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GOVERNMENT TO SPONSOR FLOURISHING GARDEN SPECTACULAR 2005

Chief Minister, Clare Martin, today handed over a $30,000 cheque to be the Principal Sponsor of Tropical Gardens Spectacular 2005 being held at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens on the 6 and 7th of August.

Ms Martin presented the cheque to Simon Smith, President of the Nursery and Garden Industry, saying the event, which was first held in 2001, had grown remarkably fast and is expected to attract approximately 18,000 people through the gates this year.

“The Tropical Garden Spectacular is a great success story and has become a highly anticipated event and a fun part of our great Territory lifestyle,” she said.

“My Government is proud to be Principal Sponsor because this event truly has something for all the family and promotes nature and outdoor living.”

The Territory Government has sponsored the event for the past 4-years and allocated $25,000 in 2004.

Ms Martin said exhibitors fit within five categories of: Leisure and Lifestyle, Nurseries and Gardeners Bazaar, Information and Technology, Theme Gardens and Gardens Display, and Food stalls.

Organisers expect up to 70 exhibitors to take part this year. Approximately 60 took part in 2004.

“The Tropical Garden Spectacular entertains Territorians, promotes our great lifestyle, showcases our horticulture industry and is a tourist attraction – it’s colourful, fun and a good opportunity for businesses to become involved in a truly community based event,” she said.

“One of the highlights of the weekend is the ‘Gardening Olympics’ and green thumb members of my Government will again form a team and compete.”

This year’s theme is ‘Water for Life’ which fits in with the United Nations international decade for action (2005 – 2015) called ‘Water for Life’.

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