

# Autumn Newsletter 2021



*Autumn flowering Cyclamen*

Many people say that Autumn is their favourite season of the year – it may not have the exuberance of fresh new Spring growth, but it not only brings relief from the heat of Summer, but brings the glorious Autumnal colours of rich golds, yellows, purples, and burnished browns, loved by many, as well as a more relaxed atmosphere which is very welcome at the end of an Australian Summer. We hope you enjoy our program of Autumn Open Gardens, and don't miss our very exciting **SA Landscape Festival** on the 10 and 11 April 2021!

## *Inside this Issue:*

- Theatre in the Garden – Laughter in the garden was a tonic!
- Plant Profile – Scadoxus
- Book Review *Adelaide Hills Gardens*
- Autumn program of Open Gardens SA
- Community Pocket Forest in Lobethal
- Community Garden Funding Projects 2020-21 – Applications Deadline extended to 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021
- Pot Plants of Distinction - Part one of an occasional series
- Fashion or Trend?
- Meet your OGSA Team – Sonia Green
- SA Landscape Festival, 10 and 11 April 2021

## Autumn Open Gardens

March 13 - 14

The Little Big Garden,  
Bridgewater

March 20 - 21

Tipsy Hill, McLaren Vale

March 27 - 28

Churston, West Croydon

The Post and Rail, Compton  
(near Mt Gambier)

March 28 (Sunday only)

Beaumont House, Beaumont

April 17 - 18

The Laurels, Crafers

April 24 - 25

Still Water, Penola

April 25 (Sunday only)

Stangate House, Aldgate

May 8 - 9

Mandalay, Petwood via  
Mount Barker Springs

May 15 - 16

Jasper & Kirsty's Permaculture  
Garden, Willunga

**See the full program on our  
webpage:**

<http://opengardensa.org.au/>

## Theatre in the Garden – Laughter in the garden was a tonic!

Blue Sky Theatre made the right decision for their 2021 season of theatre in the garden. A good laugh is just the tonic we needed to drive the restriction blues away, and *One Man, Two Guv'nors* delivered.

This play, based on Carlo Goldini's *A Servant of Two Masters*, is ridiculously, rib-achingly funny, and kept the audience laughing out loud for such a long time, many of them reported that their faces hurt by the end of the show. They were exhausted not only by watching the fast and furious athleticism of the cast but also from having laughed so loudly and so often for so long.



The cast was led by Robert Bell as Francis Henshall who showed whip-swift timing, boundless energy, and quick-witted improvisation with the spectators.

Many of the crowd were drawn into the show as audience participation was taken to new heights. In particular, Lyn Wilson was brought on stage to help Francis save food for a feast later on. She ended up with a custard pie in the face for her troubles. At the curtain call, Lyn revealed that she was one of the cast after all, much to the relief of many concerned patrons.

The skiffle band was popular, assisting everyone to do their party pieces between the scenes with silly song and vaudevillian show-pony routines. And this year the cast even played the spoons.

Rob and Nol Parkyn's hospitality was superb once again as they allowed us to enjoy their Inman Valley garden with its rolling lawns and illuminated gum trees. The team at The Cedars were welcoming and that garden was as pretty as ever. Wittunga Botanic Garden, a venue unknown to many, provided the lake and native trees as a stunning backdrop to the show. Thank you to all the venues for hosting the performances, picnics and our visitors.

As one reviewer put it "Dave Simms must take some kudos since he mounts and casts these brave outdoor theatre shows and, year after year, stocks them with first-class performers giving strenuous over-the-top characterisations. And the audiences return in droves, these picnic party nights having become ritual social events."

Our thanks to our sponsors Howards Wines and Matthews Hospitality for their support of the bar, run by the team from Open Gardens SA's events committee.



As always both Blue Sky Theatre and Open Gardens SA will use the proceeds from these performances to fund their artistic and horticultural endeavours. Plus, Adelaide Day Centre for Homeless People, the Hans Heysen Foundation, and the Adelaide Botanic Gardens Foundation will also benefit from the funds raised.

