



# the Australian Springtime Flora Festival

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## **MEDIA RELEASE** For immediate release - 8 August 2011

### **Central Coast students to create enchanted work of art for Springtime Flora Festival**

Central Coast primary schools have the chance to showcase their original, magical masterpieces at the 2011 Australian Springtime Flora Festival from 8 to 11 September.

An art competition is being held as part of the interactive *Enchanted Garden* being launched at this year's Festival, set to captivate children with storytelling, train rides, costumed characters, pony rides and daily Mad Hatter tea parties.

The competition theme asks children to design their own unique Enchanted Garden, with each school class allowed one entry on a standard sheet of cardboard.

"We want to see the Australian Springtime Flora Festival through the eyes of a child," says Chris King, Executive Director of the Australian Springtime Flora Festival. "We are looking for the most colourful, imaginative piece of art work, illustrating a beautiful, magical garden, just like our very own Enchanted Garden here at the Festival."

From 8 – 11 September, the Mad Hatter and his team of magical creatures, will entertain and delight young Festival goers with a daily tea party at the Enchanted Garden, while themed characters will entertain with pony rides, jumping castles and face painting. There will also be a mini train circling the gardens, dotted with fairies, elves – and perhaps a glimpse of the White Rabbit on his way to the tea party!

"The winning class will receive an Australian Springtime Flora Festival family pass for each student and the art work will be printed in the Central Coast Express Advocate, whilst also being put on display at the Central Coast Tourism booth at the Festival," says Chris.

The competition will be judged by Council representatives of Gosford' and Wyong Councils. All entries must arrive by close of business on 2 September 2011. Entries may be sent to **The Enchanted Garden Competition, C/- The Australian Springtime Flora Festival, 52 The Avenue, Mt Penang Parklands, Kariong NSW 2250.**

Set on the grounds of Mt. Penang Parklands at Kariong, the Enchanted Garden brings an element of magic to the 25th annual Australian Spring Flora Festival, making it the ultimate day out for the whole family.

#### **Getting there:**

Operation hours are 9am to 5pm on Thursday 8 September through to Saturday 10 September, and 9am to 4pm on Sunday 11 September. Mt. Penang Parklands is located at Kariong off the F3 Gosford exit if travelling from Sydney or Newcastle. Parking is complimentary, as is the shuttle services from the Kariong parking area to the Festival. Buses will also depart regularly from Gosford Railway Station.

Free guided tours through Mt. Penang Gardens are included in the admission prices at \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors, \$4 for children aged 5-16, while under five years is free. Family passes are also available for \$34. Group concessions are also available for groups of twenty or more.

This activity is supported by Central Coast Tourism and the NSW Government through Destination NSW and its Regional Tourism Partnership Funding Program.

For further details on the event including a full exhibitor list see [www.florafestival.com.au](http://www.florafestival.com.au).

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