



Australian Government
Australian National Botanic Gardens

MEDIA RELEASE

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Calling all kids – your Gardens have a treat in store this summer

Climb and explore our Australian National Botanic Gardens to your heart's content with our latest addition – a recycled timber treehouse gazebo.

Sitting among a stand of paperbark trees three metres above the ground, the Friends of the Gardens initiated the specially commissioned treehouse for families to enjoy. Its construction is part of the Gardens' 20 year Master Plan.

Sydney based architecture and design company Cave Urban's design featuring recycled timber preserved by *Yakisugi*, the traditional Japanese technique for carbonising wood has won a national design competition conducted by the Friends and the Gardens.

"The use of recycled timber, some of which will be salvaged from the Gardens, and the natural way the treehouse links with the surrounding gardens impressed the judging panel," said Lesley Jackman, President of the Friends of the Gardens.

"The treehouse gazebo and surrounding landscaping will create a wonderful nature play area for children and their families."

Cave Urban architect Nici Long said the use of charred timber will be a feature of the treehouse. "It is not only a symbol of bushfire and regeneration, it also preserves the timber and provides a textural finish that actually reduces the fire risk," Ms Long said.

"Also growing over part of the structure will be native vines, which provide a landmark within the Gardens that will grow and mature over time, rather than age and decay. The flowering and growth of the vine will provide dynamic rhythm of constant change that mimics the seasonal changes of the forest."

Gardens Executive Director Judy West said the construction of the treehouse gazebo is another exciting example of the support given by the Friends of the Gardens.

"In addition to being wonderful ambassadors for the Gardens, the funds raised by the Friends and Friends Public Fund have supported many of the visitor experiences developed in the Gardens over the past 20 years," Dr West said.

Construction for the Treehouse Gazebo commences in July with completion in October this year.

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