WINNERS OF SPRING GARDEN COMPETITION ANNOUNCED

Winners of 2014 City of Ryde Spring Garden Competition were praised for their creativity, hard work and sustainable gardening practices at a Gala Event last night (Thursday 23 October) at Eden Gardens, North Ryde.

Announcing the awards for the annual competition, City of Ryde Mayor,Clr Bill Pickering said: “This year’s splendid competition showcases an abundance of talented and dedicated gardeners in our community.

“While the creators of these beautiful gardens and spaces are singled out for praise, it’s the neighbours, visitors and passers-by, not to mention our City’s green reputation, who are the overall winners in this competition.”

With 65 category entries, Best Small Garden and Best Bushcare Site were the most hotly contested categories.

Entries ranged from simple to ornate, family projects to grand solo efforts. Community groups and commercial gardens were also congratulated.

Judges Meredith Kirton, Carmel, Quill, Jenny Ring, Judy Christie and Andy Sutherland commented on the high standard and presentation of all entries.

The City of Ryde Spring Garden Competition is one of a handful of Council-managed garden competitions run for the benefit of the community. The support of sponsors Eden Gardens (Gold), Snowden Parkes Real Estate (Gold), SITA Australia (Silver), Sam the Paving Man (Bronze) is greatly appreciated.


WINNERS & PLACE GETTERS – 2014 CITY OF RYDE SPRING GARDEN COMPETITION

Best Large Garden (sponsored by Eden Gardens)

1st Place  Eugene Shashkof, Ryde
Judge’s comment: “A delightful, well-designed garden with natives, ornamentals and edibles. It has a variety of traditional and formal elements, flowering sections, relaxing water features and organic vegetables, bee hives and chickens.”

2nd place  Angela Thomas  Gladesville
3rd place  Heidi Gardner  Ryde
Best Small Garden (sponsored by Snowden Parkes Real Estate)

1st Place              Rae and Annalisa Roy, Marsfield
Judge’s comment: “Rae and Annalissa have worked hard to present a delightful, tranquil and well maintained garden. It features different spaces to sit, relax and socialise in. It has a very bright and well thought out flowering colour palette and incorporates some raised vegetable garden beds.”

2nd place              David Heyworth, Putney

3rd place              Marion Nichol, Denistone

H/Commended          Adrienne Hicks, Marsfield

Commended            Stuart Leece, Gladesville

Commended            On Sook Jun, Gladesville

Best Courtyard/Balcony Garden

1st Place              Sharon Wardle, Marsfield
Judge’s comment: “A very attractive and well maintained balcony garden for the family to enjoy, featuring flowering plants and a lemon tree specifically to make lemon drizzle cake. A pleasure to be in.”

2nd place              Maureen Bennett, Marsfield

3rd place              Jill Crow, Marsfield

Commended            Sadhana Desai, Gladesville

Best Edible Garden

1st Place              Bernadette Douglas, Melrose Park
Judge’s comment: “Bernadette has presented an amazing river-front garden which flows from a formal parterre area into a very productive edible garden. It consists of many varieties of vegetables and fruit trees. Chickens keep the soil aerated and free of pests and diseases. It provides the family with a regular supply of healthy eggs whilst the bees are busy pollinating the garden and producing honey.”

2nd place              Margaret Mossakowska, Denistone

3rd place              Janna Mizens, East Ryde

Best Children’s Garden

1st Place              Grandchildren of Barbara Ford, Eastwood
“A slightly wild garden in which the children can run free, use their imaginations and learn about nature. Barbara certainly does a good job to encourage her grandchildren’s inspiration and creativity”.

2nd place              Sarah Yep, Marsfield

3rd place              Sophie and Lily Arendse, Macquarie Park

H/Commended          Aaron Pease, Macquarie Park

Best Commercial Garden (sponsored by SITA Australia)

1st Place              Living Choice - Leisure Lea Gardens, Marsfield
Judge’s comment: “This garden and its design continue to evolve. The gardens consist of well-maintained rose beds, informal gardens and tropical niches. Joel is a dedicated, resourceful and enthusiastic gardener who strikes his own cuttings and has a nursery. The garden at Leisure Lea brings much pleasure to the residents and is a credit to him and his hard work.”
2nd place  Calvary Retirement Community  Ryde
InvoCare Northern Suburbs
3rd place  Memorial Gardens  North Ryde

Best Community Garden
1st Place  Macquarie University Community Garden Club
Judge’s comment: “This is a true community garden with Club membership consisting of university students, staff and members of the general community - each maintaining their own productive allotments. On a monthly basis the membership has a working bee to keep the site in good order. The Club works to educate people on the principles of organic and sustainable gardening.”

2nd place  184A Pittwater Rd Community Garden  Gladesville
3rd place  The Habitat  Ryde
Special Recognition  Doomben Ave Gardening Crew  Eastwood

Best School Garden
1st Place  Kent Road Public School, Marsfield
Judge’s comment: “This is a well maintained garden that is all inclusive of students, staff and community. The garden has been well planned and utilises the available resources well with adequate space allocated to an orchard, raised vegie plots, a Chook run, shade house, a compost area and worm farms. It was great to see the 1st year classes had their own small garden plots to kindle their interest in gardening. The gardens are well integrated into the school syllabus and provide an excellent learning platform.”

2nd place  West Ryde Public School  West Ryde
3rd place  Marist College Eastwood  Eastwood

Best Pre-School Garden
Joint 1st Place  St Georges Pre-School, Eastwood & KU Eastwood Pre-School, Eastwood
Judge’s comment – St Georges Pre-School: “From adventure trails to quiet fairy grottos, these spaces invite and encourage children to explore and play. The interactive program that involves children in the daily tasks of the gardens provides an integrated and well-rounded learning experience and an appreciation for nature. Just a beautiful place of discovery, gardening, wonder and great mix of adventurous play, quiet areas and a lovely outdoor stage. Well done.”

Judge’s comment – KU Eastwood Pre-School: “This natural learning environment is a collaborative effort involving the educators, children, their families and the local community. Through the use of a combination of natural and recycled materials, KU Eastwood features vegetable and herb gardens, a bushland path, sensory garden and a recently added succulent garden.”

2nd place  Top Ryde Early Learning  Ryde
3rd place  Banksia Cottage  Macquarie University

Best Bushcare Site
1st Place  Meadowbank Park Bushcare Group, Meadowbank
Judge’s comment: “A skilled group of volunteers who are actively pursuing their long term strategy and have a thorough understanding of their site. Prioritising weed management using best practice, best
regeneration techniques, extending areas and tagging new species regenerating. The group is engaging neighbours and recruiting younger volunteers. In the last 12 months they have followed through on various elements in their master plan and have identified new opportunities to get more natural regeneration. This active group is well on track to restoring a unique and valuable bushland area and managing it for the long term.”

2nd place  Monash Road Bushcare Group  Gladesville
3rd place  Portius Park Bushcare Group  East Ryde

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