Many in the audience remarked this show was the best one yet.



### ***Open Gardens and Covid-19***

***For 2021 each of our gardens will only open if deemed safe to do so by SA Health Authorities and will follow COVID-19 guidelines. Open Gardens SA will arrange a COVID Safe Plan for each open garden.***



## Plant Profile – Scadoxus

By Trevor Nottle.

### The Fireball Lily

Someone had to think up a common name for this member of the *Amaryllidaceae* family and it seems right for the best known of the 9 species that make up the genus *Scadoxus*, found in tropical and sub-Tropical Africa. Three are found in the well-watered areas of the summer rainfall area of eastern South Africa and two are found in the Cape Province. The other four, extremely rare in cultivation, are scattered across Angola, the Arabian peninsula, Zimbabwe, Zaire, Etheopia to Uganda. These regions being relatively poorly explored by botanists may yet prove to have other, as yet undiscovered species.



As can be seen by the places they inhabit it seems very likely they would require very particular environments for growing in climates away from those places. Heated and climate-controlled greenhouses would seem a minimum requirement for success.

Fortunately, the two best species, *Scadoxus membranaceous* and *Scadoxus multiflorus* are amenable to cultivation in gardens in mild, temperate areas and flower without cossetting. The plants

grow from a thick rhizomatous rootstock that develops from a more bulb-like structure as the plant ages. It can be evergreen in very mild climate, or deciduous in colder places. It cannot tolerate frost. In habitat the plants live at the edges of forest glades where there is some shelter and protection from the full blast of the sun. Successful cultivation requires much the same conditions. Like many plants that occupy the ground at the edge of forested settings *Scadoxus* seem to grow in almost no soil on rocky ledges covered with the barest skin of leaf mould. Such situations provide quick and perfect drainage; a soil feature necessary for plant health and flowering in captivity.



Related to the well-known survivor the Paint-brush, or Ox-tongue lily, *Haemanthus coccineus*, the Fireball Lily's flowers show a striking similarity to the explosion of red stamens and gold pollen exhibited by the former. In *Scadoxus membranaceous* the central boss of red stamens is enclosed by four thin bracts of reddish-brown or green colour whereas *S. multiflorus* has no such constraining bracts and the large cluster of stamens simply makes a perfect fire-ball of colour.

The derivation of the botanical name is a mish-mash of Greek and Latin terms that suggest the plant is 'an umbrella of a glorious red shade' – a reference supposed to relate to the shape and colour of the flower of the first species seen by the botanist who revised the genus *Haemanthus* in 1838, Rafinesque. The plant, discovered in 1795, was first called *Haemanthus multiflorus*. Rafinesque made the separation of the two genus on the basis that the bulb and flowers had significant and different features to those displayed by *Haemanthus*. The difference most easily observed by home gardeners is that *Scadoxus* develop a short sheath above the bulb before the leaves emerge and that the flower stalk breaks through the sheath to rise and develop alongside the rosette of leaves.

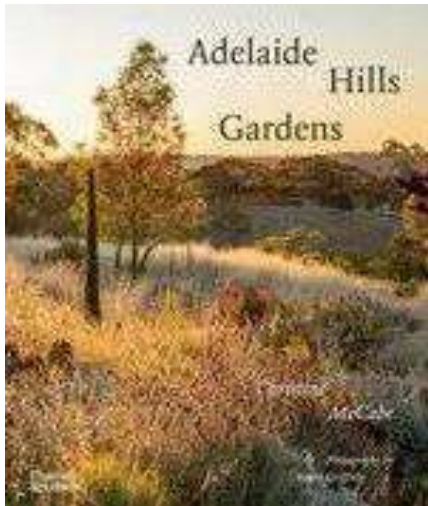
A sub-species of *S. multiflorus*, *S. multiflorus ssp Katherinae*, is often found in the lists of Tropical bulb specialists in Australia but supplies of all of them are very limited so without being greedy, if you see one buy it whatever name it bears. You won't be disappointed.



