

Media Release:

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Newly Refurbished Plant Display House Opens Its Doors

Following a \$60,000 upgrade, the Plant Display House at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens (GBDBG) will officially open its doors to the public today, 7 April 2011.

GBDBG Director Susan Wills said that this was an exciting time for all as the launch of the new look Bromeliad and Exotic Plant section within the Plant Display House coincides with the 16th Australasian Bromeliad Conference that runs from 7-10 April in Darwin.

“The Friends of the Darwin Botanic Gardens received \$10,000 to improve the Plant Display House through a Chief Minister’s Community Support Grant, with the Botanic Gardens also contributing to assist with the upgrades,” Ms Wills said.

“There has also been in-kind support from Clouston Associates and the Conservation Volunteers Australia.

“The Plant Display House was erected in the 1960’s and was constructed purely to hold an exotic plant collection.

“With the funds we’ve been able to improve the potted collection of existing plants including exotic Bromeliads, Orchids and Nepenthes as well as purchase additional plants to enhance the collection within the Plant Display House.

“We’ve also been able to resurface the floor, install irrigation, install new seating, hang new locally designed wrought iron gates and undertake other minor changes to the infrastructure of the facility.”

Ms Wills said the opening of the refurbished display house coincides with the launch of the Australasian Bromeliad Conference, which will attract both tourists and local Territorians to the Botanic Gardens.

“Something most people don’t know about Bromeliads is that they’re native mainly to the Americas and one of our favourite fruits, the Pineapple (*Ananas comosus*) is also a part of the Bromeliad family,” Ms Wills said.

“I would like to thank staff, Friends of the Gardens, Clouston Associates, the Conservation Volunteers Australia and local businesses for their involvement during the upgrade.

“I also invite members of the public to join us at 12:30pm today for the official launch to be held at the Plant Display House.”

Media Note – for more information contact Susan Wills on 8981 1958

Media are invited to attend the launch at 12.30pm today for vision / interview opportunities.

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