



Australian Government
Australian National Botanic Gardens

MEDIA RELEASE

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Northern Territory curators visit the Australian National Botanic Gardens

The relationship between the people and plants of the Daly River region has inspired a new exhibition at the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

Replant – a new generation of botanical art explores these relationships through the eyes of seven artists.

Deborah Wurrkidj, Fiona Hall, Irene Mungatopi, Judy Watson, Marita Sambono, Winsome Jobling and photographer Peter Eve have created 26 limited edition etchings and photographs for the exhibition.

The artists worked with traditional knowledge custodians in Nauiyu near Darwin as well as the Northern Territory's Director of Wildlife Dr Greg Leach to better understand the relationships between people and plants.

The idea for *Replant* grew from a conversation between Dr Leach and curator Angus Cameron.

"It struck a chord with funding bodies, artists and researchers and in March 2006 an eclectic group of artists, an ethnobiologist, printmakers and a photographer came together to begin the project," Angus said.

Ethnobiologist Glenn Wightman guided the artists' expedition into Nauiyu, an Aboriginal community on the banks of the Daly River.

"The artists were privileged to accompany traditional knowledge custodians Bidy Lindsay, Patricia Marrfurra and Marita Sambono into the bush to look at plants," Angus said.

"The charm of *Replant* was a slow unveiling of the mystery of plants and stories. An acutely observed survey of Top End flora and the environment soon emerged."

Curators Angus and Rose Cameron will be in Canberra to guide visitors through the exhibition on Monday 23 November at 12pm.

Meet at the Visitor Information Centre, Australian National Botanic Gardens. Entry is free.

Replant is showing in the Visitor Centre Gallery until Sunday 31 January 2010.

Media contact: Tanya Davies
0409 070687
tanya.davies@environment.gov.au