



6 February 2008

MEDIA RELEASE

SCARECROWS, MUSIC AND GARDENING FOR CHILDREN AT THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN

Autumn at The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden promises to be great fun for children and their parents with the opportunity to make scarecrows, get into some vegetable gardening, move and groove to music or have a go at drawing.

There are activities for all ages and stages – all with a focus on getting children involved in and enthused about plants and nature.

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: 10, 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

Countess Compost

When it comes to helping in the garden, what better way than to introduce children to the joys of composting? **Countess Compost** has a great story to tell about Wormilocks and the Three Piles: a modern-day tale about compost. This performance is followed by the chance to meet friendly worms and have a go at composting. 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

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: 12, 19, March; 9, 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

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 March, 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

Scare the crows!

Families will be able to put their creative energy to work in **Scare the crows!** on Sunday 16 March when they have a go at making their own scarecrow. Children aged between six and ten will work with their parents, using a range of natural materials from the garden.

When: Sunday 16 March
Time: 10am–1pm
Where: Meet at the Visitor Centre, Observatory Gate.
Cost: \$12 adult; \$10 children, \$35 family (2 adults and 3 children)

Adult participation is required.

Bookings: Tel: (03) 9252 2429

Draw and explore

School holidays provide the opportunity to take time out and have a go at something new. What better time than to take part in **Draw and explore?** The program is suitable for seven to ten year olds, along with an adult who likes to draw. The participants will meet people with a passion for drawing and painting plants and have the chance to experiment with a range of drawing materials.

When: Thursdays 27 March and 3 April
Time: 10am–12.30pm
Where: Meet at the Visitor Centre, Observatory Gate.
Cost: \$10 adult; \$10 child. Adult participation is required.

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 Gardens' more unusual and fascinating plants using a range of drawing materials. Each week has a different focus from the world of plants.

When: Sundays 6, 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

Bookings: Tel: (03) 9252 2429

Media inquiries: Penny Underwood on (03) 9818 8540.