

Media release: More than a garden — botanic gardens across Australia and New Zealand celebrate Botanic Gardens Day 2024

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Botanic gardens and arboreta on both sides of the Tasman are gearing up to celebrate Botanic Gardens Day 2024 on Sunday 26 May.

Botanic Gardens Day, organised by Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) and now in its ninth year, is an annual day of celebration to highlight the role of plants in our lives and the important work botanic gardens and arboreta undertake every day to conserve them for future generations.

The CEO of BGANZ, Cassandra Nichol, states:

With over 140 botanic gardens and arboreta across Australia and New Zealand, the value they provide to our countries is undeniable, yet highly underestimated. Botanic Gardens Day is about showcasing the significant contributions they make to sustaining the very foundation of our lives — plants. They are the protectors of this invaluable resource, but most of us don't even know it.

This year's theme is ***More than a garden...protecting our plants and landscapes***. The theme reflects the fact that botanic gardens and arboreta are not only nice places to visit — they also conduct ecological research, safeguard plant diversity through living collections and seed banks and educate and empower communities in environmental sustainability. Botanic gardens are known as vital green spaces of social, cultural and heritage value within communities, but are also increasingly being recognised as the frontline in tackling the biggest challenges facing our future — biodiversity loss, adaptation to a changing climate, food security and pest and disease management.

Check out the events happening over the whole month of May across Australian and New Zealand botanic gardens — and online! — at bganz.org.au.

About Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand Ltd. (BGANZ):

Established in 2004, BGANZ, the peak industry body for botanic gardens and arboreta across Australia and New Zealand, represents over 90 botanic gardens and arboreta within Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific, as well as an additional 60+ organisations and individuals who share our vision — a future where plants are valued and protected, ensuring a greener, healthier and more resilient world for generations to come. We work to unite and strengthen the botanic garden network through advocacy, leadership and professional development, resource and knowledge sharing and raising awareness of their value.

Botanic Gardens Day was launched in 2016 by BGANZ with ABC TV's Gardening Australia host, and Botanic Gardens Day Australian Ambassador, Costa Georgiadis, and New Zealand Ambassador, Jack Hobbs. On Botanic Gardens Day each year botanic gardens, arboreta and gardens in Australia and New Zealand hold over 120 events, with more than 80,000 members of the public engaged, to celebrate the vital work botanic gardens do for plant conservation.

For interviews, contact Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand CEO, Cassandra Nichols, ceo@bganz.org.au.