

grow

all gardens great and small

by  Sophie's Patch

I believe that gardens and gardening hold the solution to many of the problems we face, such as the cost-of-living crisis, food insecurity, a lack of affordable nutrient dense food, a lack of social connection and the epidemic of loneliness. Other problems we face are environmental with climate extremes and heat related challenges from Climate Change to the Urban Heat Island Effect. Nature is also being challenged with the biggest threat to wildlife in our urban areas being a lack of urban habitat.

With themes of sustainability, affordability, food security and habitat creation at its core, I am keen to show that all gardens make a difference, whatever their size. This year's 12 x 6m display is divided into three sections – a balcony, a courtyard and a backyard. The idea is to demonstrate that each of these spaces can be beautiful, cool, liveable, and productive while supporting the birds, bees, butterflies and other creatures with which we want to share our gardens with. Happy gardening, Sophie



A garden for the Royal Agricultural
& Horticultural Society of SA Inc.

The Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of South Australia has been championing the link between what we grow and what we eat, and entertaining and educating the public since 1839. This year, "Sophie's Patch" at the Royal Adelaide Show brings that mission to life! Discover how to transform your balcony, courtyard, or small backyard into a cooler, greener, and more delicious place to be. Learn how to garden vertically, incorporate food production into any space, and create a landscape that works for your lifestyle. 'Grow – All gardens Great and Small' by Sophie's Patch provides lots of practical ideas, inspiration, and the motivation you need to get growing! Enjoy

All the best from the Horticulture Committee at the Royal Adelaide Show.


**ROYAL
ADELAIDE
SHOW**

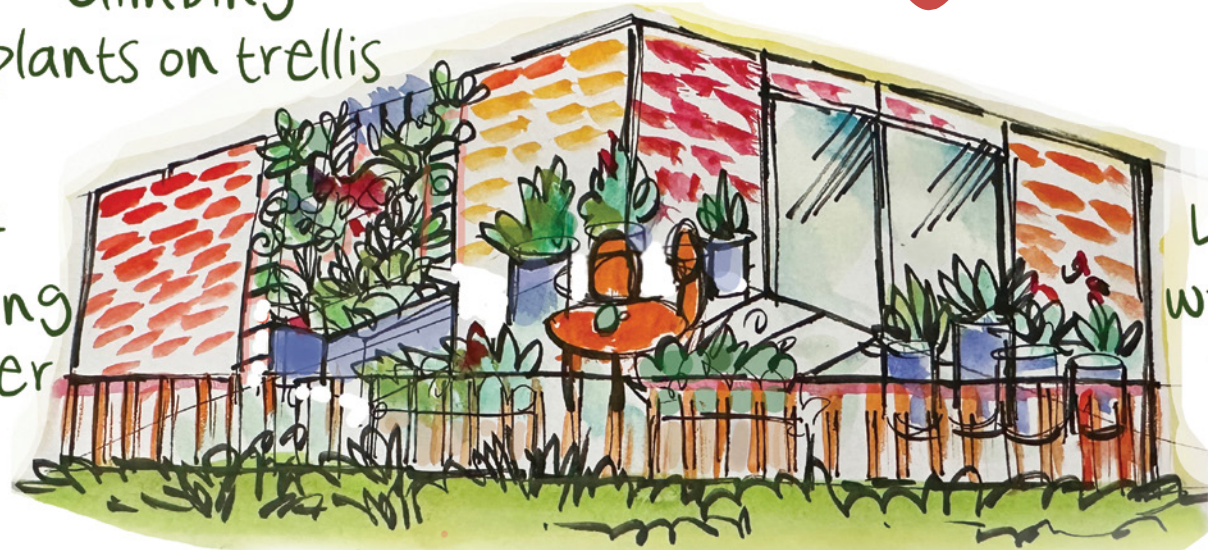


Presented by
Drakes.

Balcony

Climbing
plants on trellis

Self
watering
planter



Light
weight
pots

Grow produce. At a time when the cost-of-living crisis is hurting many families, growing at least part of your fruits, vegies and herbs will helps give people access to fresh, nutrient dense food – the ultimate food security. Whether you have got large vegie beds in a backyard, a green vegie wall in a courtyard or smaller troughs on a balcony, your garden can still be productive if it's small.

Grow habitat for birds, bees, butterflies and other creatures that live in urban areas including garden guardians like microbats and beneficial bugs. This is done by including food plants and water bowls, nesting boxes for birds, microbats and possums, and native bee hotels. When the biggest threat to urban wildlife is a lack of habitat, every garden great and small can make a difference and become a biodiversity hotspot.

Grow cooler, greener and more liveable outdoor spaces. With concern about climate change, the Urban Heat Island effect, unsustainable development, and with heat being the number one natural killer of Australians, making sure your garden is cool and green, will also make it more liveable. Some backyards include a limited area of lawn to help cool the area down and for kids and pets to play on, however in reality in many gardens today, this is optional due to limited space.

Plant Selection The plants used in this garden are a mix of Australian natives and local indigenous species and climate compatible exotics which do not have weed potential. There are some mature trees to demonstrate scale and shade. Always check with the knowledgeable gardening personnel at your local nursery or garden centre about the suitability of plants you choose for your garden.

