



## Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Conference

Hosted by

The Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic  
Garden Inc,



Port Augusta on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> August 2012

### “Mangroves, Myalls and More”

The Friends of The Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, Port Augusta Incorporated cordially invite you to attend the biennial conference of The Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc. August 2012

Pre and post conference tours will be available (see p 3).

Conference proceedings and social activities are planned both at The Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden (AALBG) established in Western Myall woodland with open saltbush plains and a fringe of Grey Mangroves along the shoreline of Spencer Gulf, and at the nearby Port Augusta Golf Club, the venue for the conference proceedings and dinner.

Invited speakers are respected professionals and practitioners in their areas of expertise. We have chosen to focus on the theme of Myalls (the Western Myall is the emblem of the AALBG and occurs in the Garden); Mangroves (Grey Mangroves grow along the shore of Spencer Gulf our Garden's eastern boundary;) and More, which will include discussion on Eucalypts, European Explorers, Birds of the Region, Goyder's Line, and Water Supply in South Australia (continuing the discussion of reduced water availability in southern Australia which was largely the focus of the Mildura Conference).

There will be time also for discussion on your role as Friends' volunteers in our various gardens and time will be set aside for brief presentations from other Friends' groups. During breaks and social functions there will be the opportunity to interact with other delegates and share experiences.

The AALBG is situated on the Stuart Highway at Port Augusta West, 1.5 km from the city centre.

Port Augusta is served by rail, bus and air services and has ample accommodation.



**Proposed Conference Programme**

**FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup> August – Pre Conference Optional Extras**

8.30 – 4.30	Highlights of the Southern Flinders Ranges tour.
8.00 – 10.00am	Top End Eco Cruise – to the top of Spencer Gulf where the Desert meets the Sea
10.00 – 12 noon	Top End Eco Cruise repeated, depending on demand
12 noon – 2.00	Top End Eco Cruise repeated again if demand warrants (earlier cruises to be filled first)
4.30 – 6.00	Delegates may register and collect their Conference Bag at the Wadlata Outback Centre. Come early and take a virtual tour of the Outback encompassing the history of northern SA.
6.00pm	Civic Reception Wadlata Outback Centre, 41 Flinders Tce Port Augusta

**MANGROVES, MYALLS AND MORE**

**SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> August 2012 at the Port Augusta Golf Club, Hamilton Road, Port Augusta West**

Session 1	<b>Welcome and setting the scene by MC/President of Friends of the AALBG</b>
8.00 – 8.30	Registration
8.30 – 8.45	Welcome
8.45 – 9.45	Keynote Speaker – Professor Chris Daniels <i>“Backyards: The most important room in the house”</i>
9.45 – 10.15	Morning Tea

Session 2 **Mangroves and Myalls**

10.15 – 11.00	Geoff Reid – <i>“Mangroves - Where the Sea Meets the Land”</i>
11.00 – 11.45	Dr Carolyn Ireland – <i>Western Myall</i>
11.45 – 12.15	Dr Nita Lester – <i>‘Myalls, Brigalows and Butterflies’</i>
12.15 – 1.00	<b>Lunch</b>

Session 3

1.00 – 1.45	Valmai Hankel – <i>European Explorers of the Region</i>
1.45 – 2.30	Dr Dean Nicolle – <i>Eucalypts</i>
2.30 – 3.15	Professor Don Bursill – <i>Water for SA, Australia’s driest state</i>
3.15 – 3.45	Afternoon Tea
3.45 – 4.30	Visiting Friends’ brief presentations
4.30	Conference close for today
6.30 for 7.00	<b>Conference Dinner Port Augusta Golf Club, Hamilton Road, Port Augusta West.</b> <b>After Dinner Speaker – Dr John Read. <i>MORE than just pretty plants.</i></b>

**SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> August 2012 at The Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden**

