



South East Australian Naturalists Association Inc
Inc No A0044963D ABN 23 918 778 150



Spring Camp 2023

Friday 20 – Monday 23 October 2023

Jointly hosted by

Sale & District Field Naturalists Inc

Inc No A0034948W

Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club Inc

Inc No A00053235 ABN 86 752 280 972

Second Circular and Registration Form, June 2023

The Sale & District FNC and Latrobe Valley FNC jointly invite you to attend the SEANA Spring 2023 Camp, to be based in the South Gippsland town of Yarram. We look forward to giving you an appreciation of the highly diverse region around Yarram, which includes the Tarra Bulga National Park, a number of state forests with rich flora, Nooramunga and Corner Inlet Marine and Coastal Parks and the northern end of Wilsons Promontory National Park.

You may like to visit <https://www.travelvictoria.com.au/yarram/> for general information about the Yarram region, or websites linked to the South Gippsland and Wellington Shires.

The camp base for registration, evening meals, evening talks, meetings, displays and some excursion departures will be the Yarram Country Club, 322-340 Commercial Rd, Yarram.

Evening meals at the Yarram Country Club on Friday, Saturday and Sunday will be catered, but you will need to provide for your own breakfasts and lunches. The camp will conclude on Monday with the option of lunch together in Yarram, should you opt to explore the area in the morning.

Accommodation

Participants are asked to arrange their own accommodation for the three nights of 20th, 21st and 22nd October. The earlier first circular included information about accommodation in the region, with early booking being recommended. **This accommodation information is being provided again with this circular.**

One out-of-town possibility is to request a room at the **Forest Lodge Farm at Jack River**, approximately 18 km from Yarram, where we've made a group booking of the whole facility for the camp - this will accommodate 34 folk with two to each room, and there are still plenty of rooms available.

This lodge provides school camp style accommodation. Rooms have three double bunks – we'll use the lower beds only and we need to have either 2 or 3 people in each room. Mattresses and pillows with protectors are provided, but you need to bring your own sheets and doona or blankets, or sleeping bag (single), plus pillow case and towel. Our occupancy of the lodge is self-catering with access to the commercial grade kitchen with walk-in cool-room and chest freezer and dining room for breakfasts and lunch preparation.

If you would like to stay at the Forest Lodge Farm, you should book as soon as possible by e-mailing camp convenor Phil Rayment – contact details below – and *not* with the lodge. The 17 rooms will be filled on a 'first come, first served' basis. The accommodation charge is \$46 per person per night, that is, \$138 p.p. for the three nights – payment is to be made as part of registration.

How to get there?

A convenient way to travel to Yarram from the Melbourne region is to take the Princes Hwy (M1) for about 160 km to Traralgon and then follow the Hyland Highway (C482) for 64 km to Yarram – the route through Traralgon is slightly circuitous, so follow the road signs (or your sat nav) carefully. You'll enjoy ultra-close views of Loy Yang A and B power stations as the C482 passes through them.

Alternatively, you can follow the South Gippsland Hwy (A440) all the way from Dandenong to Yarram – a distance of 186 km for a pleasant drive through Gippsland countryside with good views.

The Yarram Country Club is on the South Gippsland Highway, which becomes Commercial Rd as it passes through the town. The club is located a short distance south of the CBD, on the western side of the road.

Excursions outline

We plan to offer the following excursions across Saturday and Sunday. Further details including an indication of the challenge level involved in each activity will be provided in the Third circular to be sent to registered people.

Participants will actually sign up for excursions on arrival at the camp, except that a planned Wilsons Prom Whale Cruise and a full-day bus trip to the northern end of Wilson's Promontory National Park (for Corner Inlet and the Vereker Range) must be booked and paid with registration.

