

Australasian Botanic Garden Guides

18th Conference: Adelaide 20th–23rd October 2025

Visions & Visionaries – Past, Present & Future

Excursions: Wednesday 22nd October 2025.

ONE ONLY of the following excursions can be selected when booking.

Morning tea, and lunch are included in each trip. Early bookings get first preference.

1. THE ADELAIDE HILLS

One of the best kept secrets of South Australia is the rolling landscape of the Adelaide Hills. We will drive past apple orchards, boutique vineyards of the Mount Lofty Ranges to our first stop at Wyndbourne Park. Then we'll travel to Drouin, a garden on the outskirts of Littlehampton. The last stop is The Cedars which was the home of Sir Hans and Nora Heysen.

Wyndbourne Park: Set on the eastern side of the Mount Lofty Ranges, this garden provides expansive views of the surrounding countryside. Situated on 30 acres in a peaceful and rural environment, the owners have made great use of the variety of microclimates within the property and grow a huge range of plants ranging from hardy, Mediterranean plants such as aloes and euphorbias to plants from cooler and wetter regions. A visit to this rambling garden will delight all your senses and brighten your day.

Drouin: You will be amazed what the owners of this garden have achieved in just over 10 years. Drouin is a garden full of colour, textures and contrasts provided by a large collection of plants. Starting with a blank canvas apart from a few mature trees in the front garden they have added 400 more trees. Initially this environment suited roses and now there are over 1,000 roses in the garden. There are formal rose beds, as well beds combining roses with a mix of other plants. As the trees have created more shade, roses have been moved to other areas. Camellias thrive in the shadier areas. Enjoy the eight water features and the winding garden paths that take you from one visual delight to another.

The Cedars: If you like visiting historic buildings, viewing art or exploring gardens then a visit to The Cedars is a must. The Cedars is a historic home situated near Hahndorf. It was the home of Sir Hans Heysen the renowned Australian landscape artist and his family. Visit Hans' original studio where he created many of his famous works. Walk through the home and view Hans' and daughter Nora's original landscape, portrait and still life paintings. Wander through the beautiful gardens that surround the home and cast your eye to the magnificent eucalypts in the distance that feature so much in Hans Heysen's paintings.

OR 2. TOWARD THE BAROSSA

This excursion to the north of Adelaide visits three country gardens whose owners/caretakers have responded to the advantages and challenges of circumstance, place and environment in very different ways. These three gardens present varied interpretations about what a garden can be.

The Food Forest: near Gawler is a garden in the broadest sense – a food garden cultivated on the banks of the Gawler River. In over 40 years of sustainable gardening, farming and building,

Annemarie and Graham Brookman have established a productive and diverse property which produces over 160 varieties of organically certified fruit and nuts, cereals and vegetables, free range eggs, honey, carob beans, wine, lamb, geese, native foods and nursery plants.

Barossa Bushgardens: is a community garden at Nuriootpa whose creation in 2001 was in response to the need for a seed bank to propagate and supply local Barossa plants, in the context of 97% vegetation loss in the region. Today the garden is home to about 130 of the 400+ species of plants which can be found in the region. It showcases different plant associations, as well as display gardens. There is an on-site nursery and Natural Resource Management Centre (NRC) which provides information to assist the community with sustainable living, land and natural resource management and ways to adapt to a changing climate.

Al Ru Farm: Ruth Irving has applied her extensive plant knowledge to convert 10 acres of farmland at Sampson Flat into a vibrant and creatively designed ornamental garden filled with flowers throughout the seasons. It features a series of richly planted garden rooms, each with its own style and palette of plants. This is a large, rambling country garden of unexpected treasures, with both formal and wild areas of garden.

OR **3. THE FLEURIEU**

This excursion takes visitors south of Adelaide via the Fleurieu Peninsula. A private garden and a community planted and maintained native flora reserve will be visited. On the return to Adelaide the historic Waite Arboretum will be the final stop.

Etre: fifty kilometres south of Adelaide in the town of Willunga, Etre is a small-scale example of living sustainability in an attractive setting. It's the home of garden designer and sculptor Evette Sunset. Fruit and nut trees, native and ornamental trees and edible plants dotted amongst ornamentals provide year-round food, bright colour and fragrance. Natural materials, found objects and re-purposed building materials have been integrated into the imaginative plantings. Within the 660 square metres there are multiple areas to delight in this artistic, ingenious and productive garden.

Nangawooka: is a 2 hectare reserve thirty five kilometres south of Willunga. Started in 1982 it has been planted and supported by a range of volunteer organisations, and is currently maintained by The Friends of Nangawooka. The former cow paddock is now a wonderful mix of native plants from all over Australia. The northern end features WA species, the central area is a general mix of native species and the southern end has species specific to the Fleurieu Peninsula, providing an abundance of flowers through spring and well into October. Most species are named. Over 60 species of birds have been recorded including a population of Blue Wrens. Facilities include a gazebo, seats scattered throughout the garden and a bird hide and pond, providing a delightful environment to enjoy lunch.

Waite Arboretum: eight kilometres south of the city, the Waite Arboretum was established on land given to the University of Adelaide by Peter Waite, to be held in trust and in perpetuity as a park or garden for the enjoyment of the public. It covers 27 hectares and contains about 2,500 species (many labelled) representing more than 800 species from 200 genera. Planting of trees from around the world started in 1928. Special collections include eucalypts, palms, dragon trees, pears and oaks. Our visit will start at the relocated historical Gate House. A short tour will be provided or you may wander freely among the trees.