****

**Press Release May 2019**

**www.bloomingbiodiversity.com.au**

**National Wildflower Conference in Albany, Western Australia, Sept-Oct 2019**

The Wildflower Society of Western Australia is hosting the 2019 Blooming Biodiversity Conference in Albany, Western Australia from 29 September to 4 October. Blooming Biodiversity will celebrate the unique flora that is the global biodiversity hotspot of the South West region of Western Australia.

Keynote speaker, botanist Greg Keighery, said that “the Conference theme is **Know, Grow, Conserve and Enjoy** our Western Australian wildflowers and the program of speakers and excursions has been designed around this”.

The five-day Conference will feature expert speakers on flora in science, history and art. Among them are author and botanist Alex George, eucologist Malcolm French, former Curator of Palaeontology at the WA Museum Ken McNamara, historian Malcolm Traill and horticulturalist Amanda Shade.

Highlights of the Conference will be the A J Swaby public address by Professor Stephen Hopper and in-conference excursions to iconic locations, including Stirling Range and Porongurup National Parks and Greens Pool and the Banksia Farm in Mt Barker, to experience South Western Australian flora in its natural setting.

Pre-and post-Conference Tours will explore the wider South West and Great Southern regions. Beginning or ending in Albany, these optional tours include Western Australia’s Wheatbelt and Inland Southern Heaths, the Kwongan heathlands and Darling Scarp forest, the Southern Mallee shrublands and heaths of the southern coast, and the southwest Jarrah, Karri, Tingle, Wandoo and Tuart forests.

Albany is renowned for its spectacular coastline, pristine beaches and national parks, as well as its rich history. “Huge Karri trees grow up to 90 metres in the wettest areas of the South West, while the Albany Pitcher Plant hides away in dense vegetation on the banks of streams and swamps” said Greg Keighery.

Full information and registration details can be found on the Conference website at: [www.bloomingdiversity.com.au](http://www.bloomingdiversity.com.au)

**Contact information:**

Greg Keighery is available for media interview by prior arrangement through the Conference Committee contacts below:

ANPSA ‘Blooming Biodiversity’ 2019 Conference Committee

Wildflower Society of Western Australia Inc

enquiry@wildflowersocietywa.org.au

Phone: (08) 9383 7979 - office opening hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10am – 2.30pm

Committee Member: Margaret Matthews (ANPSA President-elect) – 0402 105 649

Committee Member: Geoff Corrick (WSWA President) – 0458 670 614

Blooming Biodiversity Conference Keynote Speaker: Greg Keighery – 9381-4062