## Book Review - *Adelaide Hills Gardens* by Christine McCabe.

Thames & Hudson, Melbourne, Australia, 2020

Review By Trevor Nottle



A coffee table book is a coffee table book; a paraphrase of a well-known circular poem by Gertrude Stein; the rose and the coffee table book are ubiquitous in every publisher's repertoire but marked by great diversity.

Christine McCabe's new book covers much new ground in her review of Adelaide Hills gardens as evolutionary melting pots. Unlike similar books from

other states which put much emphasis on the grand and historic, McCabe's book uses old 19<sup>th</sup> C gardens as the jumping off point for a survey of new gardens that express new personal visions and fresh insights into the nature of gardens in what is a warming and drying climate. As her bridge across the century the author chose to illustrate the Grove Hill site just below Norton Summit, which was more an experimental adventure for its 19<sup>th</sup> C owner, Charles Giles, than a garden. It makes a powerful statement about the determination with which South Australians have adapted to the climate and made successful gardens. It is a theme which is carried forward up to the present day in McCabe's selection of gardens included in her book.

The small gardens illustrated are a pleasing inclusion in a genre of books that are all too often focussed on large estate gardens created by wealth and power. This book has a few such important gardens, but they are well balanced by the proportion of smaller gardens. The smaller gardens are more varied too, so the book has a richness and texture that is not always created when large, costly gardens dominate.

The author's voice is chatty, informed and observant with delightful reflections on the gardens and the characters who made them, or own them. In some respects, McCabe considers herself to be the outsider that she was when she first arrived in the Adelaide Hills twenty years ago. This is a handy device by which to draw her readers into her confidences and one that is stylistically charming and endearing. It seems readers have a friend guiding them through the gardens she drops in on, as indeed they do.

What stands out most about ADELAIDE HILLS GARDENS is the subtle wit with which McCabe has created a mix of gardens that neatly covers the possibilities raised by the title but also looks forward to gardens, at least 7 of them, that are exploring the future of gardens in the region. Stepping outside the familiar and comfortable old, grand and rich formula for garden coffee table books has allowed the author to significantly broaden the public discourse about the nature of gardens and garden making in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Australia.



### Open Gardens SA Seasonal Program

The full listing of our open gardens with all the details and beautiful photographs is available on our website:

<http://opengardensa.org.au/>

*Our aim is to promote the enjoyment, knowledge, and benefits of gardens and gardening in the South Australian community, and to build strong public support for the development of gardens across the state.*

Follow OGSA on Facebook and Instagram





*OGSA Recommends...*

**We recommend you always check our website to confirm garden opening details prior to visiting.** The website is an up-to-date, reliable, and informative site which lists each open garden with a description of the garden, address (including a map), photographs, the availability of refreshments etc. The official Garden Notes written by the garden owner are also provided which you can read in advance or print and take a copy with you for your garden visit. Importantly, our website will always list any late additions or cancellations to our garden opening program.

<http://opengardensa.org.au/>

Open Gardens SA 2021 Autumn Calendar

Entry Fee \$8 per Adult, Limited Concessions available, Under 18 free.

