

12 November 2008

Media release

Drought proofing gardens the Australian Garden way



Summer for many gardeners means one thing: how to protect a garden **from drought**.

The Royal Botanic Gardens team at Cranbourne is putting on several workshops and tours during summer to show home gardeners that it is possible to have a beautiful garden in Melbourne's unpredictable climate.

The sessions will be held in the award-winning Australian Garden, which showcases the remarkable plants of this continent – in all their drought-proof glory.

John Arnott, Horticulture Manager at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne said: "It is a great place to come and learn about how to use Australian plants at home, as well as how to maintain a garden during the summer months.

"By walking through the 15 different landscapes and exhibition gardens, visitors can learn so much about how we look after the plants – and how the plants look after themselves."

John added that many visitors were worried about how their gardens were faring under extreme conditions and that these workshops are the ideal way to get practical advice on a range of issues.

Drought – proofing your garden is a one-hour tour with one of the Gardens' horticulturalists. The tour will look at choosing the best plants and positioning them properly, mulches and efficient watering systems.

John said: "The workshop is good for people who lose plants during summer and would like to make their garden beautiful throughout the dry periods."

Drought – proofing your garden

When: Thursday 15 January; Thursday 12 February

Time: 11.30am – 12.30pm

Cost: \$7.50 Adults; \$6.50 Child/Concession

Tour/activity costs are additional to the Australian Garden entry fee.

Bookings required: Tel: (03) 5990 2245

Large Trees and drought

Large trees require special care during the summer months. This workshop brings together a team of experts to help gardeners learn how to choose and manage trees, and watch for potential trouble spots.

The workshop begins with a one-hour presentation from one of RBG Cranbourne's experienced horticulturalists before joining Dr Greg Moore, an associate of The University of Melbourne, on a walk and talk around the Australian Garden.

Dr Moore has a wealth of expertise in the study of the cultivation and management of trees. He is a member of the National Trust of Victoria's Register of Significant Trees and a Board Member of Greening Australia, TreeNet and Sustainable Gardening Australia.

Large trees and drought

When: Friday 16 January

Time: 10am – 1pm

Cost: \$34.50 Adults - includes entry into the Australian Garden.

Bookings required. Tel: (03) 5990 2245

Visitors wanting an excuse to take a Sunday stroll through the Australian Garden need look no further.

Every Sunday from 4 January to the end of February 2009, there will be a free 30-minute **Selecting top Aussie battlers** walk through the garden with a volunteer guide. Visitors will be able to learn about some of the best drought tolerant plants for Melbourne Gardens.

The walks begin at 12noon.

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