



MEDIA RELEASE

George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens

One of the Territory's most popular gardens is set for a huge spike in visitor numbers.

The George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens traditionally enjoys its highest rate of visitation during August with 2007 expected to be no different.

Botanic Gardens manager Dave Griffiths said more than 1.7 million visitors had visited the gardens during the past decade with August again set for various highlights.

"We always see more people visit the gardens in June and July in line with the peak tourist season but August is when most of the activities begin," Mr Griffiths said.

"Our most recent highlight was the ABC 75th Birthday Celebrations at the Darwin Amphitheatre in the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens which saw about 5,000 visitors attend this milestone event.

"This year in August in addition to our traditional highlights such as the Darwin Festival, Tropical Garden Spectacular and the Teddy Bears Picnic we will have two fantastic art exhibitions, the Galuku exhibition which features screen prints and bark paintings displayed on coconut trees at the entrance of the Festival Club, and the Tales of the Avians exhibition at the Wesleyan church.

"Aside from all the exciting events taking place at the Gardens during August, the cooler weather means that families can enjoy a day at the Gardens.

"Whether it's checking out the mangroves from the North Australian communities section, walking through the new special collection of Cycads, or relaxing in the shady areas while the kids play on our world class children's play ground, there's something for all the family to enjoy."

A full list of August activities is listed below:

- **Darwin Festival (9 – 26 August)**
The 2007 Darwin Festival is your artistic gateway to Northern Territory and South East Asian and Pacific cultures.
- **Tropical Garden Spectacular (11-12 August)**
The Northern Territory Garden Spectacular is a unique Darwin event, which has established itself in the calendar as an event not to be missed
- **Teddy Bears Picnic (Sunday 19 August)**
The annual Australian Central Teddy Bears Picnic with plenty of activities and events planned for kids. 9am – midday.
- **Tales of the Avians exhibition, Wesleyan Church (10-26 August)**

A collection of whimsical art on the subject of birds. Three well-known Darwin artists are joined by four remote Indigenous artists to present an exhibition of etchings, screen prints, paintings and fibre weavings.

- **Galuku exhibition (10-26 August)**

Galuku is a Yolgnu word meaning coconut palm. Indigenous artists from Buku Larrnggay Mulka in Yirrkala have created screen prints, bark paintings and painted hollow logs which will be on display on trees located in the coconut grove area to create an art gallery with no walls. The nighttime exhibition will be held as part of the Festival of Darwin.

The 42 hectares of Botanic Gardens are about two kilometres north of the Darwin Business District and a network of paths connects the Gardens' main features.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Dave Griffiths on 0401 115 712

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