Summer Newsletter 2019





Summer Peaches ripening on the tree.

Summer has arrived and Christmas is just around the corner! The "lazy days of summer" provide a tantalising image of rest and relaxation, so we hope you have time to enjoy the season without too much stress from holiday preparations. Tis the season of giving and sharing and this edition features three stories highlighting how OGSA and our garden owners support charities and the community. Enjoy the summer season with all it has to offer....and from OGSA, we wish you and your family and friends a very happy and safe Christmas.

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Summer Program 2019

December 1 - 2

Jennings Garden, Mount Gambier Kookaburra Ridge, Ashton

December 8 - 9

Jane's Garden, Mount Gambier Watson Garden, Mount Gambier

January 11 - February 2 Special Event - Cyrano de Bergerac in the Garden

January 12 - 13 Stonewalls, Stirling

January 19 - 20Anna's Garden, Clarence
Gardens

January 26 – Saturday only Aldgate Railway Cottage,

February 2 - 3 Churston, West Croydon

February 9 - 10 Midway Park, Rosslyn Park

February 16 - 17

Joe's Connected Garden, Elizabeth Grove Flightpath, Torrensville Semmens' Interesting Garden, Torrensville

Please visit our website for further open garden listings as they are added to our program: http://opengardensa.org.au/

Meet your OGSA Committee Members – Rob Andrewartha, Chairperson



Rob has been the driving force behind the financial success of Open Gardens SA as our inaugural Treasurer, and became Chairperson in 2018.

Originally from Port Augusta, he has a background in hospitality administration and project management at major events. Currently, Rob works in financial management in the wine

industry studying spreadsheets and budgets while gazing across vines in the Adelaide Hills.

Rob is also the co-owner of *The Garden in Wilpena Street*, a romantic, English style garden in Eden Hills which makes a regular appearance in the spring program and is famous for its high teas on the lawn featuring his enormous collection of china tea sets.

Rob believes trees are vital to gardens and the environment generally and has planted more than 60 in his garden.

"Trees bring colour and contrast to any garden, they improve the air and help to reduce noise," he says "and they create a micro climate in your garden by providing vital shade. Recent research shows that trees also help reduce the stress of modern life and that's something we all need to do".

Rob also plays an integral role in presenting the *Theatre in the Garden* series each summer.



OGSA and the Playford Trust

Open Gardens SA (OGSA) is a not-for-profit organisation designed to foster a love of gardens and gardening and to share some of our wonderful gardens within the South Australian community. Our recent history goes back to 2014 when the Australian Open Garden Scheme announced it would close in June 2015. As the South Australian branch had always been successful, it was decided to (re)open our own scheme.

A group of enthusiastic volunteers - garden lovers, designers, horticulturalists, garden owners, and several former committee members of the national Open Garden Scheme, got together and formed Open Gardens South Australia.

In the first 12 months, 50 private garden owners supported us by opening and 20,000 people visited those gardens. As a result, \$80,000 went back to garden owners and their chosen charities and almost that much again was raised by charities operating plant stalls, morning teas and other supporting activities as part of the garden openings.

Since then, OGSA has continued to be enormously successful. OGSA is now in its 4th year of operation and has funds to enable it to continue into the future. As OGSA is a not for profit organisation, we are now in a position to give back some of our profits to the South Australian community.

We plan to donate to three main areas - community gardens and community activities, garden conservation and sustainability, and to encourage educational activities for future gardeners.

It was with this in mind that we approached the Playford Trust - an organisation who could link us with students of horticulture, arboriculture, aquaculture, conservation and land management & garden design.

The Trust has enabled us to provide three awards of \$2,000 each to promising students who are likely to create careers in these areas and ensure professional input into the continuation of gardens in SA.

If OGSA continues to be successful financially, we hope to continue our partnership with the Playford Trust and to encourage gardeners, horticulturalists and environmentalists into the future.

