



SPOTLIGHT: ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN SYDNEY

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GLOW? VIVID SYDNEY SHINES A LIGHT ON THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN SYDNEY

Charming cast of characters sends an illuminating message

Rock walls, tree canopies and the trunks of 100-year-old Ficus plants will be transformed into living canvases as Vivid Sydney artists' unleash their creativity and put the environment in the spotlight when the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney returns bigger, bolder and brighter for this year's Vivid Sydney festival.

Art, technology, flora and fauna will combine in a captivating showcase of light installations featuring cutting edge developments in projection, lighting and sound that will entertain and delight visitors as well as explore important conservation issues.

Minister for Tourism and Major Events and Assistant Minister for Skills Adam Marshall said, "One of this year's highlights at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney is *Electric Forest*, a dynamic collaboration between Vivid Sydney and TAFE NSW, designed and constructed by current TAFE NSW students.

"Electric Forest features music, lighting design, animation and projection-mapping onto the Garden's magnificent fig trees, and is designed to highlight both the natural beauty of the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, and the talents of the next generation of designers, 3D artists, animators and electronic musicians."

Executive Director Royal Botanic Garden Sydney Kim Ellis said, "Vivid Sydney is an awe-inspiring festival of light that dazzles and entertains us all with its brilliant cacophony of colours. It is also a powerful platform for artists and creative thinkers to challenge, provoke and encourage visitors to ponder bigger issues.

"This year's lights will help spread a valuable message around sustainability and the importance of protecting fragile ecosystems, delivered in the most captivating, natural botanical environment of all, the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney."

Highlights include:

- **Birds of Lumos:** Birds of a feather? This illuminating mum and chick representing the rare Rowi species of Kiwi will melt hearts and highlight the importance of conservation when they come to life and try to avoid danger as visitors gather around them.
- **The Sunflowers:** Ain't no sunshine at night but that won't stop these charming, enormous potted sunflowers bowing down to welcome you as you pass by. This joyous, sustainable light sculpture uses solar energy harnessed by day to captivate visitors by night.



- **Spreading Life:** Inspired by that most natural (and magical) of experiences: blowing on a dandelion. This installation captures the delicate moment when a dandelion's seeds float off and spread through the air; a passage of nature — that shows us that as a flower dies, others are born.
- **You Lookin' at Me?** The eyes have it in this captivating installation. A Vivid Sydney take on the paintings where eyes follow your every move, you'll encounter five giant, glaring, glowing eyeballs scattered across the grass. Watch them watch you — and find out what happens if you venture too close.
- **The Big Red Button:** Will you press the button? This playful light sculpture dangles a carrot to the curious as it questions our impact on the environment and efforts being made to protect it. Will you be tempted to press the giant red button marked Do Not Press? And what will happen to the green environment if you do?
- **Dipping Birds:** These sticky beaks are thirsty birds. A Vivid Sydney twist on the novelty 'drinking bird' toy that perched on the rim of a glass, two enormous bobbing birds stand over two metres tall in a pond in this hypnotic installation. The child in everyone will delight in the charming spectacle as the drinking buddies and the water change colour as they quench their thirst.
- **Waratah:** Plants are more like us than we think. Find out how when this majestic, larger-than-life inflatable native flowering plant (and floral emblem of New South Wales) responds playfully and emotionally to sound and movement when visitors walk up and make direct contact.
- **Taste the garden: Enchanted Garden Bar & Eatery** is a whimsical and enchanted pop-up Bar and Eatery hosted by Wat's On Events featuring the progressive and innovative Nel. Restaurant. From the Eatery enjoy truffles and edible soil to bread & butter pudding with apple compote and cinnamon ice cream. At the Bar, toast the lights or keep warm with a cheeky tippie or two from the signature drinks list featuring G&Ts, Spiced Rum, Glühwein Mulled Wine, molten hot chocolate and specialty coffee by Will & Co.

Vivid Sydney at The Royal Botanic Garden Sydney runs from 6pm to 11pm every night from 26 May to 17 June.

ABOUT VIVID SYDNEY

Vivid Sydney is the world's largest festival of light, music and ideas, which for 23 days - from 26 May to 17 June 2017 - transforms the Harbour City with its unique colourful, creative canvas. In 2016 Vivid Sydney attracted a record 2.31 million attendees. Vivid Sydney is owned, managed and produced by Destination NSW, the NSW Government's tourism and major events agency. Vivid Sydney features large scale light installations and projections - Vivid Light; music performances and collaborations - Vivid Music (including Vivid LIVE at the Sydney Opera House); and creative ideas, discussion and debate - Vivid Ideas, all celebrating Sydney as the creative hub of the Asia-Pacific. Vivid Sydney is in its ninth year. For more information visit www.vividsydney.com



ABOUT THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN SYDNEY

Founded by Governor Macquarie on the traditional land of the Cadigal people, the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney is Australia's first scientific institution and oldest living botanic garden. It has and continues to be a favourite place for visitors and Sydney siders alike to come to share, to relax, to discover, and to be inspired. For the first time in its history, the Garden partnered with Vivid Sydney in 2016 to light up and open up its gates after dark to celebrate its 200th Birthday year milestone.

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