

Flora

St AFNC holds a complete list of all plants identified to date-around 90 species.

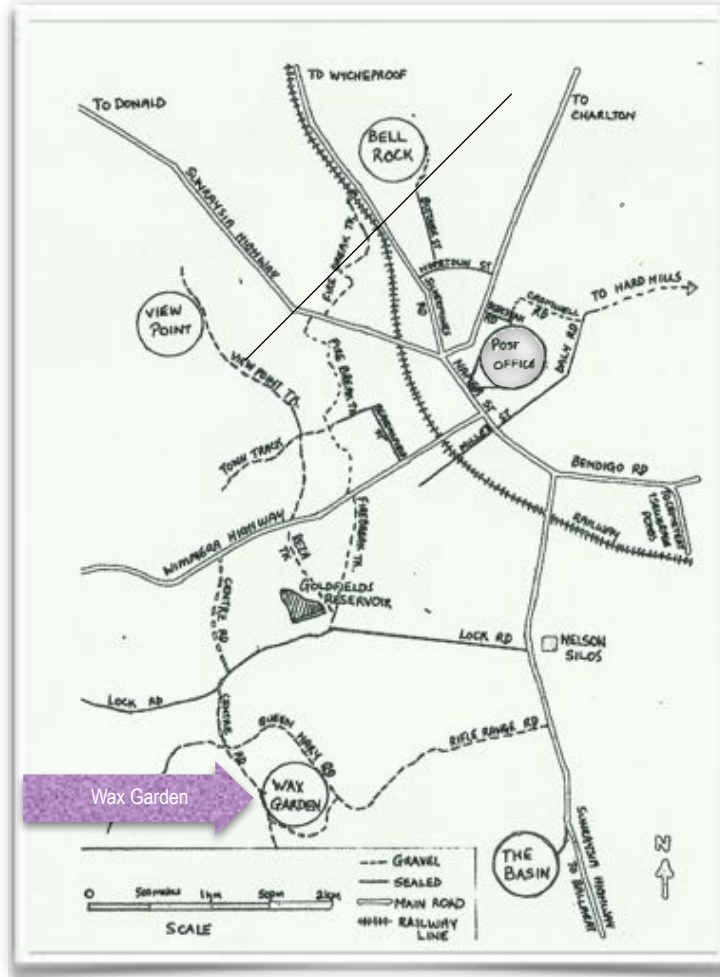
Following is a list of the plants with name-plates

Acacia acinacea	Gold-dust Wattle
Acacia genistifolia	Spreading Wattle
Acacia paradoxa	Hedge Wattle
Acacia pycnantha	Golden Wattle
Astroloma humifusum	Cranberry Heath
Euryomyrtus ramosissima	Rosy Baeckea
Brachyloma daphnoides	Daphne Heath
Bursaria spinosa var. lasiophylla	Sweet Bursaria
Calytrix tetragona	Common Fringe-myrtle
Daviesia ulicifolia ssp ulicifolia	Gorse Bitter-pea Spiny form
Daviesia ulicifolia ssp ruscifolia	Gorse Bitter-pea Broad leaf
Daviesia leptophylla	Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea
Dampiera dysantha	Shrubby Dampiera
Dianella admixta	Black-anther Flax-lily
Eucalyptus goniocalyx	Long-leaf Box or Bundy
Eucalyptus leucoxylon ssp. pruinosa	Yellow Gum
Eucalyptus macrorhyncha	Red Stringybark
Eucalyptus microcarpa	Grey Box
Eucalyptus polyanthemus	Yellow Box
Eucalyptus tricarpa	Red Ironbark
Eucalyptus viridis	Green Mallee
Grevillea alpina	Cat's Claw Grevillea
Grevillea dryophylla	Goldfields Grevillea
Hibbertia exutiaces	Prickly Guinea-flower
Leptospermum myrsinoides	Heath Tea-tree
Lissanthe strigosa	Peach Heath
Lomandra multiflora	Many-flowered Mat-rush
Ozothamnus obcordatus	Grey Everlasting
Philotheca verrucosa	Bendigo or Fairy Waxflower
Tetratheca ciliata	Pink Bells
Xanthoparmelia flaviscentireagens	Lichen



Rosy Baeckea *Euryomyrtus ramosissima*

The Grand Circle Tour



Access to the Wax Garden Reserve is via Centre Rd from either the Wimmera Highway or Lock Rd. Centre Rd is gravel and quite rough.