Visit the Playford Trust website for more information on the 2018 Awards: https://playfordtrust.com.au/open-gardens-tafe-sa-playford-trust-awards-22-november-2018/





Pictured are two of our first Playford Trust Award Recipients, centre left photo, Cassandra Rogers, and centre right photo, Elleca Polson. Also pictured is (L) Dr Lyn Edwards representing OGSA and (R) Dr Leanna Read, Playford Trust Board Member.

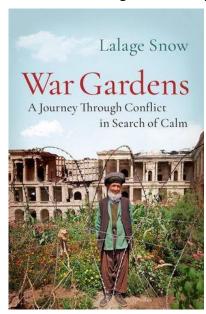
Book Review – War Gardens

A Journey Through Conflict in Search of Calm

By: Lalage Snow

Review by Trevor Nottle

I knew I had to read this book and write about it too. It is nothing to do with Mediterranean gardens but interesting for some being set in Israel and Palestine. It is not a comfortable read, nor is it pretty – even in the garden sense. But true to my profession as a reviewer I went out and bought it and duly read it.



When I first began to read I found the text too difficult to read. I tried several times before I got into it. By pure happenstance I began to read from somewhere in the middle, went to the end and then returned to the middle and read backwards to the beginning. On reflection it did no harm to the sense of continuity. In times of war there is no continuity for those caught up in the whole disaster. The book is so structured it would make little difference whichever way it was read. Divided into sections: Kabul 2012, Gaza, Israel Kibbutzim, War Machine –

Afghanistan, Helmand, Arlington Cemetery, Ukraine. The West Bank and Kabul 2017 each complete in itself and simply linked by similarities in the garden experiences of the various personalities included in the text.

WAR GARDENS may give rise to some doubts about the balance and sense of fairness the author endeavours to convey in her text. She might be open to charges of being too politically correct, or of being pro- or anti- any number of political causes. On the whole, I

felt she had tried hard to be fair without taking sides about the state of tension and animosity between the countries she visited in preparation for writing her book. Her strongest point is that in times of war ordinary folk on both, or all sides, suffer and seek to find normalcy and peace-of-mind through making gardens. This is the theme of the book. The Palestinians, for instance, do suffer greatly as a result of the resettlement by Zionists of the West Bank but so too do Israelis caught up in the acts of war and retribution. People on both sides have their lives seriously disrupted, their patterns of daily living thrown into chaos, their livelihoods destroyed and friendships damaged.

Challenging reading but worth it.





OGSA Recommends....

We recommend you always check our website for garden opening details. 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/



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

December 2018

1 - 2

Jennings Garden, 16 Turnbull Drive, Mount Gambier *Kookaburra Ridge*, 136 Ridge Road Ashton

8 - 9

Jane's Garden, 36 Agnes Street, Mount Gambier Watson Garden, 19 Bertha Street, Mount Gambier

January 2019

11 January – 2 February - Special Event, Theatre in the Garden *Cyrano de Bergerac in the Garden* – 4 Locations: Victor Harbor, Angaston, Springfield and Aldgate.

12 - 13

Stonewalls, 7 Golding Road, Stirling

19 - 20

Anna's Garden, 46 Gladys Street, Clarence Gardens

26 - Saturday ONLY

Aldgate Railway Cottage, 1A Kemp Road, Aldgate

February 2019

2 - 3

Churston, 94 Day Terrace, West Croydon

9 - 10

Midway Park, 2 Angove Court, Rosslyn Park

16 - 17

Joe's Connected Garden, 6 Argent Street, Elizabeth Grove Flightpath, Wilton Terrace, Torrensville Semmens' Interesting Garden, 33 Torrens Street, Torrensville



Jennings Garden, Mount Gambier



Jane's Garden, Mount Gambier



Watson Garden, Mount Gambier



Stonewalls, Stirling



Anna's Garden, Clarence Gardens



Churston, West Croydon



Flightpath, Torrensville

Decorative Gardenalia

By Trevor Nottle

Collecting old garden tools may seem odd but only becomes a problem if a collection of ride-on lawnmowers begins to overwhelm the available shed space to house them. By sticking with smaller items it is possible to avoid the more serious space and display issues but even then things can get out of hand.



