



ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference, Newsletter. July 2023, Issue 3.

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Contact Details

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Register Your Interest

<https://apsvic.org.au/ansa-biennial-conference-2024>

Article and Photo credits in this newsletter:
 Chris Larkin (Karwarra), Neil Duncan (Anglesea), Nicky Zanen (A dip into History), Chris Clarke, Lindy Harris, Margaret MacDonald, Ellinor Campbell, and Miriam Ford.

Gardens for Life

Dawn, Sherbrooke Forest in the Dandenong Ranges National Park, among the tree ferns and towering Mountain Ash. Light begins to spill softly into the forest. Then, right on cue, a Lyrebird calls. Another. They call back and forth, on and off, for the 30 minutes we were at our post doing our bit for the Lyrebird survey. A magical experience.

This walk in Sherbrooke Forest is part of a particular excursion to the Dandenong Ranges on offer for the ANPSA 2024 conference. The Karwarra Native Botanic Garden, also a part of this full day excursion, is described in this issue. Then too the Chelsea Garden at Olinda by Phillip Johnson Landscapes. This Garden will be described in the next issue. Some of you may have seen the recent Better Homes and Gardens broadcast and I can assure you this rebuild is truly spectacular, bigger and better than the original. We have had our very own special sneak-peak.

Then, from the forest to the sea, we go west to the coast to the spring beauty of the orchids and shrubs of the Anglesea heathlands – another of the full day excursions on offer. In my capacity as APS Vic President, I have had the good fortune to visit APS District Groups in many of the places our pre and post conference tours will visit. These tours have been briefly described for you in our first issue. Without doubt they offer a wonderfully rich and varied experience of Victoria’s wild places and cultivated native gardens. Our in-conference excursions offer similar opportunities as you will gather from the descriptions and accompanying images in our previous issue, this current one and the one that will follow.

This 2024 ANPSA conference will be the 32nd and we give you a short pocket history of these national gatherings at the end of this issue. We are in the process of developing a conference specific website with our Professional Conference Organizer ASN and in the meantime we encourage you to go to our webpage and express your interest:

<https://apsvic.org.au/ansa-biennial-conference-2024>

Miriam Ford
 APS Vic President



Sherbrooke Forest.

Conference Day Excursions

Karwarra Gardens (part of the Dandenong Ranges Excursion)

Chris Larkin



Karwarra Australian Native Botanic Garden is set on two hectares of rich volcanic soil in Kalorama at the top of the Dandenong Ranges 35 km east of Melbourne. It showcases Australian plants in a landscaped setting incorporating several water features and it includes an area of undisturbed native bushland containing native orchids and other indigenous flora. The gardens provide



Boronia fraseri.



Karwarra Gardens featuring the *Boronia* and *Telopea* collections.

habitat for wildlife such as a variety of birds, butterflies, insects and frogs as well as echidnas, wombats, bush rats, sugar gliders and possums. Karwarra also has a small nursery with a wide variety of plants for sale.

In 1965 members of the Mt Dandenong and District Horticultural Society had the idea of creating a native plant garden. Subsequently the Shire of Lillydale, (now the Yarra Ranges), purchased the land. After clearing out weeds and fencing the property in 1968 Society members started planting and in 1971 the gardens were officially opened.

Credit must be given to Kath Deery, a talented landscape designer, for the vision and early development of the gardens. This is a stroll garden with winding paths and raised garden beds. Ellis (Rocky) Stones, who worked with Edna Walling for many years, installed a rockery in the lower part of the garden.

Karwarra is responsible for Plant Trust *Boronia* and *Telopea* (Waratah) collections as a member of the Garden Plant Conservation Association of Australia. It also has important plant collections which include *Lasiopetalum*, *Thomasia*, *Epacris*, and members of the Rutaceae family.

Karwarra is a beautiful mature garden, a real pleasure to visit at any time of year but particularly showy in spring when it is a feast for the senses. It is a garden for relaxation, inspiration and learning, with many paths to explore and treasures to be seen.

Reference: “Karwarra: Australian Native Botanic Garden and Plant Nursery” by Yarra Ranges Council.



Phebalium squamulosum subsp. *argenteum*.

Anglesea – Victoria’s Biodiversity Hotspot

Neil Duncan

Anglesea is a town of about 2,500 people 100km south-west of Melbourne. It is surrounded by the Bass Strait, Otway National Park and the decommissioned Alcoa coalmine.

It is one of the few areas in south west Victoria to have escaped farming and urbanisation and so has the richest and most diverse vegetation community in Victoria.

The area has more than 700 species of plants which is over a quarter of the Victoria’s flora and has two plants found nowhere else – the Anglesea grevillea *Grevillea infecunda* and the Anglesea leek orchid *Prasophyllum odoratum* as well as many rare and threatened species at a state or national level.





Grevillea infecunda, Anglesea Grevillea.



Prasophyllum odoratum, Anglesea Leek Orchid.



Xanthorrhoea australis, Austral Grass-tree.

It is also a hot spot for orchids with more than 100 species being recorded in the area, one of the most orchid rich areas in Australia. Here you can find greenhood orchids, helmet orchids, sun orchids and donkey orchids, with orchids to be found flowering throughout the year.

The plant life brings a host of other life including insects, birds, reptiles and fish in the Anglesea River.

Anglesea is also a haven for birds with over 100 species being recorded including Powerful Owls and the Rufous Bristlebird.

Mammals are also abundant with 29 species being present including the critically endangered New Holland Mouse, Southern Brown Bandicoot and the rare Swamp Antechinus.

A visit to the area is certainly one not to be missed.





Anglesea Heath.

A dip into History

Nicky Zanen

On the 12th March 1957 the inaugural meeting of what became known as the Society for Growing Australian Plants was held in Melbourne. Within one year the Society would become a national organization! In 1962 representatives from Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia got together in Canberra and this could be termed the founding of our biennial conferences. They have evolved into a week of seminars and local day trips, and pre and post conference tours.

APS Victoria hosted the 25th ASGAP Biennial Conference in 2009 in Geelong, and at that Council meeting, the name of the national Society was changed from ASGAP to ANPSA – the Australian Native Plants Society Australia.

In 2024 APS Victoria will be hosting the 32nd Biennial Conference. The biennial conferences are hosted by the associated societies in the following order. Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, ACT, Tasmania, Western Australia, New South Wales and back to Victoria. We now have over 100 local district groups across Australia and you can find details of your State/Territory contacts here: <https://anpsa.org.au/>

Profiles of Committee Members for the ANPSA Conference 2024

Miriam Ford



Miriam was born and bred in Queensland and went to University in Brisbane in the 1970s, then onto London where she furthered her training as a research scientist. She returned to Melbourne in the mid 1980s and spent another 20 years

in research before retiring to grow plants and a large Australian garden.

She joined APS in 1996 and has served in committee and executive roles in her district group, APS Yarra Yarra before joining the APS Vic executive in 2019. She is the current President of APS Vic. She loves propagating plants and has a particular interest in Australian Mint Bushes.

Chris Long



Chris has been a member of APS Victoria for over 30 years and has served 10 consecutive years on the executive as Treasurer three years, President three years and Secretary four years. He has been treasurer of his District Group, APS

Mornington Peninsula for 12 years.

He has had a life-long interest in Australian Plants and enjoys gardening on a normal size suburban block. He brings many years of work experience as a manager to the task of effective management of APS now and into the future.

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.