



Thursday, 5 January 2012

The Gardens come to life with the sound of music

The annual outdoor *Summer Sounds* Concerts Series was today launched by the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

Featuring a great line-up of local bands, the concert series includes a mixture of classical and fine jazz, modern country-blues and South American and African Grooves. This year the Gardens have added a touch of spice with vibrant dance demonstrations, everything from swing to salsa.

“We are so excited to be hosting the *Summer Sounds* Concert Series again this year,” the Gardens’ Visitor Services Manager, Stephen Speer said.

“The concerts give Canberrans and their visiting friends and relatives an opportunity to get together, relax and enjoy a summer’s evening with some fantastic live entertainment in the beautiful surrounds of our Eucalypt Lawn.”

This Saturday, the queen of the Blues Harp, DeeJay Gosper and her band will belt out some blues and smooth jazz. The Jumptown Swing Dancers will also be there to give the audience a dancing treat.

On Sunday, Key Grip will bring out their piano, Hammond organ and vocals to play blues and swing. The Jumptown Swing Dancers will also be back to entertain the crowd.

“We have hosted the *Summer Concerts* for over a decade now and every year it gets bigger and better. I expect we will get around 3000 visitors through the gates this weekend and I encourage our visitors to bring their dancing shoes,” Stephen said.

“Make sure you bring the kids as there will be plenty of children’s activities available”.

The Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens have been supporting the Concerts Series since its inception and will be providing cold bar sales. Sizzling BBQ and gourmet ice-cream will also be available with all proceeds going to the Friends, Rotary and Lions Clubs.

Other proud supporters of the Concert Series include The Canberra Times, ABC 666 Canberra and Peter Blackshaw Real Estate who will be providing an assistance bus from the car park to the Eucalypt Lawn.

“I would like to send a special thanks to all of our sponsors. It is great to have such strong support from Canberra-based organisations,” Stephen said.

Summer Sounds is held on the Eucalypt Lawn every Saturday and Sunday in January from 6:00 – 7:30pm. The event culminates in a blockbuster final weekend on 28 and 29 January with twice the entertainment and commencing at 4.30pm. Entry is by donation.

For further information and a full list of musical acts, visit:

<http://www.anbg.gov.au/gardens/whatson/events/summer-2012/summer-sounds.html>

Contact: Stephen Speer (02) 6250 9404 0439 322 317