A very long time ago an elderly lady called Mrs Crisp lived in a hillside mansion above the banks of the River Torrens in Campbelltown. The house would have dated from the 1880's and was two storey's high with half of the ground floor buried in the side of the hill; a common practice back then that kept part of the house tolerably cool even in the hottest weather. On the landings of the stairs that joined the two floors stood an impressive collection of Japanese suits of armour, huge Imari ware plates and tall blue and white porcelain floor vases

from China. Outdoors in shady spots in the garden were Chinese *famille vert* fish basins and lotus pots. Thus began my fascination with Orientalism and all things Chinese and Japanese: the exoticism was simply enthralling.







The fascination has played out inside and out with a pleasing collection of blue and white wares from China that we use to hold a number of variegated hosta plants standing on the dry soil under a big variegated holly tree. Elsewhere a large Vietnamese fish-sauce fermenting jar stood in the garden – now stolen it reminds me every-time I pass where it stood of the rotten opportunism of some scoundrels. There are also several hard, dense terracotta pots



engraved in shallow relief with swirling dragons swimming among waves and flying among clouds.



Since the earliest days of settlement at Sydney Cove and Hobart Town enterprising ship owners carried on what was then called the Triangle Trade between China, India and Australia which brought textiles, ceramics, glass, tea, furniture and luxury goods to our shores. The route was much shorter, faster and safer than conveying cargoes between Australia and Great Britain. After the British East India Company trade monopoly was abolished in 1819, the impact of the removal of imposts to protect the business of the Company encouraged a vast increase in trading adventures by ship

owners in Australia by private individuals, from fiends and investors too. Goods bought on pure speculation joined consignments ordered by private individuals from friends and businessmen in Calcutta (Kolcotta), Madras, Hong Kong, Canton and Shanghai. Among these sundries were garden tiles, as seen at 'Heronswood' outside Melbourne, plant pots and even plants – roses, camellias, wisterias and gardenias among them.

The Orient trade was further expanded once Admiral Perry had prized open the doors of Japan in 1853 and forced a trade agreement on the Emperor by force of his steam-boat diplomacy. Japanese export wares rapidly grew in novelty, fashion and demand, so much so the modernizing Japanese government sent trade missions to Europe, America and Australia to show and sell Japanese goods from stone lanterns, plants and pots to thatched tea houses and costly bronzes.



The Oriental influence remains quite strong in Australian gardens as many ceramic pots and ornaments are now supplied by potteries in Vietnam, China and Cambodia. Styles are more varied nowadays and can be had in Oriental styles, copied old European styles, and Modern designs. Original 19th C objects are hard to find and expensive, and provenance can be difficult to prove but by and large most present day gardeners find the copied versions perfectly acceptable as

garden focal points and features.

I have no original examples with which to illustrate this article but I am confident you will quickly understand the subject when you see the pots I do have 'in the manner of...'







Follow OGSA on Facebook and Instagram





And don't forget to visit our Website! The OGSA Website provides a wealth of information – not only is it the 'go-to' site for all the information about the gardens we open to the public, but it also provides up-to-date News items relating to our activities, notices of Special Events, information about Committee Members, and so much more. Be sure to also check-out the highly recommended gardening Blog for interesting articles and insights relating to gardening in SA.

http://opengardensa.org.au/



Home Preserving – A Summer Tradition and A Little Bit Of History

Fowler, Joseph (1888-1972)

By Victoria Peel

This article was published in <u>Australian Dictionary of Biography</u>, Volume 14, (MUP), 1996.

Joseph Fowler (1888-1972), businessman and municipal councillor, was born on 28 February 1888 at Bagworth, Leicestershire, England, one of thirteen children of John Fowler, groom, and his wife Mary, née Ash. With his brother Sydney, in the early 1900s Joseph worked in a fruit-preserving business run by an uncle at Maidstone, Kent, and continued with the firm after 1908 when it was relocated at Reading. At St Andrew's parish church, Leicester, on 7 September 1910 he married a nurse, Elizabeth Harris (d.1965); they emigrated in 1913 and settled at Camberwell, Melbourne.

