

VOLUNTEER GUIDE OPPORTUNITY



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
BOTANIC GARDENS

Do you have a passion for Australian plants? Do you enjoy the outdoors and spending time with like-minded people? Do you embrace the challenge of expanding your knowledge and skills? Does meeting people from around Australia and from overseas sound like fun? Then the Volunteer Guides Program at ANBG is for you.

No botanical background is required to apply. The Gardens offers a training program and mentorship to equip you with the knowledge and skills you need to prepare for guiding. As a volunteer you can expect:

- rewarding work at a national institution
- comprehensive training and ongoing personal development
- a mentor to assist you in the early stages of guiding
- recognition of your contribution to the Gardens
- safe and healthy working conditions, in line with standards required for paid staff, including insurance cover.

There are two streams of Volunteer Guide at the Gardens, Walking Tour Guides and Flora Explorer Guides. **As** a new recruit, you can select to work in either or both streams. The world of the Gardens is open to you.

If you're interested in becoming a Volunteer Guide at the Gardens or would like further information, please attend one of the Information sessions to be held on **Wednesday 19 September at 12:30 pm** and **Tuesday 25 September at 5:30 pm** in the Theatre opposite the Gardens Visitors Centre.

The application and selection process involves providing a written application (see Application questions), and participating in an interview in late November.

Walking Tour Guides

Free guided walks are offered at 11 am and 2 pm every day of the year except Christmas Day. Each Guide is encouraged and supported to develop their own walks through the Gardens, delivering key points about the work done at the Gardens and the fragile Australian environment. The Gardens are seasonal so guided walks vary depending on the time of the year, the particular interests of the Guide and/or visitors and any special events.

Guides also lead walks booked by groups who arrange and pay a fee for a guided walk at a time of their choice. Fees contributed to the Friends of the Gardens support the Gardens.

Flora Explorer Guides

Guides provide the regular Flora Explorer electric vehicle tours twice a day on weekends and public holidays at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm. Extra tours are sometimes scheduled for school holiday periods. Flora Explorer seats up to 12 passengers and allows visitors to reach parts of the Gardens they might otherwise not visit. The tours allow less mobile visitors, who are unable to participate in a guided walk, the opportunity to enjoy a guided tour of the Gardens. The Flora Explorer follows a set route. The route skirts the Main Path but still visits key areas of interest.

Guides (both Walking and Flora) nominate which tours they want to lead at the monthly Guides' meeting held on the third Tuesday of the month from 1 pm to 2.30 pm. The meeting includes a Professional Development session which helps guides maintain and build on knowledge and experience.

