



Australian Government
Australian National Botanic Gardens

MEDIA RELEASE

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Pin Up Plants – discover the world’s amazing plants

Want to know which wood from a tree is worth up to \$14,000 a kilogram? Which Queensland native fruit is the same size as a football? How many orchid species there are in the world?

Find the answers to these questions and more at the “Pin Up Plants” exhibition at the Australian National Botanic Gardens which runs until Wednesday 27 May.

Australian National Botanic Gardens director Anne Duncan said the exhibition gave visitors a chance to check out how scientists communicate with each other via posters, and see some of the Gardens’ herbarium specimens and research activities.

“Behind the scenes here at the Gardens, scientists are busily undertaking research on the diversity, distribution and the relationships of Australian plants,” Ms Duncan said.

“Herbarium specimens like the ones at the Gardens are the important first step in how we classify plants – which is the basis of all scientific research into plants.”

Ms Duncan said the exhibition included information on Agarwood from Papua New Guinea, which produces a compound traded since biblical times for medicinal, religious and aromatic purposes.

“Fragrant oils and resins permeate the wood after wounding or fungal infection to produce a compound in such global demand it fetches more than US \$10,000 a kilogram,” she said.

Colourful posters give a snapshot of scientists’ research projects and methods or announce new products or facilities.

“Several posters focus on orchid research. Did you know that, in Australia there are between 1,200 and 1,400 orchid species with 80 per cent not found anywhere else in the world?” Ms Duncan said.

The Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research, jointly managed by the Gardens, has experts leading the way on the environmental challenges facing Australian native plants. The need to preserve Australia’s biodiversity and quality of life is dependent on taking action through scientific research.

Media interviews with researchers can be arranged.

What:	Pin Up Plants – Discover the Gardens’ Research
Where:	Visitor Centre Gallery, Australian National Botanic Gardens
When:	Daily until 27 May 2009, 9.00am – 4.30pm

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