St AFNC acknowledges the traditional owners of the land - the Dja Dja Wurrung people, past and present.

St Arnaud Field Nats thank you for taking only photographs and leaving only footprints.

All photos by St AFNC / A Hughes



The Wax Garden Flora Reserve



Bendigo or Fairy Waxflower *Philotheca verrucosa*

sharing our natural heritage

The Grand Circle Tour is a project of
St Arnaud Field Naturalist Club Inc.
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History

The area has always been known to support a dense shrub understorey and groundcover and is a popular spot for outings especially in Spring when the wildflowers are at their best. The name "Wax Garden" derives from the Fairy Wax Flower which is regenerating after years of heavy browsing by wallabies.

The Reserve was set aside under the Forests Act in 1972 on the advice of the St Arnaud District Forester, Mr R W Handmer who also installed the first sheep-proof fence. In 1991, St Arnaud Field Naturalist Club (St AFNC) with the approval and assistance of the Department of Conservation and Environment began a project to improve the Reserve, installing walking tracks and name plates and compiling species lists. St Arnaud Woodworkers Club members using materials funded by Western Victorian Field Naturalists Clubs Association and St AFNC built and installed the Information Shelter in 1994. That only the roof has had to be refurbished is testament to the standard of the original work.

In 2005 Parks Victoria and St AFNC installed a new information display to reflect the Reserve's revised status as part of the new St Arnaud Regional Park. Species name plates were upgraded and the entrance gateway improved.



A State Government Grant in 2016 allowed St AFNC to enlarge and re-fence the Reserve to prevent wallabies, kangaroos, rabbits and hares from decimating the understorey shrubs and herbs. The Reserve has been increased in size from 3.84 ha to 6.84 ha and boasts 3 short walking tracks. At least 2 threatened flora species are in the Reserve- Goldfields Grevillea and Buloke.

Ecology

Underlying rocks in the St Arnaud Range are extremely ancient and were laid down some 550 million years ago as part of a deep marine sediment. Natural weathering and later incursions by ancient seas have resulted in the worn hills and poor soils.



Goldfields Grevillea- *Grevillea dryophylla*

The Wax Garden is part of an area of Heathy Dry Forest EVC (Ecological Vegetation Class) within the main Box-Ironbark Forest EVC. It also contains Mallee EVC species.

This combination of 3 different EVCs accounts for the rich and diverse vegetation which includes 7 species of Eucalypt. Immediately to the south is the St Arnaud State Forest, still used for firewood harvesting.

A few kilometres further south Centre Rd traverses Stoney Creek Nature Conservation Reserve before entering the new Kara Kara National Park, the biggest intact area of Box-Ironbark forest remaining in Victoria.

Mammals and Reptiles

The forests around the Wax Garden support the solitary Black or Swamp Wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*).

