

Media Release:

21.10.09

Support George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens

A sponsorship program is to be launched at today at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens (GBDBG) to sponsor a living tree or a commemorative seat.

GBDBG Curator David Griffiths said the Botanic Gardens hold a special place in many Territorians' hearts, and the sponsorship program offers an opportunity to help the future of the Botanic Gardens.

"There's two strands to the program, the living tree sponsorship is an opportunity to sponsor some of our most splendid trees in the gardens which could be one of the magnificent trees such as the Bodhi tree (*Ficus religiosa*) or one of the eight species of Boab (*Baobab*) for the life of the tree," Mr Griffiths said.

"Another option would be for visitors to sponsor a tree or collection of their own choice, with any sponsored tree featuring an appreciation label and a personal message.

"The second strand to the program is the commemorative seating sponsorship, which offers visitors the opportunity to commemorate a special event, or remember a loved one by purchasing a seat which features a personal commemorative plaque."

The commemorative seating program supports local business with the three person jarrah park benches made by Kokoda Industries.

Mr Griffiths said the first commemorative seat has been sponsored by the family and friends of the late Mrs Noreen Brown, who passed away in August this year.

Mrs Noreen Brown was the widow of George Brown, former Lord Mayor and one time Curator of the Darwin Botanic Gardens, for whom the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens was renamed to honour.

"People can choose their own favourite place within the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens for the seat to be placed, whether it be in the quietness of the rainforest or in the children's garden, the Botanic Gardens offers a range of places to sit and relax for a while.

"Friends and family are welcome to attend during the placement of the seating and the gardens staff will look after the seat for 10 years, after this the seat can be purchased for a nominal fee," he said.

The costs vary from \$5000 to sponsor a magnificent tree for the life of the tree, to \$200 to sponsor a group planting or collection for one year. The commemorative seating costs \$1500 and can be purchased for \$100 after 10 years at the Botanic Gardens.

All funds raised go directly back to the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens to support conservation programs, horticultural displays and community education and training programs.

To find out more go to <http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks/botanic/> or email botgardens.darwin@nt.gov.au or call 8981 1958.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact David Griffiths on 0401 115 712

Image: 4-year-old Billy Cooke hugs one of the Rain tree's (*Samanea saman*) that can be sponsored at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.

Media Vision Opportunity – Curator of the GBDBG Dave Griffiths, Friends of Noreen and George Brown and Friends of the Botanic Gardens will be attending the launch at 3pm where the first sponsored seat to commemorate Noreen Brown will be placed amongst the Frangipanis in the Botanic Gardens from 3pm. Enter via the Geranium Street entrance to walk down to where the launch will be held.

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