**March**

**13 - 14**

*The Little Big Garden, 8 Fleet Street, Bridgewater*

**20 - 21**

*Tipsy Hill, 309 Blewitt Springs Road, McLaren Vale*

**27 - 28**

*The Post and Rail, 7 Bill James Court, Compton (Near Mt Gambier)*

*Churston, 94 Day Terrace, West Croydon*

**28 (Sunday Only)**

*Beaumont House, 631 Glynburn Road, Beaumont*

**April**

**10 - 11**

*SA Landscape Festival, Various Locations, to book tickets please visit:*

<https://salandscapefestival.com.au/>

**17 - 18**

*The Laurels, 42 Piccadilly Road, Crafers*

**24 - 25**

*Still Water, 344 Krongart Road, Penola*

**25 (Sunday Only)**

*Stangate House, 3 Edgeware Road, Aldgate*

**May**

**8 - 9**

*Mandalay, 271 Back Callington Road, Petwood via Mount Barker Springs*

**15 - 16**

*Jasper & Kirsty's Permaculture Garden, 62 Aldinga Road Willunga*



*The Little Big Garden, Bridgewater*



*Tipsy Hill, McLaren Vale*



*The Post and Rail, Compton*



*Churston, West Croydon*



*The Laurels, Crafers*



*Still Water, Penola*



*Stangate House, Aldgate*

## Community Garden Grant Recipient - Community Pocket Forest in Lobethal

By Vic Winnall and Lyn Edwards



On February 11<sup>th</sup>, Committee Members Vic Winnall and Lyn Edwards visited the Community Pocket Forest in Lobethal which was the recipient of an Open Gardens SA grant in April 2020, following its creation after the devastating fires which nearly engulfed Lobethal. A small pocket of land was obtained from the Adelaide Hills Council, adjoining the old woollen mills. The aim was to establish a garden that could act as a model for local

residents, with plantings which are both fire retardant and suitable for the position, soil and climate.

Evette Sunset, Chair of the Lobethal Community Association, was instrumental in bringing the venture to Vic Winnall's attention and has helped in the design and planning of the garden.

We met with Kim Jordan who got a group of local volunteers together to start the project. As the big task of removing fire ravaged vegetation began, more volunteers joined.



The Adelaide Hills Council assisted with mulch after planting was completed and with the provision of watering via the irrigation system that has been installed.

Now roughly one third of the allocated area has been constructed

and planted with tough water-wise plants that can thrive on a steep slope with poor clay soil. In a testament to their efforts, the majority of the plants are thriving. Kim plans to replace plants that don't survive with more suitable species, before the area is expanded. A combination of local native and some exotic plants have been installed, from ground covers to shrubs and trees.

The Council has committed to installing a walking path that will surround the garden and allow its design to be appreciated from the

slope behind the woollen mills where a lower circular garden is thriving on the moisture from the hill, wooden sets edging a circular garden which at the moment is decorated with cycling-inspired installations made from recycled materials which will remain until nature degrades them and it's time for something new.

Kim is the driving force behind the garden and retains a small group of dedicated volunteers who maintain the garden, which was looking neat, weed free and well kept.

It creates a welcome entrance to the town from the Adelaide road and is another example of what can be done with a few enthusiastic and motivational people.

Since the bushfires in their area the community of Lobethal has been pulling together and this is just one of the projects that has helped lift the spirits and the aesthetics of the town.

We look forward to watching as this garden develops further.





## Open Gardens SA Community Garden Funding Projects 2020-21 – Applications Deadline Extended to the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021.

Do you have a community garden project that needs funding, or want to establish a community garden but don't have funds? Open Gardens SA (OGSA) would like to hear your plans and ideas!

Due to the great support from the South Australian gardening community, OGSA has some funds available which we would like return to our community. Three grants of \$3,000 each will be made available to help support community garden projects. If you have a project in mind, let us know about it and how \$3,000 would make a difference. Send us your proposal and our Committee will award grants to the three projects judged most worthy.

We do not specify a set Application Form as we don't wish to constrain your applications into "ticking boxes" to comply with a Form – we simply want you to describe your project and how your group would appropriately utilise funds if your application is successful. However, it will assist your application if you are able to provide copies of written quotes for proposed project works.

Applications are now open and the deadline has been extended to now close on the **1<sup>st</sup> May 2021**. This is a new round of grants and previous applications which were unsuccessful are welcome to apply again and of course, new applications are encouraged!

Send a detailed proposal and tell us why your project should be awarded a grant to: [admin@opengardensa.org.au](mailto:admin@opengardensa.org.au)

We look forward to receiving your application!

Pot plants may be the bane of heirs, facility managers and bodies corporate but they are a life saver for many gardeners who have left a big garden behind, have time on their hands and are disinclined to enjoy the jollity of old-time singalongs, bingo and day trips to anywhere.