7.00 – 9.00	Bird walk followed by breakfast at AALBG
9.00 – 10.30	Guided walking tours of AALBG
10.30 – 11.00	Move to Port Augusta Golf Club
11.00 – 11.45	Peter Langdon – <i>Changes in Dynamics of Birds Seen In and Around AALBG</i>
11.45 – 12.30	Peter Hayman – <i>Goyder’s Line</i>
12.30 - 2.00	Lunch
2.00 – 3.00	AGM.
3.00 - 3.30	Visiting Friends’ brief presentations
3.30 – 3.45	2014 Conference announcement and presentation
3.45	Conference close

**Note:** There may be slight changes to the programme in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

**MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> August 2012 – Post Conference Optional Extras**

8.30 – 5.30	Central Flinders Ranges tour Quorn, Hawker & Wilpena
8.00 – 10.00	Top End Eco Cruise to top of Spencer Gulf where the Desert meets the Sea
10.00 – 12 noon	Top End Eco Cruise, repeated if sufficient interest
12 noon – 2.00	Top End Eco Cruise if earlier cruises full & demand warrants

**Mon 20<sup>th</sup> to Fri 24<sup>th</sup> August. 5 day tour of Flinders Ranges – see page 4 - This will fill early. Be Quick!!**

**Optional Tours**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> August. Highlights of the Southern Flinders Ranges.** Hancock's Lookout, Wilmington, historic Melrose, the oldest town in the Flinders Ranges. Meet locals and hear about national parks and reserves. Then to Wirrabara Forest and nursery, an amazing old arboretum of trees and trial plantings from many parts of the world. This is the second oldest planted forest in the British Commonwealth! Lunch will feature local produce. Drive through the forest to spectacular Port Germein Gorge, visit Port Germein and local horticultural enterprises. Includes lunch. [morning & afternoon tea are at own expense] **Cost** \$105 per person

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August. Central Flinders Ranges.** Pichi Richi Pass to Quorn, alongside the original Old Ghan Railway. Visit the Powell Gardens, which showcase local native plants, and a Quandong plantation, before crossing the Willochra Plain, visiting Kanyaka Ruins and the ghost towns of Gordon and Wilson. At Hawker visit the Jeff Morgan Panorama Gallery. Lunch at Hawker. Continue north along the Leigh Creek Road on the western side of the Ranges and then to Wilpena via the Moralana Scenic Drive with its spectacular views. A short stop at Wilpena, before returning to Hawker, Quorn and Port Augusta. Morning tea and lunch included. [afternoon tea at own expense] **Cost** \$105 per person

On both tours stops will be made at places with toilet facilities.

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> & Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August Top End Eco Cruise.** Each 2 hour cruise is limited to 14 passengers. This spectacular cruise reaches the top of Spencer Gulf and passes the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden. Dolphins, sting rays, and birdlife are seen on most cruises. See where desert dunes meet the sea and have a close up look at mangroves. The Gulf is very calm in this region and the boat well appointed and comfortable. Highly recommended. Cost \$40.00, includes refreshments. The second and third cruise will operate only if the earlier cruises are fully booked.

If you would like to do this cruise on other days, before or after the conference, book directly with the operator, Aaron, Ph: 0438 857 001 or visit [www.flindersoutbackdaytours.com.au](http://www.flindersoutbackdaytours.com.au). Mention you are attending the Conference and receive a discount.

**Conference Speakers**

**Professor Chris Daniels** Director Barbara Hardy Institute Division of Information technology, Engineering and Environment University of South Australia. Presiding Member, Adelaide and Mount Lofty Natural Resource Management Board.

**Jeff Reid** The co-ordinator of C.O.O.T.S [Conservation of Our Threatened Species] which is the conservation group of the Australian Plants Society.

**Dr. Carolyn Ireland** Director of Australia's Rangeland Society and member of the Dog Fence Board.

**Dr Nita Lester** *PhD (Science), PhD (Education), BA, FACE, JP (Qual)* Senior Lecturer and Convenor, Griffith University. Mt Gravatt Campus. Botanist Queensland Government

**Valmai Hankel** Australian Historian and Librarian

**Dr John Read** Ecologist, environmentalist and Author

**Dr Dean Nicolle** Consultant Arborist, Botanist and Eucalyptologist. Currency Creek Arboretum SA

**Professor Don Bursill AM** One of Australia's most respected water scientists and water management experts.

**Peter Langdon** Considered to be one of The top Australian Birders and Bird Artists.

**Dr. Peter Hayman** Principal Scientist in climate applications at the South Australian Research and Development Institute based at Waite Institute.

