



ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference, Newsletter. May 2024, Issue 8

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Photo credits in this newsletter: Robyn Tyson, Chris Larkin, Miriam Ford, Maree Goods and John Sherwood

<https://www.anpsa2024conference.com>

## Gardens for Life ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference Melbourne

In this issue we begin our series on the Speakers starting off with the Wednesday Break-out sessions. We wanted to give attendees more choice across a greater range of speakers. On Wednesday they have the opportunity to select 6 from a choice of 14 topics on offer. We also have some extra, behind the scenes information, on the different tours from the bus captains involved. We are rapidly approaching the deadline for the Early Bird Registrations (June 30) and the tours are filling fast so book yourself in if you don't want to miss out. Please note that the A J Swaby address is at 3:30pm on Wednesday and open to the public.

Miriam Ford, Convenor - ANPSA 2024 Conference.

## To register for the Conference and Tours go to

<https://www.anpsa2024conference.com/registration>

## Early Bird Rate for Conference closes 30 June 2024

More details on page 7

## Great Ocean Road and Otways Covering 100 Million Years in 6 Days

*John Sherwood (tour host and Warrnambool and District APS member)*

The Great Ocean Road (GOR) rightly deserves its identification as one of Australia's iconic drives. Our tour will spend 4 days doing justice to its spectacularly rugged scenery before emerging onto the western Victorian plains and Warrnambool. From a geological standpoint the journey can be regarded as crossing three geological regions – the Otway Range, an ancient marine floor and the newer volcanic plain.

The Otways rise to a little over 1000m and are a relatively young mountain range. The sedimentary rocks forming it were deposited in a rift valley as Antarctica and Australia parted company between 100 and 50 million years ago. The Range was uplifted between 8 and 4 million years ago resulting in a steep sided and dissected block oriented roughly SW to NE. Many short steep streams run to the coast. Vegetation cover in their valleys varies from tall eucalypt woodland to temperate rainforest while coastal heath blankets the flatter coastal regions. The GOR runs along the seaward flank of this block and we will have good opportunities to explore examples of each floristic community (and to be enchanted by viewsapes!)



Temperate rainforest of the Otways.

Further west as we approach Warrnambool the landscape flattens and we travel across sediments laid down in a series of marine incursions between 60 and 8 million years ago. These incursions resulted from successive stretching and bulging of the crust as Australia has ground its way north at a few centimetres a year. The most obvious of the marine sediments is a yellow limestone exposed at the coast – the Port Campbell Limestone. It was deposited around 15 million years ago, when the coast was near present day Hamilton. The limestone is relatively soft and marine erosion has carved (and continues to carve) it into a beautifully intricate coast oriented broadside on to the Southern Ocean and the prevailing SW winds. Many early sailing vessels were wrecked on what has become

known as the “Shipwreck Coast”. Coastal heath here must be adapted to alkaline soils and extreme exposure to salt and wind. We will explore this plant community at the stunning Twelve Apostles and at Port Campbell.

At Warrnambool we encounter one of over 400 volcanoes forming an extensive volcanic plain between Mt Gambier and Melbourne. Successive eruptions occurred over the last 4 million years. At 35,000 years Tower Hill is one of the younger eruptions. It exploded incredibly violently when molten rock vapourised groundwater and formed a crater roughly 3km in diameter. The volcanic ash deposited around the crater has formed a rich soil. Early Irish settlers took advantage of its fertility to develop a strong potato farming industry. Two of the gardens we will visit are alongside the volcano and also demonstrate the productive nature of the soil for native plants. As we drive back to Melbourne along the Princes Highway we



Part of the spectacular Port Campbell Limestone coast.



will pass other volcanic features including scoria cones and lakes. We will also cross old lava flows – aptly called “stony rises” by early settlers.

Tower Hill volcano  
(Image: Victorian Government)

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# Break Out Sessions

In this newsletter we are featuring some of our presenters for the Break Out Sessions. The remainder of the presenters will be featured in following newsletters. We are fortunate that our presenters for the Break Out Sessions come from varied backgrounds and industries and are well qualified to speak on their subject for our “Gardens for Life” Conference.

The Break Out Sessions will give you the opportunity to attend six presentations from the varied choice of topics.

## Shirley McLaran

### The Amazing Diversity of Pea Flowers

Shirley McLaran is leader of the ANPSA Pea Flower Study Group. Shirley first became interested in native plants in 1996 and has been learning ever since from formal and informal study. Her formal study began with a TAFE course on horticulture. Shirley also joined the Australian Plant Society in 1996 to broaden her knowledge of Australian plants and this led to her regularly attending her local group and the ANPSA biennial conferences. Shirley completed a Bachelor of Science majoring in Botany from the University of New England in 2018.



