

Friday 2 November 2012

SPRING GARDEN COMPETITION UNCOVERS ABUNDANCE OF LOCAL TALENT

Winners of 2012 City of Ryde Spring Garden Competition were praised for their creativity, hard work and sustainable gardening practices at a Gala Event last night (Thursday 1 November) at Eden Gardens, North Ryde.

Announcing the awards for the annual competition, City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Ivan Petch said: "This year's competition attracted over forty entries, showcasing an abundance of talented 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 eight entries each, Best Edible Garden and Best School Garden 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 commented on the high standard and presentation of all entries and also on the growing trend towards permaculture and sustainable practices.

To see photos of the winning entries in the City of Ryde 2012 Spring Garden Competition go to www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/springgardencompetition

The City of Ryde thanks sponsor Eden Gardens North Ryde for their generous support of the 2012 Spring Garden Competition.

CITY OF RYDE SPRING GARDEN COMPETITION 2012 WINNERS

Most Beautiful Garden - Large 1st Place Dallas Grenier

Judges comment: Dallas has cultivated a much loved garden full of interest and mystery. Everywhere you looked something unique stood out. It is filled with a myriad of superb plants and has been planned to have interest and colour through all seasons of the year. It is a plant lover's utopia.

2nd Place Angela Thomas

3rd Place Michelle Hillyer

Most Beautiful Garden - Small

1st Place Rae Roy

Judges comment: The initial impression of this small garden is outstanding. A beautiful oasis, established over thirty years ago and changing over the years as the family has changed. The garden planting reflects special moments in the family's life.

2nd Place Adrienne Hick

3rd Place James Foster

Best Edible Garden

1st Place Deborah Alderton

Judges comment: This extraordinary example of a Permaculture design is producing a multitude of edible crops. Drainage is directed so the water moves via swales, through garden beds and onto the fruit trees and associated plantings. Grey water is filtered through gravel and reed beds which then flow into ponds. To top this all off was the trout farm that was using an aquaponics system with some of the raised beds.

2nd Place Julie & Kim Jardine

3rd Place Margaret Alexander & Michael Hetherington

Most Beautiful Courtyard or Balcony Garden

1st Place Shirley Lynch

Judges comment: A burst of colour and delight to the eye, this mature little garden belies the attention to detail and hours of care. Well maintained and beautifully presented.

2nd Place Doreen Rouse

3rd Place Maureen Bennett

Best Bush Care Site

1st Place Waterloo Park

Judges comment: The **Waterloo Park Bushcare Group** was formed in 2002 to help to improve this important bushland remnant that forms a wildlife corridor connecting with the Lane Cove National Park. The group has been involved with all stages of bush regeneration including primary clearing, follow up and fine maintenance weeding. There has been very pleasing regeneration throughout the area, especially after a burn a few years ago while small planted areas have helped to protect the core bushland. This group has attracted a number of younger volunteers. Recent fauna sightings highlight the importance of the work being undertaken by the volunteers.

2nd Place Darvall Park

Best Children's Garden

1st Place The Grandchildren of Barbara Ford

Judges comment: Barbara's grandchildren work on this enchanting garden. They dig, plant and play in the garden, arranging flowers and fairies, crystals, night time lights and you can even see a few dinosaurs roaming the grounds.

2nd Place Sarah Yep

3rd Place Aaron Pease

Best School Garden

1st Place Kent Road Public School

Judges comment: All classes are regularly involved with the care of this beautiful and abundant garden. Projects include seed collection and propagation. They have an orchard, which runs adjacent the raised beds and the shade house.

2nd Place Our Lady Queen of Peace

3rd Place Ryde East Public School

Best Pre-School Garden

1st Place 'Mia Mia' Institute of Early Childhood

Judges comment: This amazingly designed and very inviting garden brings back memories of being in Never Land with Peter Pan. The kids are invited to explore and use their imagination in this child care centre. The use of recycled material and nature really enhances the visual entertainment you receive.

2nd Place St Georges Preschool

3rd Place Gumnut Cottage

Most Beautiful Commercial Garden

1st Place Northern Suburbs Memorial Gardens and Crematorium

Judges comment: This is an outstanding commercial garden which is beautifully designed, planted and maintained to the highest level. The garden includes mature plantings as well as newer additions. The formal elements are softened with flowering shrubs and deciduous trees.

2nd Place Calvary Retirement Community

3rd Place Springfree Trampoline

Photos attached: Best Courtyard or Balcony: Shirley Lynch; Best School Garden Kent Road Public; Best Bush Care Site Darvall Park.

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