



Australian Government

Australian National Botanic Gardens

Media Release

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Students helping Gardens grow

On Friday 19 August, 90 Australian National University (ANU) students will partner with local community organisations for the inaugural *ANU Neighbourhood Day*.

The event, organised by the ANU Students' Association and ANU Volunteers, will see teams of enthusiastic volunteer students work on diverse projects including tree planting at the Arboretum, assisting Meals on Wheels and undertaking flora surveys at the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

Supported by an ANU grant, ANU Students' Association President, Leah Ginnivan, said the day was designed to build community spirit.

"We wanted to create an opportunity for students to get off campus, learn more about the Canberra neighbourhood and to meet new people," Leah said.

ANU Volunteers President, Jessica Saunders, said that volunteer opportunities provided a meaningful way for students to learn skills and to help out the community.

"ANU Volunteers is a fairly new society but we are growing quickly and have had a lot of enthusiastic interest from students and volunteer organisations alike," Jessica said.

The Australian National Botanic Gardens will be opening its gates in support of the ANU Neighbourhood Day.

"The Gardens will work with ANU volunteers on a range of activities from testing its new visitor map, conducting orchid surveys to rabbit and fox proofing fences," Gardens' General Manager, Peter Byron said.

"This is a fantastic initiative and the Australian National Botanic Gardens are always happy to support local students whenever we can".

After the day's events, all ANU students will be invited to a volunteering expo, where stallholders will inform them about ongoing volunteer opportunities in Canberra.

The day is supported by the ANU Food Co-op, where another team of volunteers will cook healthy pumpkin gnocchi and salads sourced from local growers.

The Neighbourhood Day organising group plans to grow the event next year to include more organisations and students.

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