



16th December, 2023

Blooming good times at Melbourne's tropical wonderland this summer.

Hidden in the beautiful Yarra Valley is the stunning Blue Lotus Water Garden, which is gearing up to hold its annual floral spectacular featuring the largest display of lotus and waterlily flowers in Australia. This summer the 18th annual "Lotus Flower Season" will run daily from the **26th December 2023 to 14th April 2024.**

Each year owner Geoff Cochrane transforms his **14-acre** (50,000 sqm) garden into a tropical wonderland, filled with thousands of stunning water flowers, exotic blooms, and unique plant displays. Thought to be the largest garden of its kind in the southern hemisphere, the Blue Lotus Water Garden also contains dozens of man-made lakes, ponds, fountains, waterfalls and a network of scenic trails for visitors to explore.

GARDEN UPDATE

Mother nature has shined on the Blue Lotus Water Garden this year resulting in our best display of exotic lotus and waterlily flowers for years. The weather conditions at the gardens during spring and December has been ideal for plant growth producing thousands more flower buds than at the same time last year. Even our Giant Amazon Waterlily (one of the largest waterlily species in the world) has put on astonishing growth with lily pads already 3 times bigger than last December.

Great news for families – Kids FREE

All of us are very aware of the cost-of-living crunch with families often feeling the financial pain the most. This year the owners at the garden have decided to make entry for children aged 15 & under free (if they are accompanied by an adult with a ticket, t&cs also apply). This change will make it cheaper for most families to visit than in previous seasons. Families are also welcome to bring their own picnic and use own extensive picnic & bbq facilities.

What's new in 2024

- For visitors looking for a complete experience that includes dining among the flowers. This season we welcome new operators of the garden's café and ice cream kiosk. The highly experienced team from 3 Sugars Café in Warburton have come onboard offering visitors a new dine-in menu that features a range of house made meals, snacks, treats and drinks. *Note: The garden's café & kiosk facilities are located inside the gardens and provided exclusively for garden visitors.*
- Our team of landscapers has created a new 50m long artificial creek that cascades through a new garden of rainforest plants and ferns. New artistic sculptures and water features have also been added around the gardens.
- And for the little ones, we have expanded the fairy garden and family space adding more fun things for the kids to explore like Todd's Tree House. Older kids will also love playing a game of Giant Chess, conveniently located near the café.



Garden highlights

- Hundreds of thousands of stunning Lotus and Waterlilies - all colours and sizes spread across acres of gardens.
- 14 acres of Tropical gardens - containing new cascading creek, waterfalls, fountains, lakes and thousands of perennial flowers.
- Giants of the Amazon Exhibit – housing one of the largest species of Waterlily known to man. The *Victoria Cruziana* can reach over 1.75m in diameter.
- Cochrane Lake – containing 70+ varieties of Waterlily flowers including a prized collection of Claude Monet’s original Waterlilies from his garden in Giverny, France.
- Bridge Walk – stretching 500m long with 10 bridges through the middle of Cochrane Lake. One of our number one attractions offering amazing vistas in all directions.
- Kakadu Lagoon – a new feature showcasing native Lotus and Waterlilies from northern Australia.
- Golden Lotus Exhibit - one of the largest lotus flowers on the planet with over 80 petals.
- Lotus Lake – a virtual sea of colour with thousands of huge *Carolina Queen & Crème Lutea Lotus*. Some of the flowers reach 40cm in diameter and can stand up to 2m above the water.
- Large fairy garden & family space - featuring fantasy cubby houses, a rainbow slide, giant flowers and mushrooms, miniature fairy village, fairy queen throne, flower boats and wishing well. Family space includes playground equipment, tree House, a giant sandpit, picnic shelters and bbqs.
- Fantastic facilities – including picnic areas, shelters, group pavilions, BBQs, café, kiosk, plant & flower shop, garden shop, gift shop, accessible parking & toilets, free parking and coach parking.

General information

Garden Tickets - We recommend visitors purchase tickets online if visiting on weekends and public holidays as gate tickets may have sold out during busy periods. Tickets can be purchased through our website www.bluelotus.com.au

Open dates & times - December 26, 2023 – April 14, 2024 (7 days 10am-5pm)

Location address - 2628 Warburton Hwy, Yarra Junction

Contact details

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Images: <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/HwpMcYY86p>

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