Encouraged by his commercial experience, and by the variety and quality of fruit in Australia, Fowler set up a fruit-bottling business in the rear of his small house in Burke Road. Trading as J. Fowler & Co., by 1915 the company had begun producing home-bottling kits which contained a sterilizer, bottles, lids, rings and a thermometer. To acquire the capital to establish a factory, Fowler travelled the district, selling his kits door-to-door from the back of a cart. In 1920 he bought a shop at the corner of Power Street and Burwood Road, Hawthorn, and registered his business as a private company.



During the Depression his kits became a household name. In 1934 Fowlers Vacola Manufacturing Co. Ltd was registered as a public company. Housewives, nationwide, were urged to bottle their own fruits and jams by 'Mrs B Thrifty', the dainty cartoon character who graced the firm's advertisements. Numerous recipes and instruction books, such as *From Orchard to Bottle the Fowlers Way*, advertised

the necessary preserving equipment, extending to jelly bags and juice extractors. Australian-made glass and imported steel and rubber were used in the production of Fowlers Vacola Bottling Outfits.

Determined to put something back into the community which had supported him so well, in 1933-60 Fowler represented Yarra Ward on the Hawthorn City Council (mayor 1938-39 and 1945-46). He served as vice-president of Swinburne Technical College (1942) and of the Hawthorn branch of the Australian Defence League (1943); he was also a Rotarian, and a warden and vestryman of St John's Anglican Church, Camberwell.

Changed demands in World War II encouraged Fowlers Vacola to diversify their product. Canned goods were manufactured for allied

troops in the South Pacific. In 1953 new buildings and plant, including a giant pressurecooker, were installed to increase productivity: from that time Fowlers Vacola sold canned and bottled food throughout Australia and abroad. By 1960 the factory occupied more than 122,000 sq. ft $(11,330 \text{ m}^2)$ and further expansion was to occur when the firm moved to Nunawading. Fowler retired in 1961, but remained chairman of directors; his son Ronald succeeded him as managing director.

Variously described as a generous, jovial man with a sense of humour, and as a strict and astute manager whose company was his life, Fowler was renowned for his straight business dealings and his 'nononsense' attitude. Survived by his son and daughter, he died on 24 April 1972 at Camberwell and was cremated. His estate was sworn for probate at \$204,424. On Ronald Fowler's death in 1978, the company was bought out by the Sydney firm, Hooper Baillie Industries Ltd; it in turn sold to Sabco Ltd of South Australia; in 1994, when Sabco went into receivership, Australian Resource Recovery Technologies re-established Fowlers Vacola Australia Pty Ltd's headquarters in Melbourne.



Why (Some) Men Hate Visiting Gardens and What To Do About It

By Trevor Nottle (Reproduced from Gardening Blog April 2015)

Garden visiting is a strange pastime for anybody to do. It is really strange for men to do as it does not involve any kind of sport, has nothing to do with sheds or BBQ's, and is not the subject of workmate conversations. But you should not think it impossible that you would never, ever do it. Nor should you think it unlikely that you will ever be asked to go garden visiting. It could happen to you sooner than you think.

Garden visiting is something like a garage sale. Frequently it does involve a shed and a barbie. The shed has to be cleaned out in preparation for an Open Garden and there's always need for some males to conduct a sausage sizzle as a fund raiser on the day.

On the day instead of kicking tyres, poking about in piles of gear, looking over all sorts of tools and pieces of equipment, and examining sundry spare parts imagine instead poking around in a garden; how does the fountain work; how is the pergola built, how did the paving get laid that way? Look in the vegie garden and at the compost heaps; are there ants? Bugs? Diseases? Check out the irrigation system and check the things that might come in handy for you to know. Notice how the trees are pruned up so things can happen underneath. Take a look at the tomatoes; see how they've been pruned by pulling off the strong shoots low down – an old Italian-gardeners trick. Note how long the lawn grasses are – they've been cut high to save water and save the grass from the impact of hot weather. What about the grapevines - they've had their leaf canopy lifted so the fruit can be protected from wasps by tying paper-bags over the bunches; the fruit will ripen better too but not suffer from sun-burn. You might not have learned anything about roses, delphiniums or rhododendrons but sure as Heck you learned a lot of other useful stuff about growing things to eat. And what about that garden gate made up from old garden tools welded to a frame. Pretty neat, eh? You could do that too.

