



Australian Government
Australian National Botanic Gardens

MEDIA RELEASE

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International Volunteers Day – thanks to you, from all of us

10.30am Monday 6 December the Australian National Botanic Gardens takes time out to celebrate the work of our many long-serving volunteers.

Hands Across Canberra board member Peter Gordon will honour volunteers who have contributed 10 or 15 years service at the Gardens at a special event to celebrate International Volunteers Day.

Gardens executive director Dr Judy West said there were 145 Canberrans who currently volunteer at the Gardens, 50 of whom have dedicated 10 years to the Canberra landmark. Of those 50, 25 volunteers have helped out for more than 15 years.

“Our volunteers bring a broad range of skills to support us and approach their tasks with remarkable passion, commitment, enthusiasm and professionalism,” Dr West said.

“We are grateful for the extraordinary contribution they make - the hundreds of thousands of work hours that have helped make the Gardens the fantastic place it is today,” Dr West said.

Volunteers work in many diverse roles. They are Botanical Resource Centre facilitators, contributors to *In Flower This Week*, hands-on gardeners through the Growing Friends program or assistants in the seed bank, library or herbarium

“Many volunteers are the public face of the Gardens, running our popular daily guided tours or making visitors feel welcome at the Botanical Resource Centre. Others provide vital assistance behind the scenes mounting and cataloguing herbarium specimens,” Dr West said.

Volunteers have been an integral part of the Gardens since it was first established in 1949. The first official volunteer task commenced in 1985, with the production of the weekly information sheet *In Flower This Week*.

Opportunities for community involvement in a wider variety of volunteer roles came with the establishment of the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens in 1990. In 1992 the Gardens formed the Volunteer Guide service and every year, some 4,000 visitors enjoy the free guided walks.

The Gardens' volunteer recognition ceremony will be held at the Crosbie Morrison Shelter (Education Lawn) at **10.30 am, Monday 6 December**.

International Volunteers Day is celebrated each year on 5 December.

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