



MEDIA RELEASE

25 March 2009

Art in the Gardens with Friends

More than 90 botanical paintings, drawings and prints of native Australian plants feature in a new exhibition to open at the Australian National Botanic Gardens on **Tuesday 31 March at 4.30pm**.

Art in the Gardens with Friends is the second exhibition by the Friends of the Gardens botanical art group and will be opened by Friends Patron, Mrs Marlena Jeffrey.

On show will be many different species of Australian plants from 25 artists, including internationally renowned guest artist Helen Fitzgerald.

Also on display will be a small collection of hand-made silver jewellery of Australian flora by artist Anne Phillips.

“These art works of plant specimens from the Gardens will give visitors a new appreciation of the beauty, variety and enormous range of Australian flora,” Friends art group coordinator Robin McKeown said.

“The artists have also captured in paint or sketch many stunning plants which are rare, endangered or inaccessible in the wild.”

This exhibition of botanical art is the work of a small group who began painting and drawing plant specimens in 2005. The original group of 10 Friends has grown to over 60 members who meet monthly to paint and draw plants in the Gardens.

“The Australian National Botanic Gardens gives visitors a unique opportunity to see native plants and flowers that they might never get to see in the wild,” Ms McKeown said.

“Now they have an opportunity to see these plants through the artists’ eyes. Some of the pieces are for sale, and the commission will go to the Friends to support projects in the Gardens.”

Art in the Gardens with Friends will be open to the public from Wednesday 1 April until Wednesday 15 April 2009 in the Visitor Centre Gallery at the Australian National Botanic Gardens

The exhibition is open daily from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm.

Media interviews with artists can be arranged.

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| What: | Art in the Gardens with Friends exhibition |
| Where: | Visitor Centre Gallery, Australian National Botanic Gardens |
| When: | Wednesday 1 April until Wednesday 15 April 9.30am – 4.30pm |
| Opening of Exhibit: | Tuesday 31 March 2009, 4.30pm |

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