



MEDIA RELEASE

16 October 2012

The Gardens brings the Red Centre to Canberra

The Australian National Botanic Gardens' exciting new development, the Red Centre Garden, is about to welcome one of its main features – an eight metre high palm, *Livistona mariae*.

The *Livistona mariae* will arrive at the Gardens in a semi-trailer from Queensland on Tuesday 16 October.

On **Wednesday 17 October** it will become the first plant to be planted into the Red Centre Garden currently under development at the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

"The *Livistona mariae* is a significant plant that occurs only in Central Australia's Palm Valley, deep in Finke Gorge National Park. The palm will form the backdrop for the Red Centre Garden," the Gardens' Executive Director Judy West said.

"This new Garden will feature rocks and soils in a kaleidoscope of different colours which recreate the diversity of the Central Australia region.

"We have been working hard to get the conditions right to receive the *Livistona*, so we're thrilled to be ready for its delivery and planting."

The arrival of the *Livistona* will signal the commencement of plantings in the rocky outcrop feature of the Red Centre Garden.

"Gardens staff have spent over two years propagating plants for the new Garden - including many species successfully propagated from cuttings from Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

"When it's completed, we hope the Red Centre Garden will inspire visitors' appreciation for Australia's unique desert plants and national landscapes," Judy West said.

The Red Centre Garden will open in October 2013 as part of Canberra's Centenary celebrations.

Media note: Video, photo and interview opportunities. The *Livistona mariae* arrives at the Australian National Botanic Gardens on Tuesday 16 October. The plant will be moved to the Red Centre Garden site and planted into the Garden at 11 am on Wednesday 17 October.

Video, photo and interview opportunities will be available at the planting 11 am, Wednesday 17 October.

For further information on the Red Centre Garden visit:

<http://www.anbg.gov.au/gardens/visiting/exploring/gardens/red-centre-garden.html>