



Thursday 26 November 2015

National eco recognition for your Gardens

The Australian National Botanic Gardens has received eco certification from Ecotourism Australia – the only national programme recognising Australia’s best sustainable businesses.

It is only the second botanic gardens in Australia to receive such accreditation.

Gardens General Manager Peter Byron said he felt proud to have achieved eco status.

“This is a really big deal for the Gardens and for Canberra. It shows that the Gardens really are at the forefront of eco tourism, offering high-quality experiences for our visitors backed by sustainable business practices,” Peter said.

“It’s a great milestone to reach in our 45th anniversary year and again reflects this national institution’s role as a centre for world-leading research and conservation, as well as being one of the top attractions in our capital.

“Sustainability and being at the forefront of green technology is also built into our 20-year Master Plan vision, released in June this year. The vision includes an incredible conservatory, state-of-the-art seedbank and new cafe and visitor centre. We are very much looking forward to delivering on this plan in the coming years to enhance visitor enjoyment of the Gardens.

“I’d like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers, the Friends of the Gardens, for their many, many contributions to the Gardens over the years and encouragement to pursue our green credentials and make our business as sustainable as possible.

“I’d also like to pay tribute to the families who help bring our Gardens alive by visiting and enjoying the many activities on offer every day of the week.

“So come on down this weekend – to the Eat Local Friday farmers’ market tomorrow afternoon and Sunset Cinema tomorrow and Saturday night, to the ABC Dreaming book launch on Saturday. Bring your family and friends, chill out and relax with a picnic and enjoy a natural oasis in the heart of our bush capital.”

To receive Eco Certification a business must demonstrate excellence in their contribution to conservation, cultural sensitivity and work with local communities, business management and operational planning, responsible marketing, interpretation and education, economic sustainability, customer satisfaction and environmental management such as recycling, energy use and water supply and conservation.

For more on Ecotourism Australia visit <http://www.ecotourism.org.au/>

For the latest on what’s on in your Gardens go to <http://www.parksaustralia.gov.au/botanic-gardens/do/whats-on.html>

Media contact: Miranda Schooneveldt (02) 6274 1643 mobile 0439 582 686