Some gardens make special efforts to get men interested but by and large these are the province of institutions rather than private gardens and their owners. However, there are those who do collect odd things that men find curiously interesting; things like ancient lawn mowers and slashers, reel mowers, lawn rollers, Fly-mo's and early robotic mowers. Some work, some do not, some are restored others await restoration. If you don't go, you'll never, never know. Then again there are men attached to Open Gardens who keep a weather station which is quite an interesting thing to see and learn about. Yet others keep bees. This can be really interesting as there is so much to learn about how it's done and how honey is harvested and how the hive is maintained.

To get men interested in garden visiting is simple enough; just check out the garden description for anything that might be of interest to masculine types and make sure they see the entry before they go so they know beforehand that the entire day won't be a crashing bore. Then there is a need for some balance: balance of his interest in men's techno-stuff against your interest in flower stuff. Gradually the balance will shift to a more strongly garden bias but at the outset you've got to get him out the door, into the car and to the Open Garden.



OGSA 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.

OGSA Donation - The Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden



Open Gardens SA is delighted to share the news of our recent \$5,000 donation to the Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden towards the cost of fencing materials for the perimeter feral-proof fence of the Garden.

The current project for the Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden is to replace the aged infrastructure of the boundary fence of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden with a new 'floppy top' feral animal-proof fence to reduce the number of feral as well as native animals entering the Garden. As you can imagine during these very dry times these animals cause havoc in the garden!



The Friends are working towards being able to eventually cover the cost of fencing materials only through donations for the replacement of the 6 Kilometres of fencing, with additional volunteer labour to complete the 'floppy-top' part of the fence.

The Port Augusta Council employed a fencing contractor for the first 1.5 Kilometres of fencing to be erected, and then there is additional work required to put up the 'floppy top', and this is being completed by Friends volunteers.

The Friends initial focus has been to achieve the upgrade of the first 1.5 Kilometres of fencing on the northern side of the Garden at approx. \$18,000.00 to \$20000.00 per Kilometre for fencing materials, depending on the terrain and other requirements of the fence, along with an additional 250 volunteer hours of labour per Kilometre to complete the Northern boundary fence line. The Northern side of the boundary has just been completed and work will soon commence on the western side where the entrance to the garden is.

OGSA believes this is a very worthy project and deserving of our support.

"On behalf of the Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, I wish to thank The Open Garden SA Committee for offering the Friends such a generous donation.

Geraldine Davis, Treasurer, Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden."



The Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden (AALBG) is located on the Stuart Highway, Port Augusta West, South Australia.

Garden opening hours: 7.30am till sunset, 7 days per week.

Visitor Centre & Café: 9.00am to 5pm Mon – Fri 10am to 4pm on weekends Closed on Christmas Day

The AALB features two websites, one run by the Friends of the AALBG: http://www.australian-aridlands-botanic-garden.org/

Alternatively, there is: http://www.aalbg.sa.gov.au/ run by Port Augusta City Council.





Special Event - Cyrano de Bergerac - Theatre in the Garden is getting to be a habit.



A heart as big as his nose!

Five cross-dressing nuns will re-tell one of literature's greatest love stories in a cheeky version of Cyrano de Bergerac set in four beautiful gardens this summer.

Open Gardens SA and Blue Sky Theatre are making a habit of presenting sell-out seasons and 2019's romantic comedy, featuring a hero with an impossibly big nose, will be another delightful collaboration.

According to director Dave Simms, Cyrano will be a little different to previous shows. "This story is not only funny, but also action-packed and deeply moving in places," he says. "Cyrano loves the beautiful Roxane but lacks the courage to tell her. And he has stiff competition from handsome yet tongue-tied Christian.

"Events take a nosedive when war breaks out and more suitors emerge to poke their noses in. Will Roxane choose Christian's brainless beauty or Cyrano's eloquent panache?"