Full day:

- Wilsons Prom Whale Cruise from Port Welshpool down the eastern side of the Prom on SATURDAY – go to the following website for information about this cruise operated by Wildlife Coast Cruises and which many naturalists have greatly enjoyed:
<https://www.wildlifecoastcruises.com.au/cruises/wilsons-prom-whale-cruise/>
We suggest that you book and pay as part of registration in order to obtain the group discount price of \$176 per person which includes lunch and morning tea.
- Corner Inlet / Millers Landing / Vereker Range walks – bus trip on SUNDAY, extra cost \$20 per person to be paid with registration.
Upon arrival in the northern area of Wilsons Promontory NP, alternative options will include:
 - (i) an easy 4km return walk to Millers Landing through banksia and stringybark woodlands to mangrove mud flats, with good birding opportunities, and
 - (ii) a steeper walk of up to 6km return on the Vereker Outlook track for plants and spectacular views to Corner Inlet and Darby Saddle.
- Tarra-Bulga National Park – offered on SAT and SUN
- Mullungdung State Forest: plants including orchids – on SAT
- Birding around Toora and Port Franklin, lunch in Foster, and Mt Nicoll – on SAT
- Birding around Toora, lunch in Toora, then to Mt Best and Agnes Falls Scenic Reserve – on SUN

Half day:

- Port Albert Old Port Trail – coastal vegetation – and Maritime Museum visit option, SUN AM
- Alberton West State Forest – plants, SAT PM and SUN PM
- McLoughlins Beach – coastal vegetation incl. orchids, birds – SAT PM and SUN AM
- Won Wron State Forest – plants incl. orchids, birds and a little history, SUN AM
- Seawalls Edge Nature Reserve at Toora – SAT AM
- Darriman Bushland Reserve – SUN PM

Sunday night:

- Spotlight fauna survey in local rainforest with Friends of Alberton West State Forest

Half day shorebirds boat trips:

- We plan also to offer an option of small-group shorebirds charter boat trips from Port Albert across the weekend and possibly also on Monday morning, subject to numbers and weather conditions. A flyer with details of these trips and of the separate *TryBooking* on-line booking and payment process will follow later.

We shall also provide some outlines for suggested self-guided trips or walks:

- Agnes Falls scenic reserve
- Welshpool – Welshpool Cemetery – Port Welshpool
- Port Franklin – Corner Inlet Marine and Coastal Park
- Sale – Sale Common wetlands, Lake Guyatt and the Swing Bridge

- Port of Sale precinct and Annemieke Mein exhibition
- Port Albert Maritime Museum
- Foster Flora Reserves
- Mt Nicoll – lookout and Loader Walk
- Heesco Town Mural Trail in Yarram
- Yarram Town Wetlands
- Star of the South Project Office in Yarram (Monday morning only)

Program outline *(may change as planning proceeds)*

Friday 20 October

Registration from 4:00pm onwards at the Yarram Country Club (YCC). BYO name tag please. Tea and coffee will be available all weekend. Suppers will be provided.

6.30pm Dinner at YCC

7.45pm Welcome to the camp followed by a presentation on Tarra-Bulga National Park by David Akers, President of the Friends of Tarra-Bulga.

Saturday 21 October

Assemble at designated departure points and times for morning and full day excursions. Afternoon excursions will leave from designated points at 1.30pm.

5.00pm SEANA General Meeting.

6.30pm Dinner at YCC

7.45pm Briefings and guest speaker Mitch Smith, President of Sale & District FNC, on the subject of orchid pollination research – title of presentation “Sex, lies and photographs”.

Sunday 22 October

Assemble at designated departure points and times for morning and full day excursions. Afternoon excursions will leave from designated points at 1.30pm.

6.30pm Dinner at YCC

7.45pm Briefings and guest speaker Jenny Wolswinkel on regional Eucalypts and community projects.

Monday 23 October

Pack up and perhaps take a morning self-guided trip (see list of suggestions above).

12.30pm Meet for lunch and farewells in the Yarram Memorial Park, just north of the YCC on Commercial Rd.

Registration

The Registration Form accompanies this Second Circular. It should be returned with your payment by **Friday 4th August, 2023**. Receipts will be provided upon your arrival at the camp.

Further information

Further information about the SEANA Spring 2023 Camp can be obtained from:

Phil Rayment (LVFNC), phone 03 5174 1730 (H) or 0499 028 477 (M), e-mail philrayment@dcsi.net.au

or Mitch Smith (Sale & District FNC), phone 0414 604 048, e-mail woolenook@bigpond.com