



Media Release

Friday 20 May 2011

Plant a stunning coastal garden

Gardeners and native plant lovers can learn more about creating water-wise coastal gardens this month at a series of local workshops.

Hosted by Green Skills and South Coast NRM, the first will be held at the Albany Town Hall on Saturday 28 May from 10am to 2.30pm and a second workshop will be held on Sunday 29 May at the Denmark Civic Centre from 12.30pm to 4.30pm.

Not only will participants get to see local plants up close, they will learn how to construct a resilient coastal garden with expert advice from Chris Ferreira, who is a regular commentator on ABC Radio's Gardening Show on Saturday mornings.

Each participant will receive a free copy of the *Coastal Gardens Planting Guide*, specific to the Albany, Denmark and Walpole area. This 32 page booklet highlights invasive weeds to avoid and local water-wise native plants which are suitable for coastal gardens.

Green Skills community engagement officer Craig Carter said the guide and supporting workshops would cover all aspects of creating a coastal garden, from the plant species to choose to various design methods.

"It's great to be able to produce a book on native coastal plants tailored for the local region and to give practical advice in person," he said.

Chris Ferreira said he hoped the workshops and guide would inspire everyone to move from planting the more traditional European style gardens to native coastal gardens.

"These coastal gardens are not only beautiful but are easier to manage, require little fertiliser and use far less water," he said.

The guide was adapted from an original design by the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board of South Australia.

The Board's coastal projects coordinator Caroline Taylor revealed the guide had been very popular in the region, with over 25,000 copies distributed and hundreds of gardeners attending workshops across South Australia.

Technical input and photos for the South Coast adaptation were provided by the Albany Wildflower Society, local growers, nurseries and Mark Parre. Production was supported by the

Water Corporation, value adding to the H2ome Smart program for householders on scheme water in the Great Southern.

The Coastal Gardens Planting Guide is a free publication and will be widely available from June onwards.

Free morning/afternoon tea and refreshments will be supplied at both events but bookings are essential. Contact Craig Carter at Green Skills on (08) 9848 1019 or ccarter@greenskills.org.au

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Media Contact:
Craig Carter (08) 9848 1019
ccarter@greenskills.org.au

Radio interviews:
Chris Ferreira 0409 662 704
chris@landcaresolutions.net.au

Chris Ferreira will be in the Albany and Denmark area on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 May, and is available for radio interviews early Wednesday 25 May.