

The Plant Science Learning Hub, a new digital education platform to inspire students and empower educators

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The Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) is committed to inspiring and connecting people to the unique stories of Australian flora. To reach a national education audience, the ANBG launched a new digital education resource platform, the Plant Science Learning Hub (<https://learn.anbg.gov.au>) in 2023.

The Plant Science Learning Hub (the Hub) encourages a culture of curiosity and empowers educators to confidently teach plant science and shape tomorrow's scientists. Developed by the ANBG's educators, scientists and horticulturalists, the Hub uses Australia's unique plants and stories to provide a complete learning journey, exploring topics from plant life cycles to ecosystems with the important role of botanic gardens weaved throughout.

Using experiential and inquiry-based learning techniques, the Hub provides students and educators with a suite of lesson plans, outdoor activities, videos, educator background notes and online interactive activities. All educational content has clear links to the Australian Curriculum and can be used internationally.

The Hub was developed using a robust research process that engaged teachers and students through the project. Front-end evaluation identified teacher and student requirements which informed development decisions. Teachers and students were involved at every step of testing and trialling the product which enhances the Hub's educational value and user experience.

Since its launch in November 2023, the ANBG has promoted the Hub to teachers across Australia using direct marketing and social media strategies to reach a national audience.

In this presentation, the ANBG will showcase the Hub and outline the project development process, including co-design with educators and scientists, content development, stakeholder engagement and website design. The presentation will provide insights to the success of the Hub's reach and usage including both teachers and students feedback. The presentation will also share the challenges, lessons learned and future plans for expansion.