



7 April 2008

MEDIA RELEASE

Composting fun at the Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden

Did you know that composting is a great way for all the family to reduce greenhouse gases and improve the soil in your garden?

Composting is also a lot of fun, as children will learn from **Countess Compost** who is making her first visit to the Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden this Autumn.

She has a great story to tell about Wormilocks and the Three Piles: a modern-day tale about compost. Her performance will be followed by the chance to meet friendly worms and have a go at composting.

The program has been initiated by the Gardens' visitor program team because most people appear not to have made the connection between greenhouse gas emissions and the organic waste they produce and dispose of going into landfill.

Steve Clancy, Manager of Public Programs, said: "Put simply, if we take action to divert household organic waste – like food scraps, garden clippings, wood and paper – away from landfill, either via home composting or kerbside-collected green bin recycling, we are reducing the production of methane."

"Countess Compost gets this message across in a fun way to children."

Countess Compost appears at The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden to celebrate International Composting Awareness Week.

When: Tuesday 6 May
Time: 10am – 11am or 11am – 12pm
Where: Meet at the Visitor Centre, Observatory Gate.
Cost: \$10 for each child. Adult participation is required.
Bookings: (03) 9252 2429

Other autumn activities at the Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden are:

Tunes in the Trees

The trees, animals and plants of the garden provide plenty of musical inspiration as three year olds who join in **Tunes in the Trees** will find out. This is the chance for the youngsters to have fun with song and movement in The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden.

When: 18 and 29 April, 13 and 30 May
Time: 10am–10.45am or 11am–11.45am
Where: Meet at the Visitor Centre, Observatory Gate.
Cost: \$7 per child. Adult participation is required.
Bookings: Tel: (03) 9252 2429

Budding green thumbs

In this four week program children experience first-hand the delights of planting, caring for and harvesting vegetables. Children and their adult companions will hear stories from the garden and explore a range of garden-based crafts. The program is best suited to four and five year olds.

When: Thursdays: 17, 24 April and 1 May (4 sessions)
Time: 10am–11am
Where: Meet at the Visitor Centre, Observatory Gate.
Cost: \$40 for the four sessions. Adult participation is required.
Bookings: (03) 9252 2429

Movin' and Groovin' in the Children's Garden

Music is a certainty when it comes to entertaining the very young. Hey Dee Ho will get children aged 18 months - 2 years Movin' and Groovin' as they bring percussion, music and movement to the Children's Garden. This 10 week music program is a wonderful way of helping toddlers discover the world of plants, bugs and beetles.

When: 16, 23, 30 April; 7, 14, 21 and 28 May
Time: 9.30am – 10.15am or 10.30am – 11.15am
Cost: \$125 for all ten sessions. Adult participation is required.
Bookings: Tel: (03) 9252 2429

Getting to the heArt of plants

From creative works to arts of work, The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden introduces a new program to its stable this year with **Getting to the heArt of plants**.

Suitable for children aged 7 -10 years with adults who like to draw, this program comprising three sessions takes children on a journey to some of the Garden's more unusual and fascinating plants using a range of drawing materials. Each week has a different focus from the world of plants.

When: Sundays 13 and 20 April
Time: 10am–12pm
Where: Meet at the Visitor Centre, Observatory Gate.
Cost: \$30 adult; \$30 children for the three sessions.

Adult participation is required.

Bookings: Tel: (03) 9252 2429

Media inquiries: John Myers on (03) 9818 6339.