

Scott speaking notes – Forest Shelter launch notes Tuesday 8 March 2022

Thank you Trish.

I'd like to begin with an ***acknowledgement of country***:

U in nar di Scott Saddler

New ri gi lung Wiradjuri gib beeer

My name is Scott Saddler, proud Wiradjuri Man.

Today we stand on Ngunnawal country, on their ancestral domain, in footsteps millennia old. Country is a word for all our values, places, resources, stories and cultural obligations that we have cherished for more than 60,000 years.

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal mob, the traditional custodians whose cultures and customs continue to nurture and enrich this land since men and women awoke from the great dream.

We honour the presence of these ancestors whose deep connection resides in the essence of this land and whose irrepressible spirituality flows through this sacred soil we are meeting on today.

- Happy International Women's Day! The Arboretum expected to attract one million visitors in its first five years, but eight years on, it has reached over 4.5 million visitors. The site has exceeded all goals as a top tourist destination and is a popular visiting hub for locals especially those wishing to connect with the natural environment.
- However, the Arboretum's increased onsite visitation has created the urgent need for more onsite assets and visitor experiences. And creating these assets would not be possible without the support of the Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra. This highly valued partnership has been critical in helping to progress the Arboretum.
- Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra support the Arboretum in many different ways, and one of these is through fundraising projects. Recent fundraising projects include: sponsorship of the Ngala bus, delivering seat sponsorship, donating a central valley garden, planting gardens at Dairy Farmers Hill, producing retail products, amongst many other visitor focused projects.

- I would like to extend my personal thanks to Trish Keller OAM, Chair of the Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra Council, members of Council and general Friends and members whose drive, passion and tireless support enables the Arboretum to progress and meet its current and future visitor needs.
- I would also like to also extend a huge thank you to Colette Mackay OAM, Ange and the whole Harvest team who have very generously contributed significant donation funds for this shelter. And to publicly acknowledge ACT Government for their generous Friend's Forest Shelter grant provision.
- Within the Arboretum team, a special shout out to Alison Stewart, the Forest Shelter Project Manager, and Michelle McMahon our talented graphic designer who created the interpretative information.
- This very first Forest Shelter showcases one of the best views across the Arboretum site and Lake Burley Griffin. It is a prime Forest Shelter location for our loyal and cherished Friends! Thank you Friends!!!!
- If you have FOMO (fear of missing out), don't worry we have another 11 Forest Shelters available for donation across the 250 hectares. If you would like to know more about this legacy opportunity please don't hesitate to contact Trish Keller OAM or Christine Callen.

[Trish and Minster Steel cut the Forest Shelter ceremonial ribbon.](#)