



Australian Government  
Australian National Botanic Gardens

# MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 19 January 2012

## The Gardens celebrates all things Australian

With Australia Day just around corner, the Australian National Botanic Gardens are gearing up to celebrate all things Australian – Australian music, Australian dancing, Australian people and Australian native plants.

Kicking off at 6.00pm this Saturday, the *Wedded Bliss* will set the weekend's mood with their unique blend of blues, country and jazz at the Gardens' popular *Summer Sounds* concert series. The band will be joined by *Folk Dance Canberra* who are guaranteed to get the audience up on their feet.

"This weekend is expected to be the biggest of the 2012 *Summer Sounds* concert series so far," the Gardens' Visitor Services Manager, Stephen Speer said.

"We've got a great line-up of music and dance entertainment and we are having an extra special Australia Day concert on Sunday – so bring your Aussie flag, your esky and your very best singing voice!"

On Sunday, the popular and highly entertaining *Annie and the Armadillos* will set the scene for the special Australia Day concert. Annie Sloane and her band will be joined by leading Indigenous performance troupe *Wiradjuri Echo*, who will treat the audience to a showcase of traditional and modern Indigenous dances.

"Being surrounded by one-third of Australia's known native plants, what better place to celebrate a very Australian weekend than at the Australian National Botanic Gardens," said Mr Speer.

The *Summer Sounds* concert series is held on the Eucalypt Lawn every Saturday and Sunday in January from 6:00 – 7:30pm. The event concludes with a big finale on 28 and 29 January with double the entertainment, commencing at 4.30pm.

Entry is by donation and a complimentary assistance bus from the Gardens' car park to the Eucalypt Lawn is provided by Peter Blackshaw Real Estate.

Cold bar sales, sizzling barbeque and gourmet ice-cream is available for purchase with proceeds going to the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens and the Rotary and Lions Clubs.

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:** Julie Akmacic (02) 6250 9405 0419 441 772