What has gone missing is the daily attentions formerly given to gardens – watering, feeding and tending, contact with the dirt, detailed cultivation of special plants and the familiarity of the flow of seasons throughout the year.

A dozen or so well-chosen pot plants can fill the occupational gap and enrich everyday living well past the time when heavy digging, back bending planting and hard pruning were day long tasks.



For colour and lush foliage on a well-lit windowsill but out of direct exposure to the sun few plants are better than begonias and ferns. Rex begonias respond well to a bit



## Pot Plants of Distinction

Part one of an occasional series.

*By Trevor Nottle*



Old gardens never die, they just get downsized. The phenomenon of letting go a big (normal) garden and taking on something smaller and more easily managed seems to be happening more frequently nowadays. Retirement villas, units, homettes, courtyard

homes and so on have taken off, as has urban infill and asset consolidation. These trends see many keen gardeners left without meaningful contact with plants and the green world. The loss is keenly felt. It need not be so.

of daily fussing as do maiden-hair ferns.



Both require a buoyant atmosphere to do really well so daily misting with a hand sprayer is part of the routine, as is checking for destructive grubs that mar the leaves. Feeding is easy – a fertilizer stick every two months and some half-strength liquid plant food will keep every

plant happy when the plants are in active growth. In Winter when growth slows down, or even stops, less water and no feeding should be the rule. Wait until there are signs of new growth before recommencing the watering and feeding routine.



A complete contrast is found in the realm of succulent plants. A pot or two of Lithops and a few Haworthias will be a challenge to any experienced gardener. Both plants make ideal small pot plants. Getting the soil and watering right is the key to success. Any prepared potting mix must be improved by adding half as much again by volume of grit to ensure drainage is perfect. Washed aquarium sand is ideal as it has no fine particles that would clog

up drainage. Watering should be monitored carefully as too much, too often can be fatal very quickly. Let the plants show you when they need water by observing them closely; when plants show signs of growing in late Spring water once by soaking the pots in a sink or bucket. Then water every two weeks or so. The soil should almost dry out completely between waterings. Fertilising very lightly at one quarter of the recommended rates will be enough once or twice during the growing season. More food makes fatter plants that split and then begin to rot.



Lithops, or Living Stones, live among rocks in the dry inland areas of South Africa. Their roots are adapted to make the most of whatever rain falls by quickly developing white feeder roots that soak up the moisture and then die back to a woody main root when the soil is

dry. All up the soil mix needs only to be kept damp for about 3 months for the plants to have all they need for the year. Misting with a sprayer after that time helps the plants appearance and replicates the sea fogs some species experience but once the tiny

stones begin to shrivel all watering should cease. Watching the plants shrink can be very troubling to gardener's alert for signs of distress. Don't worry and harden your heart. What is happening is that a new set of leaves inside the plant is absorbing the moisture in the old leaves until all that is left is a dry, straw coloured skin with a brand new set of leaves breaking through. Some three months later yellow or white flowers will break through the central cleft in the leaves followed by the shrivelling that marks the turn of the growing year.

Haworthias have a different survival mechanism and live in the same regions as Lithops, and in similar situations sheltered among rocks and under dry grasses and bushes. Their roots are very succulent and somewhat contractile; they pull the growth downwards when the



plants are at rest and conditions are extremely dry. There is no need to try to replicate such harsh conditions when growing Haworthias as pot plants. Just keep the potted rosettes in bright light but out of full sun so the growth stays compact and tight. Too much shade will see the plants quickly lose form and condition.



They will look soft and flabby which is quite un-natural.

When choosing Lithops or Haworthias as pot plants select those that look plump and well grown. Very small plants are being sold before they are ready and plants that look stressed with shrunken leaves or rotting parts will prove hard to revive so leave them on the sales benches. Try to make a collection, however small in number an interesting one with varied colours and leaf forms (see the illustrations). Plants such as these are often regarded as plants for specialists and collectors but any experienced, observant gardener can learn quickly to grow them to perfection using the same good habits gardeners have always used: patience, daily attention, learning about cultivation and care, pest control when necessary and getting the conditions right.



