



Australian Government

Australian National Botanic Gardens

GPO Box 1777 Canberra ACT 2601 AUSTRALIA

Telephone (02) 6250 9450

Facsimile (02) 6250 9599

Web Site www.anbg.gov.au

Email to email@anbg.gov.au

ABN 13 051 694 963

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MEDIA RELEASE

Volunteers help Gardens grow

The Australian National Botanic Gardens will hold a special function today to thank its many volunteers as part of International Volunteers Day, Wednesday 5 December.

666 ABC broadcaster Genevieve Jacobs will present long-serving volunteers with badges and certificates of appreciation for their valuable contributions.

“We have more than 150 volunteers who help out in every aspect of our work, and help make the Australian National Botanic Gardens one of Canberra’s great attractions” said Gardens’ Director Anne Duncan.

“Some volunteers are the public face of the Gardens, running our popular daily guided tours. Others work behind the scenes, helping maintain our plant records, or in the seedbank and herbarium, mounting and cataloguing specimens.”

Volunteers have been an integral part of the ANBG since its establishment in 1949, when many local Canberrans gave their time on an informal basis. The first official volunteer task commenced in 1985, with the production of the weekly information sheet *In Flower This Week*.

Today’s function will honour volunteers who have contributed 10 and 15 years service, and one volunteer who has contributed 20 years service.

Opportunities for community involvement in a wide variety of volunteer roles came with the establishment of the Friends of the ANBG in 1990. The Volunteer Guide Service was formed in 1992 and about 4000 visitors enjoy the free guided walks every year.

Volunteers also give their time and skills to the Growing Friends group, which is devoted specifically to propagating and raising native plants.

The Friends also play an important role in fund-raising for Gardens’ projects.

The function will be held on the Brittle Gum Lawn at 10.30am.

Media contact: Paul Ziesing
(02) 6250 9405 or 0418 955 661
paul.ziesing@environment.gov.au