

MEDIA RELEASE

Australian National Botanic Gardens

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Summer Fun is back on track at the Gardens!

The Australian National Botanic Gardens is back on track this week, following a period of limited opening during the recent fire emergency in Canberra. The Gardens has now returned to its summer opening hours of 9:00am – 8:00pm daily.

Concerts!

The 2003 Summer Concert Series will start up again this weekend of 1 & 2 February featuring the smooth sounds of *Satin Jazz* on Saturday evening on the Eucalypt Lawn, from 6.00 – 7:30 pm and *Jam'nn* will perform a repertoire of eastern world music on Sunday from 6.00 – 7:30 pm on the Café Lawn. Entry to the concerts is by gold coin donation to the Friends of the Gardens. Wine, beer and soft drinks can be purchased from the Friends of the Gardens at the concerts.

Guided Walks

The Volunteer Guides of the Gardens will continue to take their “Feathers, Fur and Skin... so how do plants fit in’ guided twilight walks around the Gardens. Tours start at 6:00 pm each Wednesday evening and are free! Bookings are essential and can be made by calling the Visitor Centre on 6250 9540.

Free guided walks will also be conducted by the Volunteer Guides at 10:00am, 11:00am and 2:00 pm daily. Walks leave from the Visitor Centre and bookings are not necessary.

The Australian National Botanic Gardens is located at the base of Black Mountain on Clunies Ross Street, Acton. Further information on the concerts and the Gardens is available on-line at www.anbg.gov.au/anbg or by calling the Visitor Centre on 6250 9540.

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This weekend's concerts at the Gardens!

Saturday 1 February – ‘Satin Jazz’ on the Eucalypt Lawn, 6 – 7:30 pm

Satin Jazz was established about 4 years ago and perform principally as a quartet. The group has found its way into the local Canberra music scene, performing a mix of Standard Swing, Blues, Latin and Rythm and Blues. Members of *Satin Jazz* include Leanne Ballard on the keyboard, Richard Manning on Guitar and vocals, Jeff Street on the drums, Russell Cornigh on Reeds, Louise on Double Bass and Anthony Dellamarta as guest vocalist.

Sunday 2 February – ‘Jam’nn’ on the Café Lawn, 6 – 7:30 pm

JAMN’N are a wonderful versatile bunch of local musicians who enjoy playing exciting, vibrant, and unusual melodies and rhythms from the Balkans and the Middle-east. Their instruments include bouzouki, saz, mandolin, double bass banjo, piano accordion, Macedonian bagpipes (gaida), bansuri, flute, clarinet sax, tapan, darabouka and other percussion. The band is comprised of Nitya Parker who is Australia’s most accomplished player of the North Indian flute (bansuri). His solos allure the listener into rich emotional worlds, of enchantment, of the profound as well as of simplicity, happiness and joy. Andrew Purdam well known Canberran percussionist (Earthly Delights, Can Belto) shows his excellence also on accordion and bouzouki. Nic Gellie, a passionate aficionado of both Balkan music and dance for many years, brings a cutting edge and momentum to the group with his mandolin. Matthew Armstrong here plays on his unique double bass banjo, which he himself designed and made. He is one of Canberra’s emerging treasures in community/participatory music, as exemplified in recent Tuggeranong Moon Festivals, as well as National Folk Festivals (Drummers not Plumbers). Vera Jana Sarpov, the newest member to the group provides both vocals and driving rhythmic power on the tapan (a large Macedonian drum).

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