## Fashion or Trend?

*By Trevor Nottle*

In the world of retail therapy consumers face a new fashion for something almost every day. Whatever it may be it is touted as 'world shattering', 'record breaking', 'must have', 'exciting, new development' and so on ad nauseum. How is it that publicists and marketers think that such lavish epithets ever have any credibility with members of the public? Are any such claims credible? I tend to think not, but who can say?

Selling goods whatever they may be is key to a free market economy, as is the supply of goods and the demand for them. But do such items need to be sold to us, or would we buy them anyway? Disposable income and discretionary purchasing are described as mechanisms by which we buy things we may not need but, rather want.

Garden plants play the same role as clothes, perfumes and beverages here being items we want rather than need. It tends to be a matter of quantity. How many new clothes in one year are enough and how many are purchased on a whim because they are eye-catching and new? The same goes for plants.

It is a happy situation for any retailer to be in where we buy things simply because, on the spur of the moment, we want them. This very human habit explains why goods are set up to tempt us at the cashier's desk. Be it sweets to tempt squalling children waiting in line with their parents or potted Moth orchids to snare older people the result is the same; we are persuaded to buy something we don't really need on impulse because it is new and somehow fashionable.

For retailers and producers a never-ending selection of such novel eye-candy is a necessary precursor to success. Fashions come and go regularly in a cycle that can be annual, seasonally or more often.

So right now there are fashions for succulents, cacti and indoor plants but sure as eggs these will be replaced fairly soon by whatever Novelties are already in propagation somewhere. Tiny aloes and echeverias are 'hot' items; sansevieras and coleus are essential décor.

Trends build more slowly as interest among gardeners is aroused by interests in other market sectors. One remarkable group of plants trending now are dahlias. Interest has been aroused in this easily grown and multicoloured flower among brides, decorators and florists looking for novel colours and fresh directions. But dahlias, unlike indoor plants and succulents take time to produce. It is a long process to breed, select, bulk up and distribute the tubers. Even after that success is not gauged by gardeners but by end point consumers of flowers looking for something distinctive that answers a problem.



Dahlia CAFÉ AU LAIT is a case in point as was JULIA'S ROSE, both being very soft, pastel shades of *brown!* Call it taupe, ecru, oatmeal, caramel, alabaster, buff, mushroom, tan, fuscous, dun, dead mouse or crepe de chine it is a non-colour that appeals

to women who do not want to wear white for their wedding. The desire to wear a special colour led to a quest to find that certain, different tone that would be distinctive and add distinction to a very special event. From that primal impetus florists went in search as, eventually, did plant breeders and dahlia growers.

Allowing 5 years for a single seed to give rise to a single plant of the right colour with suitable characteristics of size and form and keeping qualities is just the beginning. More years are taken up by field tests, registration and securing patent protections before the new variety is taken into micropropagation and bulked up into huge numbers so the growers market can be flooded world-wide with a new 'winner'. Everyone makes good money before another 'improved' edition of the same thing appears next year to replace it and thus the wheels turn round and round. Alongside all this behind-the-scenes work and substantial costs the wheels of publicity and marketing are also set-in motion to create instant demand the moment the new colour hits the florists shops around the world.

For the moment this phenomenon is just another fashion but to turn that into a trend for more dahlias to be grown breeders and the publicity machine devote time, resources and energy to catch the market and create interest and thereby demand for more artistic colours and flowers of a size that is suitable for bouquets, table decorations, vases and all the panoply of a colour themed event such as are called for in these modern times.

Such sensations are given a big boost when noted garden designers announce that they have just discovered that flowers add valuable cachet to their all-green prize-winning masterpieces. The recent revival of cutting gardens is an example of this designer led recovery in what was until lately regarded as an old-fashioned Edwardian era flower.

Just watch it happen over the next 5 years.



## Meet your OGSA Team – Sonia Green

My earliest memories of flowers involve a charming children's book in which villagers mistakenly believe a cottage is on fire when it is in fact smothered in red, yellow and orange nasturtiums.

