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## Join the Botanic Gardens #plantchallenge across Australia and New Zealand, for the month of May

Australia's Ambassador for the Botanic Gardens #plantchallenge, Costa Georgiadis, New Zealand's Ambassador is Jack Hobbs, Auckland Botanic Gardens.

"In a time of isolation, this is my plantspiration" said **Botanic Gardens Ambassador Costa Georgiadis**,  
"What fun! What a great way, in this strange time for all of us, to start telling our plant stories. More than ever people are connecting with nature as they are spending time at home. Giving us all a great opportunity to share our stories about a special plant, and what these connections with nature mean to us. Never more relevant than in this time of climate change and changing plant living conditions"

**#plantchallenge begins May 1 and will end on Botanic Gardens Day 31st May with a live Botanic Gardens, Climate Change forum hosted by Costa Georgiadis.**

The interest across all sections of the community has been amazing. We have already engaged Schools, Garden lovers, plant nerds, Scientists, Friends of the Gardens, Celebrities and more, who have committed to take the challenge in the month of May.

### Highlights to watch out for:

- **Wallaby's legend and Conservationist David Pocock** plus other celebrities across our two nations will share their plant stories.
- A **group of kinder and early primary children** will be one of the first to share their plant video stories on 1 May. With many Educators and school students committed to the challenge.
- Over 100 botanic gardens botanists, horticulture experts, volunteers and friends will share their knowledge along with nursery and permaculture businesses:
- From home, creative, interesting, and passionate stories will be told by all who share a love of plants.
- Small and large businesses and community groups.

### "We want to hear from everyone"

The current Pandemic situation has hit many of our botanic gardens hard, but we know over 12 million people visit our gardens annually and many more nurture gardens and indoor plants. From 1<sup>st</sup> May, in this time of isolation, tell your story - one plant at a time, it can be a small thing, a plant you have simply tendered, or watch grow in your garden. Who knows, you may find your inner botanist or community that gives comfort and joy, protecting plants that our life so strongly depends on." said BGANZ President, Chris Russell.

**Botanic gardens are increasingly being recognised as the frontline in tackling the biggest challenges facing our future - food security, pest and disease eradication, and adaptation to a changing climate.**

"The importance of plants cannot be understated. They are the source of most traditional and herbal medicines and with malnutrition effecting approximately 800 million people worldwide, botanic gardens will play an important role in addressing food shortages with viable food plant options. Their loss from our environment will have a devastating impact on the planet and its people, We think **#plantchallenge** is an engaging way to highlight our love and the value of plants and why we need to conserve them." Chris Russell concluded.



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**Botanic Gardens #plantchallenge**

*The Botanic Gardens #Plantchallenge is hosted by BGANZ Inc. in conjunction with 100+ participating Botanic Gardens nation-wide. All participating botanic gardens Botanic Gardens are listed on [www.bganz.org.au](http://www.bganz.org.au)*

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/bganzinc](http://www.facebook.com/bganzinc)

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/bganz1/>

**Youtube:** [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNawn\\_zkmZpiuc77ZAg4JvA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNawn_zkmZpiuc77ZAg4JvA)

**Website:** [www.bganz.org.au/plantchallenge](http://www.bganz.org.au/plantchallenge)

**For interview opportunities, please contact:**

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