*Phyllota phyllicoides.*



*Podolobium ilicifolium.*

Shirley's passion is plant identification and classification. Intrigued by their diversity she decided to revive the Pea Flower Study Group in 2019. Pea flowers are a wonderfully diverse group of plants with over 1100 native species, many of which have yellow petals with red markings, earning them the tag 'egg-and-bacon' peas. Shirley will share her top tips to help you recognise some of the 'egg-and-bacon' genera in the field. Shirley says “Don't pea afraid”!



*Dillwynia floribunda.*

## Professor David Watson

### Mistletoes



David Watson is Professor of Ecology, School of Agriculture, Environment and Veterinary Science, Gullbali Institute, Charles Sturt University, Albury. He leads a team of researchers working on landscape scale restoration in rural and urban areas underpinned by innovative cutting edge approaches to field research.

David will look at the important role mistletoes play in the environment. Research underpins his understanding of their role as a keystone resource for wildlife i.e. their habitat values for birds and insects. Recently he has run projects to reintroduce mistletoes to urban environments including Melbourne.



*Amyema linophylla subsp. orientale.*

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## Chris Larkin

### Designing Gardens for WildLife

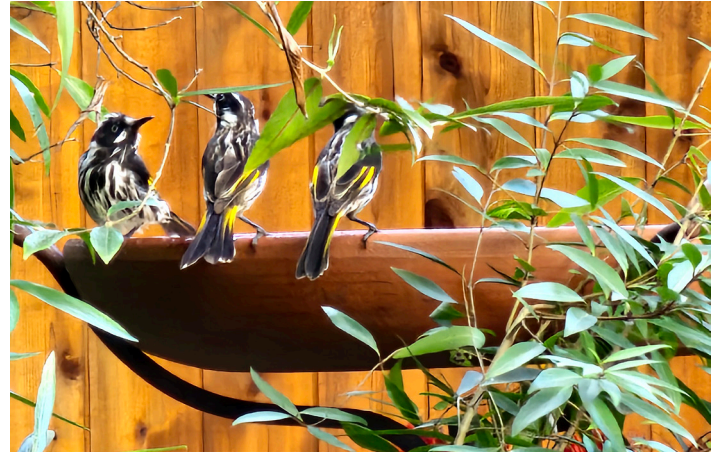
Chris has been a member of APS Foothills since 1993 and is currently the leader. She joined the ANPSA Garden Design Study Group around 1995 to learn as much as she could about how to create a beautiful garden. She has written many articles for their newsletter and was a contributing author to the Diana Snape book, 'The Australian Garden'. More recently Chris has also been writing about garden design for Victoria's quarterly journal 'Growing Australian'. Her garden has been part of the City of Knox 'Gardens for Wildlife' program since 2009, featured on Gardening Australia in Nov 2023, and in the December 2023 issue of the Gardening Australia magazine. You can visit her garden as part of the Conference.



Seating in the garden.

Chris says all of us who manage our gardens are garden designers, whether we see ourselves in quite that way or not. We make, and continue to make, choices about the style of our gardens – shape of paths, garden beds, outdoor living areas, lawns, ponds etc, and the choice and arrangement of plants in bringing life to that hard landscape. Should we think more seriously about the role our gardens can have in supporting wildlife and increasing our personal wellbeing? These are important, even urgent questions, for our time. Can we work in partnership with nature for our mutual benefit? What things should we think about in assessing what

we have, and imagining what we could have if we made some adjustments to the design of our garden?



New Holland Honeyeaters enjoying their bird bath.



A Common Brown Butterfly in the garden.

## Michael Cincotta

### Darebin Re-wilding Program

Michael is the Biodiversity and Habitat Coordinator at Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary and Indigenous Nursery at La Trobe University, Bundoora, Melbourne. The University sits within the Darebin Shire.

Michael will speak about the Darebin re-wilding program which started in 2020 and which has been involved in planting over a million plants throughout the city of Darebin. Not just swathes of understorey planting in areas where it is possible but diverse plantings of small through to larger species creating habitat and canopy that will encourage pollinators and improve the beauty and amenity of the environment for all who live in it. There is a very productive indigenous nursery at Nangak Tamboree that provides the huge numbers of plants required throughout the shire and that also services the public through the onsite commercial facility.