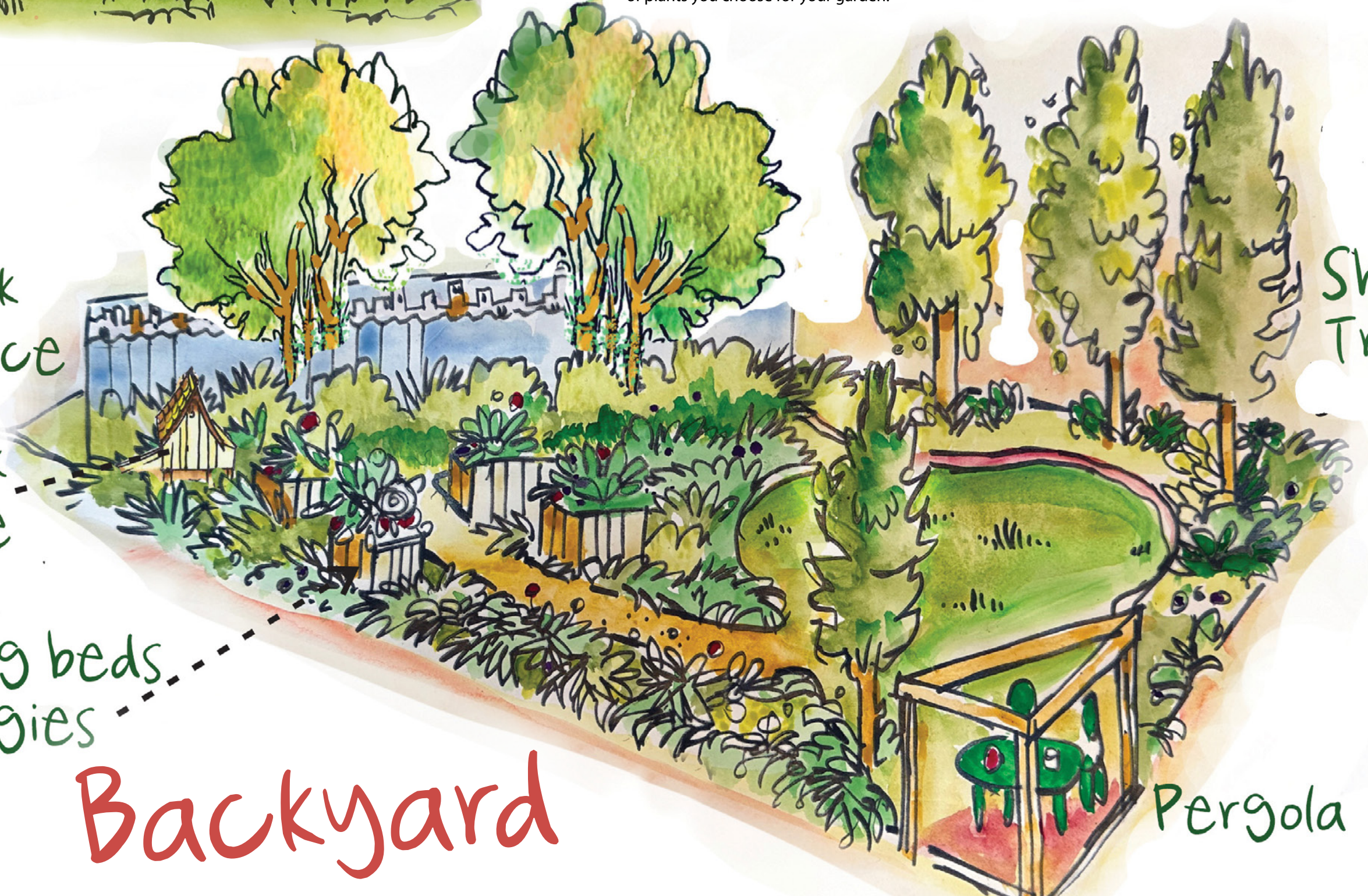
Back
Fence

Chook
House

wicking beds
for vegies

Backyard

Shade
Trees



Pergola

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This show garden is supported by **GREEN ADELAIDE** SUPPORTING ADELAIDE NATIONAL PARK CITY*

For more information www.greenadelaide.sa.gov.au/discover/gardening

There are four great garden guides available which help you choose the right plants for your backyard:

Adelaide gardens planting guide, Coastal gardens planting guide, Adelaide garden guide for new homes and Wildlife-friendly gardens

grow all gardens great and small

include Heyne's Wholesale Nursery, Amazon Plant Growers, Poplar Grove Nursery, Living Colour Nursery, Fengate Nursery and Native Plant Wholesalers.

would not have been possible without the support of the Nursery and Garden Industry of South Australia and other Sophie's Patch suppliers and supporters. Wholesale Nurseries

Wooden Wicking Beds donated by Mark Smith from Adelaide Hills Vegie Gardens <https://ahvg.com.au>

Ceramic creatures by Wendy Britton Ceramics <https://www.facebook.com/WendyBrittonCeramics/>

Artwork, mural and artist's sketch by George Cooper <https://www.facebook.com/georgec00per>

Past Show Gardens

Today, I am just as passionate about the topics which I demonstrated in past show gardens. Over the years my Show Gardens have covered topics promoting Nature Play for kids; habitat gardening; 'Buzz' in 2018 showing how to create a bee friendly garden; 'GROW UP' in 2022 was in response to urban infill creating smaller outdoor spaces, showing that we can green up and cool down no matter what the size of space; and 'COOL' in 2023, showed how every garden can make a difference to cool down our homes and gardens, green up our outdoor spaces, create habitat for wildlife and help us to grow part of our fruits, veggies and herbs. 'Gardens Connect Us' in 2024 showed that gardens connect us to nature; to our own health and wellbeing; to our community; to a cooler, greener wilder backyard; to food security; to this earth which grounds us, feeds and supports us... and to the first Nations custodians who came before us, who knew that everything in this garden of Nature is connected. 'Wild Thing' in 2025 showed how to rewild your backyard for fun, food and family.

When you have time, grab yourself a cuppa and check out the photos and explanation about each of them at <https://sophiespatch.com.au/category/show-gardens/>