



DURIE WARMS UP FOR CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

MEDIA RELEASE

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Immediate Release

As the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS) gears up to welcome more than 125,000 visitors, show sponsor, Fleming's Nurseries, have begun the countdown to the sister event at the Chelsea Flower Show in London.

With just one month until the 2008 'Fleming's and Trailfinders Australian Garden' team leaves Australia to build Jamie Durie's iconic garden design, last year's Silver Gilt medal winner, Mark Browning, handed Mr Durie a golden shovel for luck.

Dressed to reflect the regal nature of the Royal Horticulture Chelsea Flower Show, Mr Browning offered Mr Durie the best of luck as he competes as Australia's only representative in the main show garden category at the illustrious event.

The entire Chelsea 2008 team also gathered to unveil their striking orange uniform which has become a renowned feature of the Australian team which Fleming's head annually.

Fleming's fifth consecutive entry to the world renowned show, this year Durie has prepared a unique garden the first (that Fleming's have sponsored) to comprise 100 percent Australian indigenous plants.

Showcasing environmental garden design at its best, Mr Durie's design will incorporate drought tolerant Australian native plant species such as *Brachychiton*, *Xanthorrhoea* and various Kangaroo Paw varieties, as well as low energy using lighting from ME Lighting and an environmentally friendly timber finish from Intergrain™.

Four shipping containers have already left Australian shores en route to the UK where, in May, they will meet the landscape crew from Ian Barker and Associates – hopefully with art work and materials intact.

Fleming's director and project innovator, Wes Fleming, said the MIFGS event always highlighted the countdown to the Chelsea Show which will see the team from Ian Barker and Associates and Fleming's construct for 19 days before the show opens on 20 May 2008.

“ One minute we are building our site at MIFGS and before we know it we are battling the typically wet weather in London to build at Chelsea – so this is a very important time for our team.

“ We're very excited to be working with two such talented groups such as Jamie Durie and the team from Ian Barker and I am extremely confident we will represent all of Australian Horticulture with pride this year.

“ Mark Browning brought home a prestigious Silver Gilt award last year and this year we’re aiming for Gold,” Mr Fleming said.

“ Our uniforms have become a major talking point in the UK. Last year it was hot pink and in 2006 it was bright yellow ... they cannot miss us on the work site.”

The team leaves on 1 May to commence the build up with the formal show opening on 20 May to 24 May. Medals are presented on Tuesday 20 May 2008.

For more information visit: www.flemings.com.au.

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