He will tell us about their work including the very productive Seed Orchard. This ex-situ seed production enables them to produce seed for rare and threatened species that are otherwise difficult to source and which has been pivotal to their success with *Dianella amoena*



*Rutidosis leptorrhynchoides* growing in the Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary and Indigenous Nursery.

(matted flax lily) and the *Rutidosis leptorrhynchoides* (Button Wrinklewort). They are working with the Arthur Rylah Institute with regard to the latter and have a diverse source of maternal lines of a diploid population for their work. Ensuring genetic diversity of a rare and threatened species takes careful focused work of an intense, time-consuming nature which brings dividends. Michael will tell us about how this works and the various projects including the one at Truganina Cemetery (City of Melton & Wyndham area) where they have created a boundary planting to increase the genetic diversity and attract more of the smaller pollinators such as butterflies and hoverflies.



The many plants in pots in the Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary and Indigenous Nursery ready to plant out.

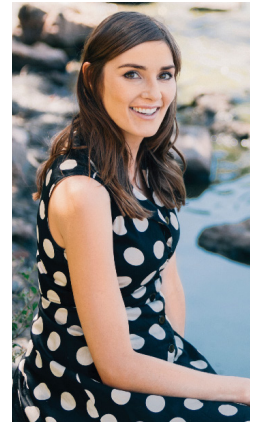


Hover Fly. One of our small pollinators.

## Emmaline Bowman

### Wetland Gardens

Emmaline is an award-winning Landscape Architect and the director of STEM Landscape Architecture & Design. She has a bachelor of Design and a Masters in Landscape Architecture. Her garden at the 2024 Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS) won the gold medal and many other awards.



Emmaline grew up on her family's farm in the small district of Winnindoo in East Gippsland. This was where her love for nature and animals flourished. She would venture into the creek to observe the animals, plants, insects, fish, and reptiles and as she grew, she saw the plants and the biodiversity grow along with her. She believes that every answer can be delivered when you look into nature, and she strives in creating environments that respect Australian flora and fauna in ways that are not only beneficial but beautiful.



Emmaline Bowman's award winning garden at MIFGS.

Emmaline has worked on numerous projects, from small to medium sized properties up to large scale properties and farms. Her favourite projects are the ones involving water, whether it's a small to medium sized pond up to large scale dams, wetlands, and swales. Her work has been featured in numerous publications such as the Age, Herald Sun, House & Garden, and Birds in Backyards Magazine, and she has appeared on Gardening Australia featuring her large wetland project in the Plenty Valley and as a guest host with topics on how to bring Wildlife into your garden. Emmaline wrote about some of her work – Dam Conversions - for our ANPSA 2024 Conference Edition of Australian Plants (V32, no 257), Summer 2023/24. At the conference she will speak about a variety of projects involving working with water including what it takes to create an award winning MIFGS garden.

# Wilson's Promontory Gippsland Tour

Robyn Tyson

The route for this tour was designed to showcase some of Victoria's diverse plant habitats, even though we will only be within 200 km of Melbourne. Our small state has a lot to offer.

As briefly mentioned in a previous newsletter we will be visiting forests, heathland, mangroves, coastal sand dunes and rainforest fern gullies. The first habitat we will encounter is mangroves, as we circle Westernport Bay. The shallower waters are ideal for grey mangrove colonies growing along creek lines and inlets. We will find these again on the shores of Corner and Shallow



*Patersonia fragilis*.

Inlets further south. The Koo Wee Rup Swamp was the largest swamp in the southern hemisphere. Canals were cut to drain the land for farming. This area is so low that should the sea rise it will fill in this area and meet up with Port Phillip bay, creating a new island of the Mornington Peninsula.

A bit further around we encounter the sandy woodlands, a floristically diverse area, sadly under threat from quarrying. The Gurdies jut out of this area and is covered by woodland. Several Eucalypt species form the canopy *Eucalyptus obliqua*, *E ovata*, *E radiata*, *viminalis* subsp *pryoriana* and the understorey is made up of low shrubs and herbaceous plants.

Forest plays a big part of this tour. A lot of the original forest was removed for farming, housing, industry and fire wood. We will be visiting remnant forest, natural regeneration areas as well as revegetation projects.

These forests tend to be on the hills as the flatter areas remain farmland.



*Davesia latifolia*.

Our next major habitat is heathland, one step back from the coast but still influenced by sea salt winds and poorer soils



such as low growing herbs, stunted trees and grasses. Heathland plants tend to be low growing.

At both Wonthaggi and the Prom the diverse range of plants will amaze. Near Wonthaggi we will visit the cleverly revegetated surrounds of the Desalination Plant, (not the plant itself).