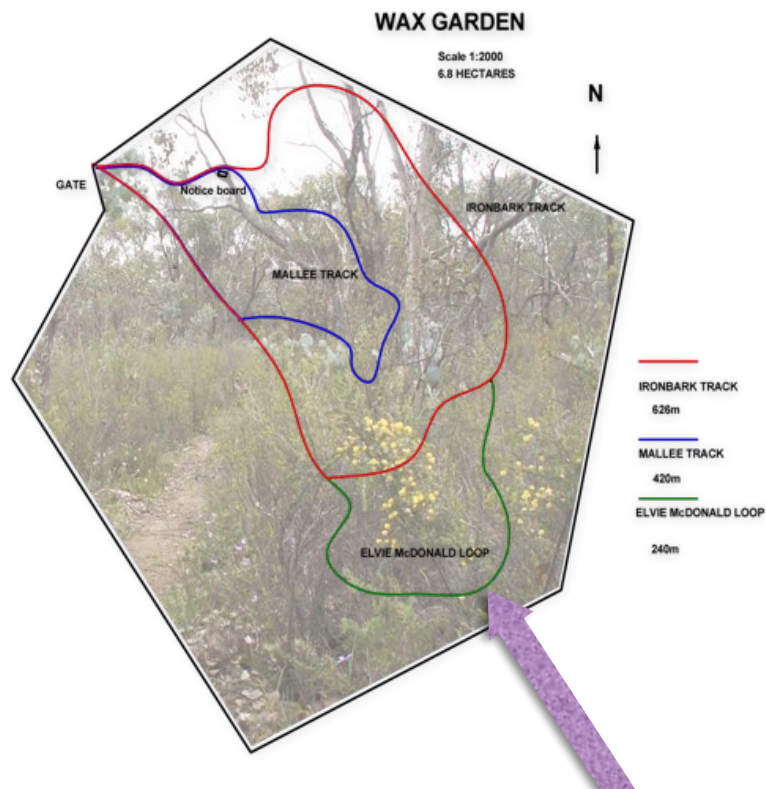
There are small groups of Eastern Grey Kangaroos (*Macropus giganteus*) and the Echidna or Spiny Anteater I (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*) is often seen trundling from one ant-nest to another during the warmer months.

Reptiles are represented by the fierce-looking but harmless Shingleback or Stumpy-tailed Lizard (*Tiliqua rugosa*) and many members of the Skink family which can be seen scurrying between grass clumps.

The Eastern Brown Snake (*Pseudonaja textilis*) and Tree Goanna (*Varanus varius*) are also about and care should be exercised when walking through the Reserve and elsewhere in the bush.



Black or Swamp Wallaby
Wallabia bicolor



The Elvie McDonald Loop is named for the first Secretary of St AFNC and later President for many years. Elvie was instrumental in securing the future of the Wax Garden as well as other local conservation areas.

Birds

Many species are present with some 47 recorded for the Bird Atlas over the last decade including a number of rare and threatened woodland species.

A regular Autumn-Winter visitor is the endangered Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) which migrates from Tasmania to feed on the mainland. One sighting of the once frequent but now critically endangered Regent Honey-eater was recorded in the last decade. Also seen in the area but not the Reserve is the rare Painted Honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*).

Following is a list of species seen in the Reserve since 2002.

Species marked * are either listed under EPBC Act or FFG Act as threatened, endangered or rare.

Peaceful Dove	Red Wattlebird
Common Bronzewing	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater
Southern Boobook	White-naped Honeyeater
Musk Lorikeet	Black-chinned Honeyeater *
Little Lorikeet	Brown-headed Honeyeater
Swift Parrot *	Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Crimson Rosella	White-eared Honeyeater
Eastern Rosella	Fuscous Honeyeater *
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Brown Treecreeper *
Galah	Red-capped Robin *
Spotted Nightjar	Crested Shrike-tit *
Speckled Warbler *	Crested Bellbird *
Varied Sittella *	Grey Shrike-thrush
Weebill	Golden Whistler
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Rufous Whistler
Yellow Thornbill	Grey Fantail
Superb Fairy-wren	Willie Wagtail
Spotted Pardalote	Restless Flycatcher
Striated Pardalote	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
	Dusky Woodswallow *
	White-breasted Woodswallow
	White-browed Woodswallow
	Masked Woodswallow
	Australian Magpie
	Grey Currawong
	Little Raven
White-winged Chough	
Black-chinned Honeyeater	Mistletoebird