I could not remember the name – it was a little while ago – so turned to google with a vague description and lo and behold I was not alone! Many people remembered this

book, and someone did the research and came up with the name: *'The Nasturtiums that were too Proud for their Boots'* – a Dick and Dora 'Happy Venture Reader'!

My second strong memory was walking to primary school with my mum and seeing a garden wall absolutely smothered in morning glory – and true to its name it was a magnificent sight! - pity it is considered a weed.

With these two began my love of vibrantly coloured flowers. To this day, purples and blues are the summer colours in my small garden in Brighton, while warming burnt oranges and golden yellows are my winter colours.

I love visiting open gardens – Al Ru was my first, the first year it opened, and I have been back every year since, and to many others. I have also been fortunate to visit wondrous gardens overseas, such as Villa d'Este in Italy and the Alhambra in Spain.

In 2017, I was very fortunate to be asked to join Open Gardens SA as the Admin Officer which has allowed me to very happily talk gardens with many passionate people, and to assist in bringing beautiful gardens to share with others – how lucky am I? We have a great and very hard-working Committee, and it is a pleasure to be involved in something so positive, constructive, and good for the soul.





## SA Landscape Festival - A garden showcase, 10 and 11 April 2021



Welcome to the inaugural SA Landscape Festival - A showcase of beautiful, professionally designed, privately owned gardens.

Open Gardens SA, in partnership with the Master Landscapers of SA, are opening the gates to 12 of South Australia's most beautiful professionally designed and built gardens and showcasing the best in garden design from the Master Landscapers of SA. And, along with Open Gardens SA, it's a celebration of gardens, design ideas and problem solving. Over the weekend of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021, visitors will be able to spend time to enjoy the gardens, collect ideas and admire the work of our state's best garden designers. Gardens will be open 10:00am to 4:00pm daily.

This is an exclusive opportunity to walk through the gardens, meet the Landscape Designers and Contractors, view their work and ask them questions. In purchasing tickets to the SA Landscape Festival, you are also supporting the SA CWA. We are delighted to team up with a great organisation.

*With a range of 12 gardens to view in a variety of locations from the suburbs to the Adelaide Hills, tickets are \$10 per garden or \$50 for an all-garden weekend pass. Children under 12 FREE entry. No concessions.*

**Visit the official website to book your tickets today:**

<https://salandscapefestival.com.au/>



**This Festival showcases the best in garden design from the Master Landscapers of SA.**

**Major Event Sponsor:**



**Event Partners:**



**Presenting partners:**



## SA Landscape Festival - A garden showcase, 10 and 11 April 2021 *(Continued)*.

And we are proud to be partnering with the SA Country Women's Association (SACWA) for this event. All proceeds from the SA Landscape Festival will support the SACWA.



The South Australian Country Women's Association Inc has been serving the community since 1929. They are not for profit, non party political and non sectarian. The organisation is made up of volunteers who work to promote the welfare and conditions of life for women and children, of all ages, whether in the city or country.

Their slogan is 'Sharing And Caring With Action'. Sharing involves service and the giving of time, talents, efforts and finance. What is given in service is the road to what is gained personally. Caring involves friendship, tolerance and understanding of others.

The provision of welfare is important to the SACWA and by working together much can be achieved. Social issues need constant monitoring and lobbying at local, state and federal levels. The SACWA also believe that education is continuous, heritage skills and history are worth preserving and leisure activities enhance the quality of life. Visit their website to learn more about their important work: <https://www.sacwa.org.au/>

We are pleased to introduce our designers for the 2021 SA Landscape Festival. Each of these talented designers and / or their team representatives will be available at Festival gardens to answer questions you may have.

### **Caroline Dawes** – [Caroline Dawes Gardens](#)



**Caroline Dawes Gardens – Millswood.** This large leafy garden beautifully complements the architecture of the lovely old villa-style home. Beneath big trees, expansive lawns are bordered by lush garden beds filled with flowering plants and a sprinkling of contrasting silver foliage.

