



For immediate release

MEDIA RELEASE

Winter is a fun time at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Victoria

Winter at the Royal Botanic Gardens looks set to be fun with a plateful of culinary and lunar delights on offer.

At the Australian Garden in Cranbourne, visitors who brave the winter chill will enjoy the Winter Warmer package at the Australian Garden including tea/coffee and a biscuit from Boonerwurrung Café and a souvenir package of five Australian Garden postcards from the Gardens Shop as part of their entry fee.

Art-themed garden tours and workshops are running throughout the winter, including *The Rockpool Bunyip* and *Garden Sculpture with David Wong* for families, *The Hyperactive Winter Garden* for all gardeners. Bookings and more information are available on (03) 5990 2245.

In Melbourne the emphasis during July is on the moon with special free tours being conducted at the Melbourne Observatory to commemorate the first lunar viewing through a telescope in 1609. **Bright Side of the Moon** is perfect for the family to celebrate International Year of Astronomy. The Astronomical Society of Victoria will run the tours.

Two walks with a culinary twist are being offered during the winter months. The ever popular **Chocolate and Spice** and **Camellias and Tea** tours offer visitors the chance to explore different parts of the gardens and their plants.

The **Camellias and Tea** tour will focus on historic cultivars, hybrids and lesser-known Camellia species and will be followed with a warming cup of tea at The Terrace. The **Chocolate and Spice** tour will include spicy stories and recipes of cinnamon, cardamom and the intoxicating vanilla bean. Sponsored by Haigh's chocolates, this aromatic adventure ends with a delicious hot chocolate at The Terrace.

Other highlights during winter include:

- The NAIDOC Celebrations at RBG Melbourne on Wednesday 8 July where a festive afternoon of Indigenous music, song, dance and food will be held to mark the week. Come along and be welcomed to the lands of the Boonerwurrung and Woiwurrung people at a traditional Wominjika (welcome) ceremony.
- *Pumpkin Soup* and *The Music Tree*, two special programs at the Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden which offer children the chance to enjoy gardens in different ways before the Children's Garden closes for a winter break on Monday 13 July before reopening at 10am on Wednesday 9 September.

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