

# MAKING WAVES

**Pete Adley** faced a dramatic career change when he turned his love of gardening into a business.



Pete Adley likes mixing the waxy silver tones of *Cotyledon 'Silver Waves'* (centre) with fresh green, red and brown contrast plants.

There is a band of freesias in front and *Viburnum tinus* behind.

Having worked for 10 years as a chef, Adelaide's Pete Adley has followed his heart and turned his hobby into his job as a garden designer. After completing a Diploma of Garden Design, he set up Yardstick Design and Art, in Prospect, SA.

The business has taken Pete on an exciting journey out of the kitchen and into the outdoors, creating beautiful outdoor spaces. With an interest in sustainable design and installation work, Pete's creations have also featured at the last two WOMADelaide music festivals.

## ESCAPE & RELAX

"We set up the 'Secret Garden' – a little sanctuary for VIPs who want to escape for a bit and relax in leafy surroundings," Pete says. "It obviously was a hit, as we were invited to return this year. The first garden [featured] a bar area and a secondary seating area with silver stability balls held in a dispenser attached to the fence.

"This year's [garden] was a similar set-up with three areas, but we had a better idea of where we were heading: the biggest element was a 4 x 6m deck with a sunken table and red lanterns. Off to the side, there was a water feature which fed a rill that you could paddle your feet in."

## SENSIBLE PLANTS

Pete inherited his garden from his grandmother and loves working in it. He describes his garden style as eclectic.

"I really like the tried and tested plants that thrive in this semi-arid city," he says. "I'll recommend any plant that doesn't need loads of water – I love sensible plants."



## FAVOURITE PLANT: COTYLEDON 'SILVER WAVES'

This cotyledon wins Pete's praise for being hardy and decorative. "It's interesting and has great form: it looks a little like coral with its crinkly top." The drought-proof plant thrives in a part of his garden that "dries out like a biscuit".

**PETE'S TOP TIP:** Cut 'Silver Waves' back a little every year to stop it from falling open in the middle. The cuttings are easy to strike and Pete's favourite plant has ended up in many of his friends' gardens. 🍌