**Caroline Dawes Gardens – Norwood.** With creative thinking and a wish to re-use plants and materials, garden beds have been shaped around existing trees creating an informal cottagey feel that is perfect for the old stone home with its rustic verandas and outbuildings.

### **Josiah Dowie & Elliot Dowie** – [Dowie Designs](#)

**Dowie Designs – Port Willunga.** A mix of Mediterranean water efficient plants, natural, recycled and local materials blend beautifully to create this classy yet sustainable back garden.

### **Jackson Shaw** – [Ground Design Landscaping](#)

#### **Ground Design Landscaping – Blackwood.**

Landscaped to blend aesthetically with its Blackwood and Adelaide Hill's surroundings this garden nicely caters for the needs of a young family.

### **Craig Sullivan** - [Hedgehogs Gardens](#)

**Hedgehogs Gardens – Stirling 'Zen' Garden.** A unique Zen inspired garden designed to harmonise with a recent Japanese style extension to the house.



The tranquil yet stimulating space creates a beautiful entrance as well as offering alluring views from both inside and out.

### **Jamie McIlwain** - [Hills Classic Gardens](#)

**Hills Classic Gardens – Malvern.** In keeping with the classic old home and its modern extension, the garden is a blend of traditional and



contemporary elements. Crisply clipped hedges create definition and some formality to an abundance of roses and pretty colourful perennials.

**Nicki King** - [Nicki King Landscape Design](#)

**Ky Oliver** - [Elite Outdoor Design and Construct](#)

**Nicki King Landscape Design and Elite Outdoor Design and Construct – Mylor.** In a picturesque rural setting, a recently built swimming pool has been sympathetically integrated into a delightful old garden around a stone cottage.



**Nicki King Landscape Design and Elite Outdoor Design and Construct – Malvern.** Designed to provide street appeal in-keeping with the neighbouring properties as well as easy access to the house, this is a modern twist on a traditional cottage garden.

**Phil Dawes** - [The Great Outdaws](#)

**The Great Outdaws – Kent Town.** A long narrow space in front of the house has been thoughtfully designed as a welcoming entrance with the focal point a stylish in-built seat. Shaded by a mature crepe myrtle the semi-circular seat has transformed the area into an attractive and usable outdoor room.



**Peter Adley** – [Yardstick Landscape Services](#)

**Yardstick Landscape Services – Croydon.** A small back garden designed for family living and entertaining. The style is eclectic with curves and angled lines creatively combined with plants chosen for their coloured or textured foliage.

**Yardstick Landscape Services – Glenelg North.** A decked alfresco and a striking backlit privacy screen catch the eye, but it is the infinity-edged swimming pool with its shimmering water and striking black-tiled walls that takes centre stage in this compact back garden.



**Yardstick Landscape Services – Prospect.** A surprising number of productive plants have been cleverly and creatively combined with ornamentals to make an inspiring garden space suited to relaxation and entertaining.



## Gumnut Wreath Workshops

The Sold-Out Gumnut Wreath Workshops, held in February 2021 at Mitcham, were another creative success! Participants crafted beautiful wreaths using the supplied gumnuts, cones, seed pods, and dried berries, and enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea!





*Dahlia CAFÉ AU LAIT*

---

Open Gardens South Australia 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.

**Promoting the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening.**

**Our mailing address is:**

Open Gardens SA Inc  
PO Box 1184  
STIRLING SA 5152

Website: <http://opengardensa.org.au/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/opengardensa/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/opengardensa/?hl=en>

*Copyright ©2021 Open Gardens SA Inc. All rights reserved.*

*Editors: Di Michalk and Trevor Nottle.*

*Open Gardens SA makes every attempt to ensure that the information contained in this Newsletter is accurate and up to date. However, neither it nor its agents will be liable for any loss or damage arising directly or indirectly from the possession, publication or use of or reliance on information obtained from this publication. It is provided in good faith without express or implied warranty.*