



Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening

Open Gardens South Australia

Welcomes you to

Sheriffmuir

Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 November, 2020 166 Hawkins Road, Mt Gambier

We designed our home and garden over the past 47 years from a bare paddock. John, an engineer, has the skill to construct and I have the love of gardening. One structure of note is the scrolled-dome gazebo. All the stone in the garden has been collected from various parts of the South-East, Penola and Mumbanner and made into features of steps, low walls and the edges around garden beds. It is only recently that we have just stood back and realized we have created a gem of a Romantic English Garden that is enjoyed by wildlife as well as family and many other keen gardeners.

The name 'Sheriffmuir' originates from Scotland where John was born, in Bridge of Allan near Stirling. Just on the outskirts of Bridge of Allan there is a deciduous forest that opens onto a moor called Sheriffmuir. We thought this name was very appropriate for our property.

The area under Garden is over two acres with abundance of deciduous trees (which was influenced by the autumn colours through the Adelaide hills), inter-planted with conifers as highlights for when the trees are bare and then in late July/Aug over 100 camellias throw a glorious display, some have grown to 13 – 14 feet high. Because the soils are sandy loam and acidic magnolias, rhododendrons and azaleas grow well in curving beds under the deciduous trees. Several daphne bushes appear throughout the upper garden, some one metre high - cream, white and pink.

During the late Spring wisteria and banksia roses, all clambering up trees and structures 30 – 40 feet high, come into bloom followed by rambling roses, weepers, heritage and modern roses that last through the summer. Bulbs, daylilies and perennials edge the garden beds and pathways which meander through arbours and arches to other colour-coordinated areas that draw you on to find something else new. The Chatham Island forget-me-not has flowered several times for me.

I have tried to define garden sections by edging with English box hedges and conifer hedges.

The hen house is a talking point. Everyone thinks it is a B&B house with a front and back garden of its own but it is the 'la roust' for a few privileged chooks. There is also a Potager beside the hen house to investigate - and don't miss the small secret garden that leads from the driveway down to the workshop where John has garden architecture for sale.

Unique to the garden is John's hobby - 'Lizards' in large cages, in particular a 1.5metre Lace Monitor who usually can be seen on a warm day lounging high up on a bare branch (in a cage).

The biggest problem we have faced over the years has been the very strong winds and that is the reason why trees are grouped.

Please enjoy wondering around our garden.

John and Betty McKee

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.

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