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MEDIA RELEASE

**Work begins to bring Volcano at
Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne to life again**

The next stage of the exciting \$1.55 million *Guilfoyle's Volcano* restoration is due to begin on 18 May 2009.

The Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne has appointed Delta Pty Ltd, trading as Streetscapes, to carry out construction work at the Anderson Street site.

The construction phase is expected to be complete by the beginning of September 2009, and will be followed by planting and other 'soft' landscaping. It is expected that the site will be open for public access in early 2010.

Built under the direction of William Guilfoyle in 1876 as a functional reservoir, the structure was styled to represent a dramatic volcanic crater at the highest point on the eastern boundary of the Gardens.

The 'volcano' has been hidden from public view beyond fences and vegetation for over 100 years.

The revitalisation plans, drawn up by the Gardens' Landscape Architect, Andrew Laidlaw, will see the 'volcano' once again becoming a central feature of a series of rocky outcrops, linking to sweeping lawns and mounded garden beds, originally designed to resemble a lava flow. Funding for the project has come from The Myer Foundation and generous private donors.

Redevelopment began just over a year ago and, once complete, will include water-sensitive planting, floating garden beds, striking new views across the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, viewing platforms, and all-ability access boardwalks.

The restoration of Guilfoyle's Volcano will bring to life a part of the Royal Botanic Gardens' historic landscape, create a new visitor attraction for public recreation and education, and will act as a reservoir for a more extensive stormwater harvesting project that will circulate captured water via the Gardens' lake system and a series of natural wetland filters. Critically, the 'volcano' will once again become an integral part of effective water management in the Royal Botanic Gardens as was its intention when created over 130 years ago.

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