



ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference, Newsletter. May 2023, Issue 2.

Contents

Welcome 1
 Venue..... 1
 Conference Day Excursions..... 2
 Melton Botanic Garden 5
 Visit to Friends of Melton Botanic Garden
 Nursery 6
 Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve..... 7
 Karwarra Australian Native
 Botanic Garden..... 8
 Profiles 8

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Gardens for Life

Welcome to the second information newsletter about the Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) Biennial Conference, 30 September to 4 October 2024. The five-day conference has a broad theme of “Gardens for life” and will cover such topics as gardens for wildlife, conservation of rare species through cultivation, gardens for beauty, for our cities and for our health. There will be two days of excursions and three days of excellent presentations and workshops.

Our committee is narrowing down a fine list of speakers and presenters and we have decided on three five-day bus tours – Wilson’s Promontory and Gippsland, the Otway Coast and South West Victoria and the Grampians (Gariwerd) and The Little Desert. These will be exceptional wildflower tours with expert guides.

The focus of this newsletter is to sample some of the destinations for conference excursions. Please share this newsletter with your friends, group or whoever you think may be interested. Formal bookings for the Conference and Tours are expected to open in early 2024.

Chris Clarke
 Coordinator ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference, Melbourne.

Venue

Just a reminder that our conference venue is the Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre on the Yarra River which has top facilities with ready access to public transport, hotels and Air BnB accommodation. The venue is near wonderful galleries, exhibitions and the historic port area with the Polly Woodside (pictured) We will be seeking accommodation discount deals with hotels near the centre.



The Polly Woodside opposite the Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre.

**We encourage you to take a look at the short promotional video on the APS Vic website
<https://apsvic.org.au/anpsa-biennial-conference-2024/>
 and register your interest.**

Conference Day Excursions

One of the best things about our biennial conferences are the bus trips to see both wild places and gardens featuring native and indigenous flora. Lunch and morning tea and any entry fees are part of the conference package and we provide guides along the way.

For the Tuesday and Thursday of the conference you will choose two of a selection of full day excursions going to amazing gardens and wildflower destinations. We are looking at running up to six excursions but your interest will determine which ones go ahead or are offered on both days. Bookings will open in 2024 with your conference booking.

The plan so far are these options:

Australian Botanic Garden Cranbourne and Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve.

A guided tour of the garden and nursery from “The Friends” and Cranbourne staff will show us the Raising Rarity program and the Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve has stunning orchids and peas in Spring.

See page 7 for more information on the Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve.



Australian Botanic Garden Cranbourne.



Olearia brevipedunculata in the Raising Rarity Garden, Australian Botanic Garden Cranbourne.



Desert Garden - Australian Botanic Garden Cranbourne.

Melton Botanic Garden and the Brisbane Ranges National Park.

The Melton Botanic Garden is superb and run by volunteers. The Brisbane Ranges to the west of Melbourne are a top wildflower destination having over 430 species of plants with lots of daisies and orchids.

See page 5 for more information on the Melton Botanic Garden.

Anglesea heathland.

A world class wildflower area that is home to a quarter of Victoria's flora and over 100 species of orchids. The tour will be accompanied by a guide to find the most interesting flora.



Dillwynia sericea. Anglesea heathland.



Thelymitra juncifolia. Anglesea heathland.



Caladenia cardiochila. Anglesea heathland.

Chelsea Australian Garden at Olinda by Phillip Johnson

– the “*Chelsea best in show*” garden has been created in Olinda but much larger. We plan stops at Sherbrooke Forest (we may see Lyrebirds) and the beautiful established Karwarra Gardens.

More detail and photos of this amazing new garden in future newsletters. Here is a link to check out the gardens development <https://peopleandparks.org/project/chelsea-best-in-show-garden/>



Pultenaea daphnoides. Anglesea heathland.

Australian Gardens for Wildlife.

