



# MEDIA RELEASE

5 November 2010

## Botanic Gardens awards student photographers

Hundreds of student photographers are vying for top honours in an annual high school and college photographic competition run by the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

The winners will be announced at the Gardens Theatre on Saturday 6 November, at the opening of an exhibition showcasing their most outstanding pictures. Prizes are offered for the best colour and black and white photos, best photos of people in the Gardens and best use of photographic effects.

The competition is open to students from high schools and colleges throughout the ACT and Queanbeyan. All entries must feature some aspect of Gardens, focusing on plants, wildlife, scenery or visitors.

The Gardens' General Manager, Peter Byron, said an extraordinary 232 entries were received this year across six categories, the second highest number of entries since the competition began in 1997.

"The quality of this year's photos is just incredible – there's certainly no shortage of photographic talent amongst Canberra's youth!" he said.

"By focusing on the Gardens these students have learnt more about the beauty and value of Australian plants, and their enthusiasm comes out loud and clear in their photos."

Alan Munns, President of volunteer group the Friends of the Gardens, said the competition had become one of their most important youth projects.

"The Friends are delighted to sponsor such a successful event, helping young Canberrans express their appreciation of Australian native plants through artistic creativity," he said.

"These awards are all about encouraging students to continue their great work, with cash rewards offered to both the student winner in each category and their school or college."

The Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday recently. During the past 20 years they have contributed over \$500,000 to Gardens' projects. Fundraising efforts by the Friends include the popular annual Summer Concert Series.

"The Friends are incredibly proud of the contribution we've made to the Gardens - we are growing together," Mr Munns said.

For more information: [www.anbg.gov.au/friends/photoinfo.html](http://www.anbg.gov.au/friends/photoinfo.html)

**What:** Winners of student photo competition announced  
**Where:** Theatre, Australian National Botanic Gardens  
**When:** Saturday 6 November 2010, 12 noon  
**Media contact:** Jenny Blake 02 6250 9405 or 0408 611 014.

**AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS**

*40 years and growing*