



## NEWS RELEASE

1<sup>st</sup> December, 2024

### Melbourne's magical Lotus Flower Season about to bloom.

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. Every year the gardens welcome tens of thousands of visitors from across Australia and the world to experience one of the most beautiful scenic wonders Victoria has to offer.

This summer, we are holding our 19<sup>th</sup> annual "Lotus Flower Season" which opens to the public on the **26<sup>th</sup> December 2024**. The warm and humid weather conditions on the lead up to opening have been ideal for the lotus flowers. As a result, we are expecting our best display of lotus flowers ever!

Each year owner Geoff Cochrane transforms his **14-acre** (50,000 sqm) garden into a tropical wonderland that is filled with thousands of stunning flowers, creating a kaleidoscope of colour in every direction. Visitors will get to experience not just the spectacular floral display, but also amazing wonders of nature like our **Giant Amazon Waterlily** (*Victoria cruziana*). This unique waterlily produces massive lily pads up to 1.8m (6ft) in diameter. So big, they can hold the weight of a child or small adult without sinking. Our gardens are currently the only place you can see this species of giant waterlily in Australia.

### 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. Entry for children aged 15 & under will remain **free** (t&cs apply). Families are also welcome to bring their own picnic and use our own extensive picnic & bbq facilities.

### What's new in 2025

- Our team of landscapers has created a new family picnic area we call **Frog Hollow**. The kids will love the giant frog statues that surround the new pond.
- New artistic lotus fountain sculptures, bigger fountains throughout the gardens and updates to the kids Fairy Garden.
- New floral event starting on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 called the **Autumn Flower Season** featuring the biggest display of beautiful begonia flowers in Australia (more details of this event will be provided in March 2025).



## Garden highlights

- Hundreds of thousands of stunning lotus and waterlily flowers to see.
- 14 acres of water gardens - containing tropical plants, lakes, ponds, creeks, waterfalls and fountains.
- Giant Amazon Waterlily - one of the largest species of waterlily in the world.
- 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 350m with 12 bridges through the middle of our largest lake.
- Tropical World & Kakadu Lagoon – showcasing native lotus and waterlilies from northern Australia along with a host of other exotic tropical plants.
- 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 - featuring fantasy cubby houses, a rainbow slide, giant flowers and mushrooms, miniture fairy village, fairy queen throne, flower boats and wishing well.
- 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

**Ticket Prices:** Adults \$26.00, Pensioner \$23.00, Child aged 0-15years \$free (conditions apply)

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](http://www.bluelotus.com.au)

**Open dates & times:** December 26, 2024 – April 21, 2025 (7 days 10am-5pm)

**Location address:** 2628 Warburton Hwy, Yarra Junction

## Contact details:

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