teresa Moore, arrive from Ireland to establish education for young women in the new colony of South Australia. They begin their ministry at St Mary's, Franklin Street.

1886: Convent and College established and named CABRA, after Dominican Convent and College in Dublin.

Cabra Campus becomes home to Dominican Sisters, female Boarders and Day Students College becomes co-educational from 1975.

1987: A group of Dominican sisters, led by Sr Rosemary Yelland, discerns with the community how to save the land in the south-west corner of the campus as garden areas for future generations, and to create a beautiful space that honours deceased Dominican sisters.

1987: Cabra Dominican Cemetery

Rosemary and her Dominican sisters and friends begin by creating a garden space both within and beyond the cemetery.

1988: Herb Garden Centrepiece

Established using recycled bricks from the Cabra Campus, the Herb Garden was modelled on the ancient herb gardens found in the Abbeys and Monasteries of Europe.

1989: Australian Native Garden

Mounds were created and over 200 Australian plants are growing

Today, Correas, Grevilleas, Pin-Cushion Hakea, Argyle, Apple and Fuchsia Gums flourish.

1990: The Peace Gardens

Cabra students working alongside Rosemary, Anne and others were the first to use the name "Peace Gardens."

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1990s: Teresa Moore Drive, Cabra Drive, Wallaby Grass Walk, Lavender Path,

Rosemary Path and Hakea Place were named, creating new roads and pathways for ease of access for visitors to the Peace Gardens.

2000s: Kurna Garden

First established as a water garden, with fish and visiting wild ducks, the Kurna Garden became a dry land garden in the drought years. It still speaks of respect for the First Nations People and their ongoing relationship with the land.

The SOPHIA Gardens /2000s

A dry land garden was established by Jenny Wightman and friends around the Dominican SOPHIA building, opened in 1991, to honour women's experience in particular.

At Sophia, women and men find support for personal growth, spirituality, feminist theological learning, counselling, Enneagram, nurturing of friendships, writing, poetry, dance, singing, ESL classes for refugee women...and so much more.

Dominican Peace Gardens / 2020s

During the night of 31st May 2020, the Dominican Peace gardens and Sophia gardens were severely damaged by a localised mini- tornado. The giant Moreton Bay fig lost many beautiful limbs and more than thirty trees and large shrubs suffered severe structural damage. Adelaide Zoo keepers removed truckloads of broken limbs and leaves to feed the giraffes and rhinoceros. Weeks of professional and voluntary labour were necessary to restore the gardens.

The work continues to maintain a 'peaceful and quiet heart at the centre of the CABRA Campus,' Rosemary Yelland OP.

SOPHIA Gardens

2021 Catherine Pari and Dinali Devasagayam, volunteer gardeners have worked tirelessly to nurture the Sophia Gardens back to former glory since damage caused by the mini-tornado.

Today, SOPHIA volunteers and a part time gardener care for the Sophia Gardens, much of which began under the care and insight of Jenny Wightman. This arrangement has freed Jenny to oversee, with many volunteers, the much larger Dominican Peace Gardens.

"Gaze at the beauty of earth's greenings.

Now think

What delight

God gives to human kind

With all these things." Hildegard of Bingen 1098-1179)

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.

