

For immediate publication



MEDIA RELEASE

School Holiday Fun at Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne

The mini-Mulch Garden Challenge is on during the winter school holidays at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne.

The challenge is for children to build the best and most beautiful mini-garden they can with colourful and creative mulches.

While pitting their wits against each other, the children will also learn how to save water in the garden and find out how plants can survive in tough environments.

As Mick Robertson, Coordinator Education says, "Mulching is an essential part of gardening today."

"The mini-Mulch Garden Challenge is a great way of introducing children to mulches, showing how much fun it can be and why it is so essential to keeping weeds at bay and plants moist."

Mick said most children were surprised to learn that mulching helped to prevent weeds from germinating and the reduced the amount of water evaporation by ten to fifty per cent.

The mini-Mulch Garden Challenge is on Fridays 3 and 10 July from 10.30am to 12.15pm. Cost is \$9.60 a child and bookings are essential.

This winter school holidays at the RBG Cranbourne, children will be exploring the world of Australian native seed pods as they join the ever popular **Build A Hortasaurus** workshops. Parents come along and learn a great activity you can use at home!

Most adults haven't met a hortasaurus but as any child will tell you, it could be a bunyip, dinosaur or even a dragon. The most important thing to know is that a hortasaurus can be made from only one thing – the seed pod of an Australian plant.

The activity takes around 15 minutes and is available on Wednesday 1 July, Wednesday 8 July Thursday 9 July between 1pm and 2.30pm. The cost for each child is \$3.20.

The **Rockpool Bunyip** is very much alive and well in The Australian Garden but where is he? Children are invited to join in the search, listen to a story or two before using coloured sand to create their own rockpool bunyip to take home. There is always the chance that Grubby the Garden Grub will turn up to help out too.

Children aged two to four are invited to join the search between 9.30am and 10.30am on Wednesday 1 July and Thursday 9 July. Five to ten years will take up the hunt between 11am and 12noon on Wednesday 1 and 8 July. The cost is \$6 a child, or \$5 for a Garden Grubs Kids' Club member.

Children must be accompanied by an adult for each school holiday activity.

Bookings are required on (03) 5990 2245.

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