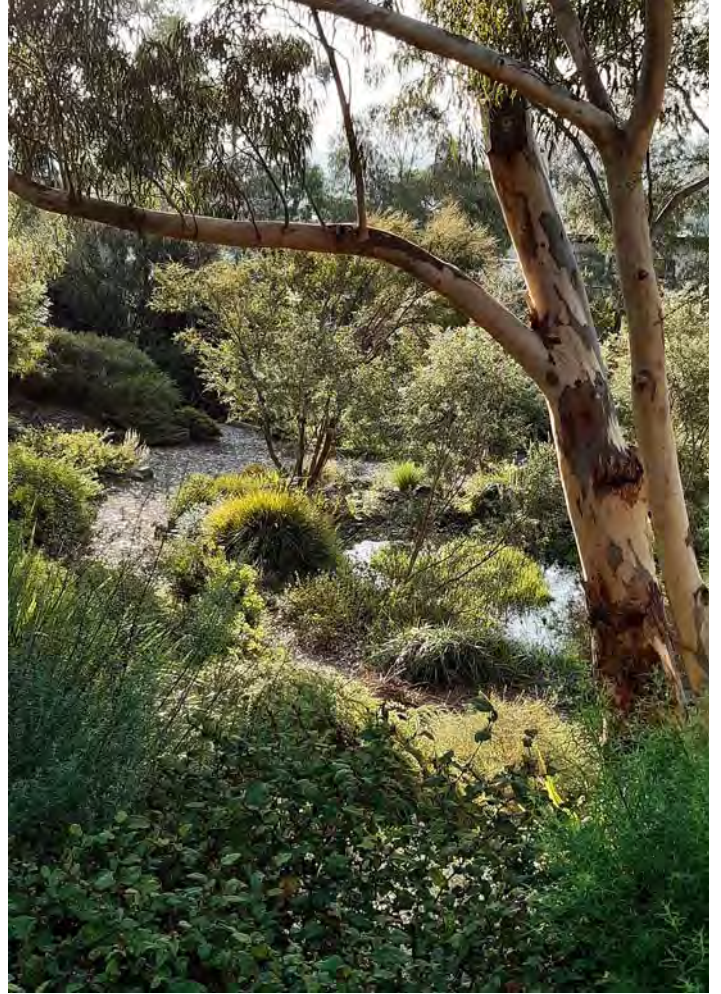
A range of our very best private native gardens to showcase how you too can create a beautiful and biodiverse native garden.



Musk Lorikeet feeding on the nectar of a *Grevillea robusta* flower.



Blue-tongue Lizard in the garden.



Garden of Chris Larkin.

Royal Melbourne Botanic Gardens and public parks.

Rare Victorian plants and rainforest plants will feature as part of a guided tour of the Royal Melbourne Botanic Gardens. Then on to public parks such as Royal Park that have created indigenous gardens and grasslands to restore habitat and showcase Australian plants.



Chysocephalum apiculatum and *Caesia* sp.
Sunbury Railway Remnant.



Grevillea dimorpha Flame Grevillea.
Royal Melbourne Botanic Gardens.

Melton Botanic Garden

Text and Photos: David and Barbara Pye

As part of our day excursions program we also plan to visit Melton Botanic Garden and then the Brisbane Ranges for a wildflower trip. David and Barbara Pye from APS Melton Bacchus Marsh group have put in vast numbers of hours as volunteers - planning, sourcing and growing native plants suitable for the dry conditions in Melbourne's west. Here David and Barbara describe the garden.

With construction commencing in 2011, this young garden occupies 24 hectares, and follows a watercourse, Ryans Creek, to a lake. There are a number of old and magnificent River Red Gums along this creek and elsewhere in the garden is an even older Yellow Box and a swarm of its offspring. There are also a number of trees planted around 40 years ago, with most being Eucalypts. They provide shade to the concrete path that follows the course of Ryans Creek from the north end to the lake at the southern end, and continues as a loop around the lake.



The Melton climate is the driest in the Melbourne area, with a long term average rainfall of 450 mm, but often around 300mm. It suits plants from dry regions with a winter-wet summer-dry climate. The basis for plant selection is suitability for this climate, and most are selected from regions receiving no more than 450mm annual rainfall.

Garden areas include:

- Dryland Eucalyptus arboretum with more than 100 Eucalypt species, and an understorey of indigenous and other dryland plants.
- Western Australian – South Australian (WASA) garden with several hundred plant species.
- Many indigenous plantings - garden beds and lake plus creek revegetation
- Bush Food gardens

Areas still under construction include:

- Eastern Australian Dryland garden

Australian plant enthusiasts often spend long periods of time in the garden, with so many species planted there, including Eucalypts (100 plus), Banksias (30), Hakeas (36), Grevilleas (32), Acacias (53), Eremophilas (88).



Above left: Melton Botanic Garden.

Above right: *Eremophila calorhabdos*, Melton Botanic Garden.



The Melton Botanic Garden is a popular place for walking and photography. The loop around the lake offers views of the lake and creek. There are many other paths which offer a variety of plants and views. Wildlife includes many birds, insects and frogs.

Left: *Eucalyptus wyolensis*, Melton Botanic Garden.

Visit to Friends of Melton Botanic Garden Nursery

As part of your visit to Melton Botanic Garden spare a little time to visit our Nursery. Even if you are from interstate and cannot possibly buy plants it is always interesting to find out how others manage their propagation. We are so ultra-low tech we even hand water, but there are many rare and unusual species that we succeed with. It is all volunteer managed and run, like the rest of the garden. Many are APS members and others joined when they found out what they were missing. Most of our cuttings and many seeds are sourced from the garden. A major exception is the 40-50 species of Eucalypt we grow each year which requires us to buy in seed. If we used seed from our trees we would possibly be selling plants that were cross species.