This witty, modernised version also gives the actresses in the cast a large slice of the action in an otherwise male-dominated tale.

"The original story ends in a convent, so we've gone a step further and got the nuns to act out the whole story," says Dave. "It's got everything: romance, swordfights, heroic deeds and plenty of nose jokes."

Edmond Rostand wrote Cyrano de Bergerac in 1897 and is responsible for introducing the word "panache" into the English language. It's been translated and performed many times and made into the motion picture 'Roxane' starring Steve Martin as the nasally enhanced hero.

This version, adapted by Glyn Maxwell and already a huge outdoor success in the UK, will hopefully leave you devoted to the characters, doubled over with laughter, and possibly in tears.

Theatre in the garden is a great opportunity for Open Gardens SA to promote the joy of gardens and it suits perfectly Blue Sky Theatre's aim of bringing quality, uplifting theatre to South Australian audiences in beautiful surroundings.

Cyrano de Bergerac will be staged at four gardens in:

Brook Road Garden at Victor Harbor

11, 12 and 13 January 2019

Collingrove Homestead near Angaston

19 and 20 January

Carrick Hill at Springfield 25, 26 and 27 January 2019

Stangate House in Aldgate 1 and 2 February 2019

Tickets and picnic hampers are available to purchase for all shows.

COST: Adults \$35



https://opengardensa.org.au/e vents/123-cyrano-debergerac-in-the-garden

Edmond Rostand's Cyrano de Bergerac is adapted by Glyn Maxwell and presented by arrangement with Origin Theatrical on behalf of Samuel French, Ltd.



Open Gardens SA – More Than Half a Million Dollars back to Charities and the Community

Since the beginning of the inaugural season of 2015 – 2016, after the demise of the national Open Garden scheme, there has been fantastic support from South Australian garden owners and the South Australian gardening community with a total of just under 80,000 visits to garden openings across the three and a half seasons.

The Open Gardens SA model returns 50% of the gate takings to garden owners for distribution to their many and varied charities. At many openings, further funds are raised by add-on events ... plant sales, afternoon teas, sausage sizzles and the like.

During this Spring Season of garden openings, a significant milestone has been achieved.

Since we began in spring 2015, the total return to charities and community organisations by our garden owners has topped the \$500,000 mark.... a great achievement in such a relatively short time!

With a very strong volunteer effort, prudent management practices, and some very welcome initial sponsorship in areas such as photocopying, legal and IT services, we believe that Open Gardens SA has now consolidated a firm base for the future. We are getting ourselves into a position that ensures that the opening of private gardens to the public can continue well into the future and where we can begin to develop a program to provide assistance to garden related projects that will benefit the community.

Among the first steps in this area, OGSA, through the Playford Trust, provided three \$2,000 scholarships to students studying Horticulture or Conservation and Land Management (see the article on page 2-3 for more details). There have also been donations to the Botanic Gardens Little Sprouts program, the Adelaide Day Centre kitchen garden project, and to the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden (see article on page 9 for more details), to help fund some important infrastructure. And this is in addition to the funds that are returned to a wide range of charities and to the community, through the generosity of our garden owners.

The committee of OGSA is very humbled and proud that through this organisation we have been able to assist in achieving such a significant milestone – and thank our valued garden owners for their continued generosity and support.



International Volunteer Day

Wednesday 5 December is recognised worldwide as International Volunteer Day, mandated by the United Nations. It is a day to celebrate volunteers and 2018's theme, 'Volunteers build resilient communities', recognised the role volunteers have, and the impact they make, in their local communities.

The work and commitment of volunteers is a key component to the success of OGSA. Without the support of our Committee Members – all volunteering their time and skills, together with our Garden Selectors and the Events Committee, we would not be able to provide the program of open gardens and special events, which our visitors enjoy.

Our garden owners are essential to the success of our organisation with their hard work in preparing their gardens, and their generosity in allowing visitors into their private gardens.





Male Superb Fairy Wren, Scientific Name: Malurus cyaneus

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:

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

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/opengardensa/
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/opengardensa/?hl=en

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