



Australian Government

Australian National Botanic Gardens

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MEDIA RELEASE

A tree in the palm of your hand...

Fifth national exhibition of Australian plants as bonsai

The bonsai exhibition opening at the Australian National Botanic Gardens today is only the fifth to display all native species.

The exhibition includes banksias, eucalypts, wattles, tea-trees, she-oaks, and native figs and pines from the collections of many exhibitors. Fascinating insights into the backgrounds of the plants are contained in the exhibition catalogue.

Bonsai Advisor to the Canberra International Arboretum and Gardens (CIAG), Grant Bowie, will speak about bonsai at the CIAG at a lunchtime lecture today.

On the weekend bonsai demonstrations will be given by a number of experts. These include Will Fletcher, who moved from NSW to Tasmania over 30 years ago, looking for respite from Australia's summer heat. Delighted and engrossed by Tasmania's wonderful and diverse flora, he established Plants of Tasmania Nursery in 1990 to propagate and sell local species.

On a visit to the Australian National Botanic Gardens about five years later he saw a journal on bonsai in Australia and was inspired to experiment with Tasmanian flora. Next year he will open a bonsai nursery near Hobart, dedicated to crafting bonsai and miniature gardens, and using only Tasmanian species.

The ancient horticultural art form of bonsai combines horticultural and artistic skills to produce living sculptures, and originated in China 2000 years ago, before extending to Japan. In the last 100 years it has spread throughout much of the world, including Australia where native plant species have been grown as bonsai since the early 20th century

The exhibition opens at 12.30pm today in the Crosbie Morrison Building, and is open from 9.30am until 4.30 pm on Saturday and Sunday.

For more information contact the Visitor Centre on 02 6250 9540.

Fri 16 Nov, 12.30pm Theatrette	<i>Bonsai and the Canberra International Arboretum & Gardens</i> Grant Bowie (Bonsai Advisor to CIAG)
Sat 17 Nov, 11am & 2pm	Bonsai demonstrations
Sun 18 Nov, 11am & 2pm	Bonsai demonstrations

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