



MEDIA RELEASE

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Canberra photography students to win overseas internship

One lucky Canberra student will win a trip to Timor Leste thanks to a photography competition run by the United Nations and the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

The winning Canberra Institute of Technology student will be announced at the photography exhibition's launch at 5pm on Monday 6 December at the Australian National Botanic Gardens Visitors Centre.

Other students will win a chance to work with The Canberra Times and the ACT Government.

The CIT students created a portfolio of photographs on biodiversity and threatened species for the inaugural competition.

CIT Centre for Creative Industries director Kerry Williams said the photography students were inspired to showcase their ideas, skills, creativity and talent in capturing images of species loss and biodiversity.

"This exhibition shows what biodiversity means to the students. This really has been a rewarding and exciting project for all of us," Ms Williams said.

The photographs form part of the students' coursework and are themed under three categories - documentary, social commentary and open.

Gardens executive director Dr Judy West said the exhibition celebrated both the International Year of Biodiversity and the 40th anniversary of the Gardens.

"We're delighted to host this wonderful exhibition – it's so in tune with the important work we do here preserving our native plants and seeds at the Gardens.. Currently we have nearly 4,000 vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered plants in our collection," Dr West said.

"Having these photography students document threatened species not only raises the students' awareness of the importance of biodiversity – but the awareness of all Canberrans of maintaining living collections like ours."

United Nations Information Centre director Christopher Woodthorpe said the exhibition provided an opportunity for all of us to increase our understanding of the vital role biodiversity plays in sustaining life on earth.

"I am delighted that the Australian National Botanic Gardens and students of the Canberra Institute of Technology have joined with the United Nations to promote these issues. I urge everyone to attend the exhibition," Mr Woodthorpe said.

The photographs are on display in the Gardens' Visitor Centre Gallery until 6 January 2011.

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Biodiversity is life
Biodiversity is our life