

BEDFORD GARDEN FESTIVAL - GARDENS

Cowie Valley Route

Cavers Garden

Approached down a curving avenue of ancient oaks, this peaceful oasis with huge trees, sweeping lawns and a riot of roses frames a blue-chip guesthouse and family home. Windows in the various garden "rooms" invite the eye outwards towards the mountain and sky. There is space to unwind and dream: grand scale is part of the lingering impression.

Rozanne & Ken Ross 046 685 0619
GPS: -32.642481 26.156258
Entry: R20



Donkerhoek Farm Garden

A wide variety of vegetables take centre stage in this hillside garden behind a restored ancestral home. "We use heirloom seeds because they germinate fantastically and the produce has better flavour" says Barbara. Visitors can visit the farmyard where a cow, hens and turkeys help with compost making. The garden feeds the household and the staff, with whom the Church's enjoy a symbiotic relationship. Barbara's cream and jam scones are legendary.

Barbara & Mike Church 0833548841
GPS: -32.648058 26.177261
Entry: R10



Town Gardens

The Long Garden

Stretching down a long erf, this new garden was designed by Franchesca Watson. A lawned path meanders down the length of the space through plantings that are initially formal and melt progressively into a "natural" garden with an increasing number of indigenous plants. The flow ends in a lawn surrounded by grasses against a wall of reeds. Access the kitchen garden with its raised beds through a moon gate. Tara, an experienced and extremely knowledgeable gardener, will be happy to chat about the development of this unique and special garden.

Tara Forster 046 685 0472
GPS: -32.678397 26.084342
Entry: R20



The Long Garden

Caltex Bio Garden

A lo-n-g stretch of demo veg beds (with a special young gardener zone) features loads of ideas for growing happier, healthier veggies at home. Let your inner child out to play with a variety of interactive earth-art and woodland craft thingamajigs. Warning: our scarecrow is bigger than a Gruffalo! Dozens of "blackboard" panels are packed with diagrams, instructions and lists to take home (just snap them with your phone). Nifty "how-to" info on evergreen gardening topics include in-bed composting, green manure, raised beds, upping that earth-worm count, beating the drought, saving seeds, encouraging friendly birds and goggas.

Cathy Knox 082 932 8864
GPS: -32.681841 26.0933168
Entry: R5.00



Caltex Bio Garden

The Upcycled Garden At Eagle Hout

This inspiring child-friendly garden has a quirky sense of fun along with commitment to sustainability. Ramble up the 180m long rose walk, count the 8000 eco-bricks that make up the circular herb bed; guess at the size of the massive yellow chair centrepiece; take selfies in the gazebo festooned with Wedding Garland roses, run your fingers along the ancient sneezewood balustrade that lines the 'Walk on the Wildside'. All over, veggies and herbs co-exist with ornamental and medicinal plants and herbs. A sense of verdant abundance prevails. It is all the result of upcycling and repurposing. So many ideas for the homestead of the future.

Lana & Ben Blom 074 963 9774
GPS: -32.681841 26.093316
Entry: R5.00



The Rosarium

This tranquil, fragrant garden was established by a trust for the conservation and perpetuation of South Africa's old roses! Thozamile lovingly tends them and has a gift to propagate new plants from the mother stock. This sanctuary space relies on nature's cycle and the secret whim of the roses as to the abundance of the blooms. Nothing is forced to be on show. The underplanting focuses on companion & indigenous plants. All practices here are organic with no use of sprays or poisons. The dell area is unique and purposefully wild.

Kim van Niekerk 082 775 5178
Entry: R20



Maasström Farm

The historical Maasstrom Farm is embraced by the sweeping Kaga mountains, giving a glimpse of the beauty ahead. A majestic Atlas Cedar surrounded by a riot of clivias welcomes you to this beautiful garden. Formal flowerbeds interspersed with topiaries and perfumed roses lead off from the circular pond that boasts centrally placed bronzed herons. Magnificent trees shade the footpaths which have benches placed for quiet contemplation.

Doreen & Pete Freese 083 232 3735
GPS: -32.669994, 26.078113
Entry: R20 Children free.



Plains Route:

Olivewoods

This well established garden has been nurtured over the years to develop into a beautiful, mature garden. Richly planted banks and majestic old tree open onto spectacular views. Although this garden was established 21 years ago, Wendy has made many changes resulting in a low maintenance garden as she also runs Olivewoods Bed and Breakfast. To this end she has kept to perennials and excluded annuals. The choice of plant material was made easier as this is a frost-free garden. Only roses that need very little attention were planted in this garden: these include Icebergs, My Granny, Johannesburg Garden Club and Mutabilis. Trees that were planted many years ago landscape the view and Wendy has planted more to create beautifully shaded areas.

