

## Friends of Karwarra Garden

Our Friends group was established to assist with the development of the garden. Some of our activities include ...

- Opening the Garden on the weekend. We greet visitors, answer questions about the garden and assist with plant sales. (No experience necessary & you will always be with an experienced Friend).
- Assisting in our Propagation Nursery
- Fund raising & promotion
- Weeding & raking in the garden
- Assisting with exhibitions and events

**Becoming a Friend of Karwarra Garden is a lovely way to learn about Australia's diverse flora and associated fauna. Come along and join our friendly group. Share skills and learn skills.**

For information on our Friends Group activities, we have a Friends of Karwarra Garden Information brochure and Membership form or contact Karwarra.



**Visit Friends of Karwarra on Facebook & Instagram**

or email:  
friendskarwarra@gmail.com



## Visit Us

### Open

**Tuesday - Friday** 10am - 4pm

**Saturday & Sunday** 1pm - 4pm

### Closed

#### **Mondays & most Public Holidays**

To ensure the safety of visitors, volunteers and staff, Karwarra Garden will close on days of  
Total Fire Ban and may close during extreme weather.

**P: 03 9728 4256**

Entry to **Karwarra** is **FREE**

**Sorry, no Pets**

Telopea 'Pink Passion'

# Karwarra



### Where

Karwarra Australian  
Native Botanic Garden

Rear of Kalorama Memorial Reserve  
1190-1196 Mt Dandenong Tourist Road,  
Kalorama Victoria 3766

[www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/karwarra](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/karwarra)

E: [karwarragarden@yarraranges.vic.gov.au](mailto:karwarragarden@yarraranges.vic.gov.au)

Melway Ref: 120 B9

### Find us



Australian Native Botanic Garden  
& Plant Nursery

*PLACE OF MANY WILDFLOWERS*



## About the garden.

Karwarra Australian Native Botanic Garden, set on two hectares at picturesque Kalorama in The Dandenong Ranges, is devoted to displaying the diversity of Australian plants in a landscaped setting. At any time of the year there are colourful flowers and much to see and enjoy.

Numerous garden beds give boundless inspiration for those looking to create their own gardens using Australian plants, regardless of the style they have chosen or whether their garden is large or small.

There is also a walk through an area of undisturbed native bushland where native orchids and wildflowers can be seen in spring and early summer.

The garden provides habitat for local wildlife including many different types of birds, butterflies, insects and frogs. Echidnas, wombats, native bush rats, Sugar Gliders and other possums also call Karwarra ANBG home.

Karwarra Australian Native Botanic Garden is part of the refreshingly peaceful Kalorama Memorial Reserve. This is a lovely place to bring your family or friends. The Reserve is well known for its quirky saddle-shaped oval. A new children's playground and a multipurpose area provide space for the young and the young at heart. Electric BBQ facilities, tables and shelter are also available within the Kalorama Memorial Reserve. There are cafe's close by and coffee, tea and light meals available at the Post Office, within walking distance of the garden.

The garden, building and toilet are all abilities accessible. There is parking & turning circle space for buses. Gardening clubs, community groups, art, photographic and other creative groups are all welcome to spend time in the garden. A large and well equipped Meeting Room with kitchen, suitable for community groups, classes and corporate training is also available. (Not suitable for parties).

## History

The Dandenong Ranges rise to 633 metres at Mt Dandenong and are approximately 35 km east of Melbourne, Victoria. More than 300 million years ago a great volcano welled up as a cauldron in the crust of the earth in the area near what is now the town of Olinda. The entry to Karwarra has a series of curved walls that reference this caldera and the Dandenong's amazing volcanic history.

The Wurundjeri people, part of the Kulin alliance, are the traditional owners and custodians of the region that includes the Birrarung Valley (Yarra Valley), its tributaries and the present location of Melbourne.

Following European settlement, Lilydale surveyor Thomas Hand and family farmed this area of the Dandenong Ranges from 1870 until 1939.

In 1965, early conservationists and Mt Dandenong and District Horticultural Society members May Moon and Maurice (Maurie) Seymour, suggested to members that they create an Australian Native Plant Garden.

Society members enthusiastically agreed to the concept and the Lillydale Shire purchased two hectares of heavily weed-infested land for the Society to develop the garden that is now Karwarra. By 1968, enthusiastic Society members had fenced the site and the first plantings commenced. During 1971 the first stage of the Karwarra Hall was completed and the garden officially opened in March that year.

Talented designer Kath Deery guided Karwarra's early development and by 1984 over 5,000 plants had been added to the landscape. Her signature style of meandering paths, raised garden beds and drifts of small plants remains a unique and important feature of Karwarra and to the history of Australian garden design. A lovely natural rockery by Ellis (Rocky) Stones can be seen in the lower part of the garden.

Ellis worked closely with Edna Walling over many years creating the rock work that was so much a feature of her gardens. Edna Walling became a passionate advocate for the conservation and use of Australian Native plants.

## Preservation through cultivation

Over time, many different kinds of plants are lost from gardens. Some are victims of changes in fashion while others prove difficult to grow or propagate. Still more may be lost when a plant collector gives up their collection or a garden changes hands. The Plant Trust - Garden Plant Conservation Association of Australia (GPCAA) aims to conserve our plant diversity in cultivation. As part of this conservation initiative, Karwarra is responsible for Plant Trust Boronia and Telopea (Waratah) collections. For more information on the Plant Trust (GPCAA) visit : [rbg.vic.gov.au/garden-plantconservation-gpc](http://rbg.vic.gov.au/garden-plantconservation-gpc)

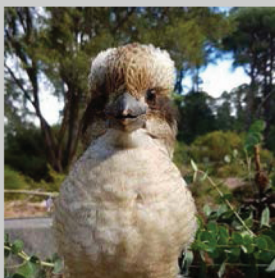
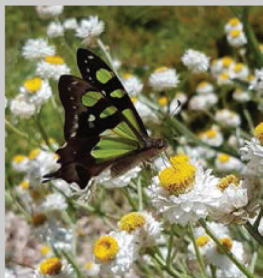
## Rare & Threatened Plants

Karwarra also features a collection of Rare & Threatened plants as well as significant plant collections that includes Lasiopetalum, Thomasia, Epacris, Rutaceae family among others.

## Nursery Plant Nursery



Karwarra Nursery is well-stocked with an excellent range of Australian native plants available in small tubes and pots. The nursery is open during normal Karwarra Garden opening hours.



Butterfly attracting plants



Floral display by Shelley Graham



Karwarra has a Gallery space for hire to artists whose work depicts Australian native flora & fauna or Australian natural history.