<b>PLEASE SEND CHEQUE [Made out to Friends of The Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Inc.]</b> <b>And Registration form to:</b> FAALBG Treasurer PO Box 2040 PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700 <b>Fax: 08 8648 6490 Mob: 0418 447 020</b>	<b>Or Payment EFT</b> <b>BSB: 035 065 WESTPAC</b> <b>a/c no: 164 604 a/c name FAALBG</b> <b>Reference: "name of person banking"</b> <b>Post/fax /email registration form following EFT</b> <b>Email: <a href="mailto:glgadavis@bigpond.com">glgadavis@bigpond.com</a></b>
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See websites: [www.australian-aridlands-botanic-garden.org](http://www.australian-aridlands-botanic-garden.org) & [www.aalbg.sa.gov.au](http://www.aalbg.sa.gov.au)

**Accommodation:** Port Augusta has a range of motels, hotels ,cabin and caravan parks.

Please book directly through the Wadlata Outback Centre which is handling bookings for accommodation. Besides being the Regional Tourist Information Centre it has an outstanding Outback Interpretive Centre which is well worth visiting. Allow at least 2 hours when you are here.

Wadlata staff can advise on the range of accommodation available, special deals and provide information and advice on Port Augusta and the wider region. Make sure you mention you will be attending the Conference. They can also advise on transport to Port Augusta if you are not driving, and on local tours if you are interested in additional options to those in our programme. You may like to request brochures on the region. The "Flinders Ranges and Outback" guide is excellent and covers the whole region in detail. Also the "Port Augusta Visitor Guide" will provide you with useful information.

Wadlata Outback Centre: 41 Flinders Terrace Port Augusta SA 5700 Telephone (08) 8641 9193 Facsimile: (08) 8642 4288 Email: [wadlata@portaugusta.sa.gov.au](mailto:wadlata@portaugusta.sa.gov.au) Website: [www.wadlata.sa.gov.au](http://www.wadlata.sa.gov.au)

**5 Day Flinders Ranges Tour Price per person \$1495**

Explore this ancient land with the locals. Discover hidden treasures of the area and meet outback characters. Truly an experience not to be missed.

**DAY 1** Monday 20th August - Port Augusta – Rawnsley Park via Quorn and Tickle Belly Hill L,D,A Rawnsley Park Station.

Dine at Wilpena Pound Restaurant.

**DAY 2** Tuesday 21st August – Free day at Wilpena Pound . Lunch at own expense. Many optional tours to pick from. Flight over Lake Eyre, Wilpena Pound or Hot Air Balloon trip. B,D, A Rawnsley Park Station.

**DAY 3** Wednesday 22nd August – Rawnsley Park to Arkaroola via historic town of Blinman and Parachilna Gorge

B,L,D,A Arkaroola Wildlife Sanctuary

**DAY 4** Thursday 23rd August –After breakfast 4.5hr Ridge Top tour .Talk about the local plant species. B, D, A Arkaroola Wildlife Sanctuary.

**DAY 5** Friday 24th August – Arkaroola to Port Augusta via Leigh Creek Mine Lookout and Aroona Dam Sanctuary. Lunch at the famous Prairie Hotel.

We then travel to Hawker to visit the Jeff Morgan Panorama Gallery. B,L

Return to Port Augusta at approximately 5.30pm.

Includes all meals as indicated e.g. B (Breakfast) L (Lunch) D (Dinner) A (Accommodation)

All attraction and entrance fees are included except Day 2 activities .phone 08 8642 6827 or email [info@gulfgetaways.com.au](mailto:info@gulfgetaways.com.au) for more information. **Phone 08 8642 6827 or email [info@gulfgetaways.com.au](mailto:info@gulfgetaways.com.au) for more information and bookings**