

IMMEDIATE PHOTO CALL

15 November 2007



When: Thursday 15 November

Time: Between 1:30pm and 2:00pm

Where: Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, enter through gate F, meet on Oak Lawn opposite the Herbarium.

Subject: Superb photo opportunity – Majestic Oak tree falls on 118th birthday.

(Note: Media are asked to respect the safety zone surrounding the site for obvious safety reasons. Work will commence on clearing the site this afternoon.)

At 10.30am this morning a majestic Algerian Oak tree spectacularly fell on Oak Lawn in the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne.

The Lady Loch Oak tree was planted by Lady Loch, the Governor of Victoria's wife on this day in 1889.

This historic tree has limbs up to 20 metres long and an enormous canopy spanning 43 metres.

Mr Richard Barley, Director, Melbourne Gardens, said: "Initial observations show that the trunk had begun to weaken internally and could no longer support the extensive crown."

The 'Lady Loch Oak tree' is one of the most iconic trees on Oak Lawn and is a favourite meeting place for visitors to the gardens.

- ENDS-

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