



23 March 2016

Media Alert – Save the date

Coming to Melbourne Gardens in spring – Botanic and Rare Plant Fair, 22 & 23 October

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (RBGV) with the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and The Diggers Club are joining forces in spring to hold the inaugural Botanic and Rare Plant Fair – a vibrant plant-focused fair at the historic Melbourne Gardens.

RBGV's Director and Chief Executive Professor Tim Entwisle says spring is the perfect time to inspire Melbourne's gardening and plant enthusiasts.

'We're thrilled to be partnering with our Melbourne Friends and the Diggers Club to create a weekend event celebrating plants in all their diversity.'

Diggers Club Founder Clive Blazey says the Fair will reacquaint gardeners with long-lasting plants that are no longer available in many retail nurseries.

'It will showcase many rare plants that were once available in small-scale specialist nurseries and provide plant enthusiasts with an opportunity to purchase these rare and unusual plants, all in one place on one weekend in spring directly from growers'.

The President of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, Sally Hirst, says the Friends welcome the opportunity to join forces with the Gardens and the Diggers Club to share our love of plants and the Melbourne Gardens and showcase the Growing Friends' amazing activity to a wider audience.

- WHAT:** **Botanic and Rare Plant Fair**
- Talks, demonstrations and tours
 - Plant Stallholders
 - Growing Friends' Plant Sale

WHEN: **Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 October**

WHERE: **Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria – Melbourne Gardens**
Birdwood Avenue, Melbourne

Further information about this upcoming event is available from Robyn Merrett, Manager, RBGV Marketing & Communications Branch on 03 9252 2387 or Priscilla Van den Broek, Diggers Project & Events Manager on 0448 058 929.

Proudly presented by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria with Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and The Diggers Club

