



Australian Government
Australian National Botanic Gardens

MEDIA ALERT

Tuesday 10 April 2012

Art in the Gardens with Friends

The Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens, along with special guest, Member for Canberra, Gai Brodtmann MP will launch the fifth botanical exhibition *Art in the Gardens with Friends*.

Media are invited to the official opening of the exhibition and be amongst the first to see the exquisite collection of botanical paintings and drawings of Australian native plants in 2012. The opening will also include a special didgeridoo performance by local indigenous artist Duncan Smith.

Curated by the Friends Botanical Art Group, the exhibition brings together both amateur and practicing artists who have a special interest in Australian native plants. The artists seek to portray plants found in the Australian National Botanic Gardens living collection, some of which can be difficult for artists to find elsewhere.

President of the Friends, David Coutts said the Botanical Art Group was an excellent example of how the community could become more involved with the Gardens.

“There is still an important place for botanical art, both as art and as a tool to assist botanists and horticulturalists, and for this reason it is very important that botanical art continues to flourish and be recognised,” he said.

When: Thursday, 12 April 2012
Time: 5.30 pm
Where: Australian National Botanic Gardens
Visitor Centre Gallery
Clunies Ross Street, Acton

Background:

On display at the Australian National Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre Gallery from 13 April until 13 May 2012, the *Art in the Gardens with Friends* exhibition features 67 botanical paintings and drawings dedicated to Australian bush tucker and other native plants.

The exhibition was first held at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in 2008. Due to its popularity and success, the exhibition has become an annual event for the Gardens.

For more information visit: <http://www.anbg.gov.au/gardens/whatson/exhibitions/>

Media contact: Julie Akmacic (02) 6250 9405 0419 441 772