



Media Release

26 May 2015

Tropical Garden Spectacular Community Village celebrates all things dirty in the name of sustainability

This year the Tropical Garden Spectacular's Community Village is proudly hosted by the Environment Centre NT's COOLmob program.

"The 2015 program is set to inspire the green thumb in us all" says Acting COOLmob Manager Jessica Steinborner.

"COOLmob has gathered together a vibrant network of community gardeners, landscapers, local food champions and educators in the Community Village for a fun weekend of workshops, displays, talks and music".

With a cafe hosted by new Darwin favourite Love Thy Juice, inspirational cooking workshops, amazing speakers, shady trees, ABC Gardening Australia's Costa Georgiadis and a never seen before Hugelkultur demonstration, you won't want to leave!

"The Tropical Garden Spectacular Community Village was a hit in 2014 and COOLmob is just thrilled to be working with the organising committee and local sustainability legends in 2015 to celebrate Darwin's vibrant world of tropical community gardeners"

"The 2015 community village will incorporate, permaculture, organic food, kid's nature play in the Kidsgrow area and water saving gardening" says Ms Steinborner.

The Kidsgrow area will greet both the ABC's garden guru and Festival guest, Costa, and school children from Elcho Island who have come to Darwin just for the Spectacular to share their stories about their school permaculture garden which was damaged in recent cyclones but which they are working hard to re-build.

"We're thrilled to welcome main stage speakers such as Leonie Norrington, author of *Tropical Food Gardens* and renowned children's book author, visiting the Talking Circle for a session on growing greens for the kitchen."

And for the bamboo enthusiasts the Tropical Garden Spectacular Community Village is Darwin's only chance to attend bamboo workshops by Queensland's renowned Bamboo Solutions with workshops hosted by Rob and Jules on both days.

A highlight each year of the Tropical Garden Spectacular Community Village are the cooking workshops. Talented and creative local cooks, coordinated by Emma Lupin from Growing and Understanding Local Produce (GULP) will be preparing a delicious array of food from local ingredients.

For more information and the program: coolmob.org/tropical-garden-spectacular/ and the event website: www.tropicalgardenspectacular.com.au

Media Contact: Jessica Steinborner Acting COOLmob Manger 0477 007 719

Event Contact: Nina Bailey, Community Village Coordinator, 0417 900 036.

What: Community Village at the Tropical Garden Spectacular

When: Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 May, 9am to 5pm

Where: George Brown Botanic Gardens



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TROPICAL GARDEN SPECTACULAR - COMMUNITY VILLAGE

MEDIA PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Kidsgrow Kids Landscape Gardening Competition – with Costa Georgiadis

The day before the Tropical Garden Spectacular officially opens, there will be a fabulous event that the public will miss but will make a wonderful media photo opportunity.

ABC TV *Gardening Australia's* Costa Georgiadis is making a special surprise visit to the Botanic Gardens, and teaming up with Darwin primary school children to build decorative garden beds together, just for the Tropical Garden Spectacular.

The Kids Landscape Gardening Competition, held as part of the Kidsgrow area in the Community Village, will see one lucky school group declared the winner over the weekend – who can make the most creative, eco-friendly, dazzling garden display? What new skills will the kids learn from Costa? Come along and be part of the fun.

Photo opportunity Friday 29 May from 10:00 to 11:00am

Location: Community Village area (north of the car park to Eva's Café), George Brown Botanic Gardens

**Contact: Emily Gray, Kidsgrow Coordinator, Community Village at the Tropical Garden Spectacular:
0403 816 941**