We will be visiting some private gardens, and as we all know, what you would like to grow, and what does grow, are two different things.

At Foster there is an opportunity to walk in the regenerated forest close to the motel. Once a mining area the plants have reclaimed the land. This occurs throughout Victoria's old mining areas and it is amazing that the seed bank survives the upheaval of the soils and denuding of the vegetation.

The Wilson's Promontory National Park (Prom) was extended in the sixties and the land was left to naturally regenerate itself from grazed farmland. It has also been devastated by several major bushfires, and is completely



*Banksia serrata* woodland.

surrounded by sea except for the narrow neck attaching it to the mainland. Some of these regenerated habitats are a plain of *Xanthorrea australis*, and forests of *Banksia serrata*. As we traverse through the Prom we will encounter forests, heathland and mangroves, we are now familiar with, but a new habitat comes to light, fern gullies.

Leaving the coast we are heading inland over the Strzelecki Range that separates southern Gippsland

from the Latrobe Valley. Here we will visit pockets of remnant forests over the next two days. Tarra Bulga National Park has very good examples of cool temperate rainforest and fern gullies. We may also encounter a Lyrebird or two.

Our last day will be looking at the Morwell National Park, which was heavily logged in the past. Again regeneration and revegetation has returned it to many natural habitats; mountain forest, fern gullies, and dry rainforest.



*Stackhousia* sp. Wonthaggi Heathland.



Morwell National Park.

I hope this has whetted your interest and you might like to join either myself, Nicky Zanen or Chris Clarke on a pre or post conference tour of the Prom and Gippsland.

## Pre and Post Conference Tours

Pre - 23 to 28 September 2024

Post - 5 to 10 October 2024

- **Grampians Wimmera Tour**  
**\$1800 AUD**  
(Pre Conference tour booked out)
- **Great Ocean Road Otways Tour**  
**\$2380 AUD**
- **Gippsland Wilsons Promontory Tour**  
**\$2080 AUD**  
*Single person supplement not included. Additional costs are required at registration.*

Book your tour

<https://www.anpsa2024conference.com/registration>

## Conference Registration

### Early Bird Rate

- **\$585 AUD (ends 30 June 2024)**

### Full Conference Rate

- **\$650 AUD**

*Registration includes access to all five days including any day excursions and conference catering.*

### Day Only Registration

- **1 Day Rate: \$160 AUD**
- **2 Day Rate: \$290 AUD**
- **3 Day Rate \$420 AUD**

*Registration includes access to all Conference Sessions on your nominated day of attendance including conference catering.*

### Limited Student Discounts Now Available

Book for Conference

<https://www.anpsa2024conference.com/registration>

## AJ Swaby Lecture “Connected through nature”

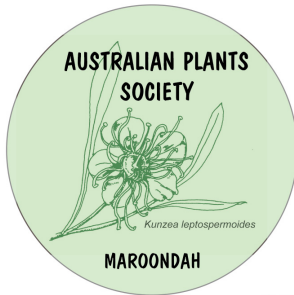
*Presenter: Phillip Johnson*

Open to the public, free of charge

**3:30pm, Wednesday 2 October 2024**

**The Round, 379-399 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading, Victoria**

# Booking Form for the Dinner



## ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference Dinner

Hosted by APS Maroondah Inc

Wednesday 2 October, 6:30pm

The Round, Nunawading

Name(s):	
Email Address	
Phone no(s) pref. mobile	

### Evening meal booking at The Round:

Day	Cost per person	Number of persons	Total Cost \$
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	\$65.00		
		All meals total	

*Please indicate below any special dietary requirements that you may need:*

NAME:

NAME:

Payment can be made by **please indicate option** :

Y/N Direct credit (date payment made: \_\_/\_\_/2024 )

Commonwealth Bank Account name: Australian Plants Society Maroondah Inc

BSB: 063 195 Account number: 10034950

Reference: **Please use your surname plus last 4 digits of mobile phone number**

Y/N Cheque or money order (payable to Australian Plants Society Maroondah Inc)

### MAILING ARRANGEMENTS

**Please send completed Registration Form including payment details using either:**

Email with attached form to APS Maroondah at [ANPSADinner@gmail.com](mailto:ANPSADinner@gmail.com)

OR

Post form (and cheque/money order if applicable) to:

Bev Fox, Treasurer, APS Maroondah Inc

PO Box 33 Ringwood, VIC 3134

**Bookings for the dinner will close on Friday 13 September 2024**