



Australian Government
Parks Australia



MEDIA ALERT

29 November 2018

FUN WITH BUSH BLITZ IN THE GARDENS

The Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) is proud to open its gardens for the fun-filled Bush Blitz in the Gardens day at the ANBG, Clunies Ross St, Canberra on Sunday, 2 December 2018 from 10am to 3pm.

Visitors are invited to join Bush Blitz scientists as they discover the amazing plants and animals that call the ANBG home.

The day will be packed with hands-on educational activities for all ages, including:

- Bush Blitz researchers, showcasing live and preserved specimens in an open laboratory-style setting
- workshops on how to make your own bug collector and drawing insects
- guided walks
- preservation demonstrations of plant and animal specimens.

Bush Blitz is Australia's largest nature discovery program, documenting plants and animals across Australia and discovering new species.

Parks Australia Bush Blitz Manager Jo Harding said the scientific expedition team will be based at the Birrigai Outdoor Education Centre close to the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. Bringing the field lab to the ANBG allows everyone to share in the Bush Blitz experience.

"You don't have to travel to the Amazon to discover new species. New species are discovered every day, some right here in our own backyard," Ms Harding said. "The last time we were in the region in 2013, we discovered an impressive 71 new species."

ANBG General Manager Tiffeny Horwood said the ANBG was delighted to host the Bush Blitz in the Gardens day.

"This will be a great opportunity for scientists and visitors to explore the biodiversity that lives in our gardens," Ms Horwood said. "And with Bush Blitz including a particular focus on the role of insects in the environment, this will help us to better understand the role that insects play in the gardens."

"The ANBG and Bush Blitz have a long standing partnership that has included the collection of plant material from Tasmania, Central Australia, and the Oxley Wild Rivers region of NSW. Plants collected as part of these expeditions, then propagated in the ANBG nursery, have been planted in the ANBG's Living Collection, and also returned to the wild. This is a wonderful example of Bush Blitz contributing to scientific knowledge, the conservation of our native species, and enhancing our national Living Collection."

The Bush Blitz in the Gardens Day at the ANBG is part of the 10-day Bush Blitz expedition to discover and document new flora and fauna species across various locations in the ACT, running from 26 November to 6 December 2018.

Bush Blitz works closely with land managers, taxonomists and teachers to build capacity, inspire future generations and raise public awareness about biodiversity research and taxonomy.

Bush Blitz was established in 2010 as a joint partnership between the Australian Government, through Parks Australia, BHP and Earthwatch Australia.

For more information about the ACT Bush Blitz and Bush Blitz at the Gardens at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, visit bushblitz.org.au

WHAT: Bush Blitz at the Gardens

WHEN: Sunday, 2 December 2018, from 10am to 3pm

WHERE: Australian National Botanic Gardens, Clunies Ross Street, Canberra.

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Images are available to [download](#) and use for editorial only.