

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**'Ballarat in Bloom' with 'Great Big Gardens Play Day'**

Children can indulge in a giant outdoor fantasy land of arts, crafts, flora and fauna at the 'Great Big Gardens Play Day' on Wednesday, October 24.

The Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens' 'BotaniKIDS' event, is financially supported by the City of Ballarat, and is being promoted as part of Ballarat Regional Tourism's (BRT) 'Ballarat in Bloom' Spring marketing campaign.

BRT Chairman Stuart Benjamin said, the 'Great Big Gardens Play Day' at the Ballarat Botanical Gardens, has been specifically designed for mother's groups, grandparents with grandkids, kindergartens, primary schools and playgroups.

"The Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens have created a range of activities from 10am to 3pm to help kids connect with nature on 'International Children's Day' – so that's basically for any child who loves adventure."

"And, it all ties in with our BRT Spring marketing campaign, 'Ballarat in Bloom', as children can enjoy the BotaniKIDS event in the picturesque gardens, which is an iconic location that tourists and locals alike are drawn to at this time of year.

"As part of 'Ballarat in Bloom' – which showcases gardens, food, wine, fashion and vintage shopping - other related garden attractions for 'the big kids' are the Art Gallery of Ballarat's 'Capturing Flora' exhibition (until Dec 2), the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> annual 'Ballarat Gardens in Spring' open inspections (Nov 2-4), 'Ballarat by the Glass' at various winery cellar doors (October 27-Nov 25) and playing host to visitors of the Australian Garden History Conference (Nov 9-11)."

Convenor of the 'Great Big Gardens Play Day, Julie Bradby, said children who attend the 'Great Big Gardens Play Day' will be kept busy 'rain, hail or shine' with activities ranging from water discovery, to a mini-beast hunt, and book readings under the big trees.

"Friends of the gardens and guides will also take kids on the 'what statue are you?' adventure walk, and there will be a maze that will develop as the day goes on."

Other activities include a great big bubble blast, giant chalk boards, learning about nature and maths, as well as a permaculture garden demonstration with chickens.

Ms Bradby said a visit to the gardens gives children an understanding of the importance of plants in our lives, and the role of gardens in conserving rare and threatened plant species.

Registration to attend the Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens 'BotaniKIDS' free day is a must by calling 5342 9354, or downloading a form on the website at [www.fbbg.org.au](http://www.fbbg.org.au)

A separate BotaniKIDS event designed to connect children, parents and plants will be held for mothers or carers of children between 0 and 4 years of age at the 'Young Mum's Group' meetings at the Robert Clark Centre on November 13.

A full list of activities in the *Ballarat in Bloom* campaign are listed on the Visit Ballarat website – [www.visitballarat.com.au](http://www.visitballarat.com.au)

...ENDS.... 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2012