We propagate many of the WA plants that grow so well in the WASA garden. As well as Eucalypts we grow a wide range of Eremophilas and Correas. We also propagate for planting in the garden. How else would we be able to have the Hibbertia sp that comes from the Eyre Peninsula for the Eyre York Bed. It is a major part of the philosophy of APS, "Preservation through Cultivation", something our Nursery holds dear as well.



Friends of Melton Botanic Garden Nursery.

Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve (LFFR)

This is one of the destinations for our planned day excursions on the Tuesday and Thursday of the conference on the way to the Australian Garden at Cranbourne.

I was first shown around Langwarrin by the wonderful Leon Costermans (author *Trees and Shrubs of Victoria*) about 20 years ago. Leon has been instrumental in saving and restoring this 214-hectare heathy woodland treasure that sits right in amongst Melbourne's south east suburbs. Track closures, clearing days by the friend's group and specific burning practices are used to conserve rare orchids and control weeds such as *Acacia longifolia*.

The reserve and surrounding lands were originally occupied by the Bunurong people who travelled across the peninsula in search of seasonally available foods. It was first established as the Langwarrin Military reserve in 1886 and during World War 1 German prisoners of war were detained at the reserve and a hospital was set up for the treatment of soldiers returning from France and Egypt. Luckily most of the natural vegetation remains!



Pultenaea gunni. LFFR.



Thelymitra rubra. LFFR.



Ornduffia reniformis. LFFR.

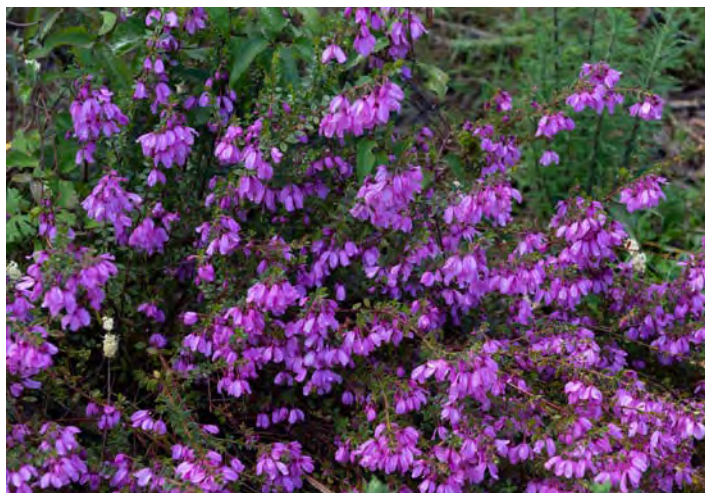
The reserve is of state significance, with 300 indigenous flora species recorded, equating to 45 percent of the species indigenous to the Mornington Peninsula. Plant communities such as the Silverleaf Stringybark open woodland have nearly all been cleared from surrounding areas.

The reserve provides important habitat for native fauna, particularly small mammals, including the Echidna, Agile Antechinus and Swamp Wallaby. A total of 98 bird species, including the rare Southern Emu-wren, Glossy Black-cockatoo and Powerful Owl have been recorded here, making it an excellent reserve for birdwatching.

Some of the twelve species of *Thelymitra* (Sun orchids) should be flowering at the time of our conference excursion. We will be creating a flora list prior to the conference to ID interesting species for you.

References - Parks Victoria, Frankston City Council

Karwarra Australian Native Botanic Garden.



Tetratheca thymifolia.

Karwarra Australian Native Botanic Garden.



Boronia muelleri "Sunset Serenade".

Karwarra Australian Native Botanic Garden.

See more on the Karwarra Australian Native Botanic Garden in next newsletter.

Profiles of Committee Members for the ANPSA Conference 2024

Chris Clarke



Chris Clarke is the co-ordinator of the Committee running the conference. He is the past president of APS Victoria and Vice President of our national association ANPSA.

Chris has been passionate about growing our flora for over 50 years after growing up in the bush in East Ringwood.

He studied Botany at Latrobe and Horticulture at Burnley but was bored by both. He took up representing members as a union official in education and the public sector for the last 35 years.

A member of APS Keilor Plains, Chris leads trips to wildflower hot spots and loves meeting people, photography and iNaturalist.

Nicky Zanen



Nicky has been a member of the SGAP / Australian Plants Society for close on 40 years and has been to almost all the biennial conferences since her introduction to the ASGAP 1995 Conference which was held in Ballarat and ASGAP 2009 held in Geelong when she was

involved on the organizing committees.

Nicky is a keen traveller and loves exploring all the corners of Australia, has a wide interest in natural history and bird watching, and loves catching up with all the terrific people associated with the different native plant societies.