

MEDIA RELEASE

13 March 2010

Take a first step to Footprint EnviroFest

Canberra's first ever Footprint EnviroFest will kick off at the Australian National Botanic Gardens this Sunday.

Presented by the Friends of the Gardens and the Canberra Festival, the one-day event features plenty of fun for all the family including green workshops and activities, arts and crafts, games, gardening and revegetation workshops.

Greening Australia, ACT Waterwatch, the Australian Native Plant Society, the Australian Network for Plant Conservation, Canberra Handmade, Clean Energy For Eternity, Conservation Volunteers, Living Greener, the Canberra Bonsai Society, Energy Imaging and Green Partners all have exhibitions at the festival.

The speaker's program includes talks about the Gardens' alpine seed project, Australian fungi, Australian succulents, wattles and a talk and book signing by Richard Stirzaker, author of *Out of the Scientist's Garden*.

For the kids there are education activities on waterwise gardening, planting their own plants and creating habitats for local wildlife.

The Friends of the Gardens will discuss botanic art and demonstrate the propagation of Australian plants. They'll also be providing guided walks throughout the day.

The Gardens' communications and visitor services manager Stephen Speer said the Gardens was proud to join in the Canberra Festival in such an exciting way.

"Footprint EnviroFest visitors will not only get information about Australian plants but green solutions to some of the problems facing gardeners and garden-lovers," Mr Speer said.

"What a way for the Gardens to kick off celebrations for our 40th anniversary."

Food and refreshments will be available, with entertainment by Annie and the Armadillos, Mr Fibby and roving performers.

Footprint EnviroFest is supported by the ACT Government.

What: Footprint EnviroFest When: Sunday 14 March Time: 10am – 4pm

Where: Australian National Botanic Gardens

Price: Free entry

Info: Visitor Centre on 6250 9540

Media contact: Paul Ziesing 0449 709 840