Wendy & Brett Wienand 082 579 5084
GPS: -32.743078, 25.748846
Entry: R20



Albertvale Home of Thrive

This homestead and working sheep farm of Ian and Kim van Niekerk is only 12 minutes from Bedford village. It was once the Old Tavern on the ox wagon route. This organic, natural style garden sports an abundance of old fashioned perennials, heritage roses, established trees, edible plants and flowers in an informal style mixed planting. Nature's cycles and rhythms are followed all year. Kim has concentrated on natural soil health practices including worm farming, compost making and biodiversity. The garden proliferates by self-seeding. Kim uses much of her seasonal produce when hosting her cooking workshops and health educationals.

Kim & Ian van Niekerk 082 775 5178
GPS: -32.737379 26.011300
Entry: R20



De Klerksdal

This established informal country garden is situated on an old family farm. Helena's love for roses is very evident as you stroll along the curved beds with annuals, perennials and a feast of roses in a myriad of colours and forms. One of the special features is a generous circular rose bed filled with treasures from her extensive rose collection. Enjoy the colour and beauty of this garden complemented by glimpses into pastures where sheep run free.

Helena & Pieter De Klerk 084 517 5151
GPS: -32.592308 25.900306
Entry: R20



Mountain Route:

Skelmkloof

A warm welcome awaits you at this whimsical Karoo-style garden that is both a place of healing and a refuge for rescued arid-zone plants. Hilda's hospitality and quirky sense of humour is evident in her use of objects displaying her cacti, succulents and aloes. Great inspiration for our water scarce environment. This garden was recently featured in The Gardener & other magazines. Francois is a black powder enthusiast; ask him about his metal castings. Make sure to visit at noon when he will be firing the Canon!

Hilda & Francois 046 685 0635
Entry: Donation
GPS: -32.530712 26.072571



Skelmkloof

Glen Ross

Danel has created an informal family garden on the edge of a river with the mountains as her backdrop. It is where ducks, bantams and children can roam freely and play in a tranquil, family-friendly space. Being a creative spirit, Danel enjoys making frequent changes to the garden, always looking to add new interesting features. She is passionate about tending her roses, which feature prominently throughout her garden. One constant and dominant feature in this garden is the majestic Himalayan pine tree that was planted here in the 1920's. It dwarfs the house & produces extra-large cones! The Moolmans have always been self-sufficient regarding energy - having never been on the Grid! They utilise wind and solar energy as well as a "donkey" for hot water. Come and experience warm hospitality as you wander through this little piece of paradise.

Danel & Andre Moolman 083 661 6705
GPS: -33.449698 25.950037
Entry: R20



Belmont Garden

"We come from the earth, and we return to the earth and in between we garden..." Alfred Austin. A true treasure hiding in the mountains awaits you at Ria's garden at Belmont. "A piece of heaven" as she calls it, describes her garden perfectly... This garden is framed by beautiful mountains and was established in 1974. Something old, something new and definitely something blue can all be experienced in this garden, with a variety of huge trees and shrubs. Ria makes use of natural elements such as stones & river pebbles. Masses of roses grown from slips are colour blocked against the stone terrace. Registered cycads around the garden add interest. This farm makes use of a generator, sun-and wind power and a "donkey" for hot water. For most of their needs they make use of fountain water. Ria loves her lifestyle and says: "An isolated lifestyle, but a privilege to live here in our piece of heaven".

Ria & Henry Moolman 087 700 3440
GPS: -32.439489 25.935714
Entry: R20



Belmont

Eildon

The Eildon farm is built on rich sediments of history, being the place where the Scottish Settlers put down roots in 1820. Formal design unifies this show-stopping garden with its six distinct "rooms". Varied in theme, each space has an entrance, focal point and balanced quadrant, connected by strong axis. Masses of white "Iceberg" roses form a bond between the garden and the dominating presence of the gabled house. As a grand finale, timber gates lead the eye out of the Orangerie and off into the wild expanses of mountain and veld beyond. Parts of this extensive garden have recently been re-designed and adapted to cope with the changing weather patterns and drought conditions that have prevailed in the Eastern Cape in recent years.

Barrie & Alex Pringle 046 685 0706
GPS: -32.415128 26.07091
Entry: R20



Icon Legend

- Plants for sale
- Music
- Food & Drink
- Masterclass
- Art for Sale
- Toilet Available
- Picnics Welcome
- Light Refreshments
- Pop Up Shop Goods for Sale
- Open Till 6PM (Fri & Sat)
- Learn Something New

Bedford Town Map

