



Greetings all.

Here is part one of 2019 day trips. This year we are planning day trips for February, May, July, September and November. And of course there is the Great Alpine Road trip in May to enjoy some spectacular scenery - speak to Cheryl if you want more information about this.

We have a wonderful day trip planned for February - a little earlier than usual but I am led to believe we will see the gardens at their best. I am hoping you will all grab the opportunity to join in the fun.

Thanks for your continued support and don't forget to bring friends because we are a not-for-profit group and the share costs work so much better if we can get 35+ travellers on every trip.

Vermont Diamonds Day-trip co-ordinator, Leanne Bithell 2 Adele Street, Vermont 3133 email: leanne@abcontrols.com.au phone: m: 0419 128 659 h: 9874 6887



FRIDAY FEBRUARY 8th Blue Lotus Water Gardens

The beautifully lush Blue Lotus Water Garden will open for the annual Lotus Flower Season. With its beautiful landscaped grounds spread over 14 acres and a large collection of ponds, lakes and lagoons to showcase the flowering



of thousands of lotus and waterlilies, it's a sight to see.



There are many pathways that you can wander whilst admiring the lotus-filled waterways and flower beds in full-boom. Don't miss the spectacular Monet's Lake and there is an ancient lotus flower, believed to be over 2000 years old,

discovered in 1951 at the Hanamigawa River, Chiba, Japan. There is also wonderful delights like the giant amazon lotus and the golden (lucky) lotus.

Lotus Lake itself has the largest display of lotus flowers with over 10,000 blooms on display. The featured flowers are Carolina Queen Lotus (pink) and Cream Lutea Lotus (white) with some blossoms as large as a dinner plate. The gardens pathway are lined with exotic flowering plants, adding to the wonderful vistas.



We will stop in one of the shelters to enjoy a picnic lunch and admire the views while taking in the serenity.

The **bus will leave the scout hall at 9.15am,** returning to Vermont by 3.30pm. Please be there 10 minutes early so we can leave on time.

Cost for bus travel, garden entry and lunch is \$45. (Deposit \$20)





It is time for the 2019 subscription of \$6, which covers the cost involved in printing and circulating information by post for the whole year of Vermont Diamonds activities. For the few who have already paid, please ignore this.

There is an option to be an email subscriber. If you wish to do this, please speak to me. There is no cost for this as everything will be electronic but you must have the ability to read pdf files.

For those who like to get the hardcopy in the mail, please organise payment by the end of March. Options for payment include:

- all the same methods as mentioned on the back page for booking
- hand cash/cheque to Leanne on the first trip (preferably in an envelope with your name on it)

If you have any questions, please contact Leanne: email: leanne@abcontrols.com.au or phone: 0419 128659

If we don't hear from you we will assume you no longer wish to receive our notices.





BOOKING:

Leanne Bithell 2 Adele Street Vermont 3133

Please get your day trip bookings in by contacting Leanne by email, sms texts or phone calls or drop a note in the letter box.

The deposit for this outing is to be paid to confirm your booking and it does make it easier on the day if you have prepaid the balance so I can just tick you off the list when you arrive. You can pay using the following options:

- direct debit (preferred)
 K & C Buckland (Diamonds) Account
 BSB:063 888 Acc No:10006037
 please put your name as a reference so I can trace payments.
- cash in an envelope with your name on it. You can put it in the secure letterbox (address above).
- post a cheque (payable to "K & C Buckland") to the address above. You could also put a cheque in the letterbox, if you are local, to save the time of postage.

Please be aware that the biggest cost for the day is usually the bus fare so if you bring lots of friends to fill the bus, we will be able to reduce the trip

costs. The more the merrier!

If you pay for your seat and then can't come I am happy to refund the money if there is someone on a waiting list to replace you. Obviously I would need at least 24hrs warning for that to be possible. Thanks.



Vermont Diamonds is run under the auspice of St.Lukes Anglican Church, Vermont