

Tuesday 30 June 2015

## IT'S TIME TO TOIL IN THE SOIL

Whether your speciality is perfecting beautiful blooms, creating tranquility in the back garden, working with a bushcare group or beautifying your balcony, it's time to get some dirt under your fingernails and show off your pride and joy for the annual City of Ryde Spring Garden Competition.

This hands-on community event has been held annually by the City of Ryde Council for more than twenty years and offers local green thumbs the chance to show off their propagation, design and sustainability skills. "It doesn't matter if you're a seasoned gardener, a beginner, or part of a group, there's a category to suit everyone," said City of Ryde Active Recreation Officer, Meredith Gray.

Categories include traditional back gardens, courtyards, balconies, river-frontages, corporate green-spaces, community gardens, school yards and large tracts of natural bushland. A new Native and Habitat-friendly garden section has been added. Here are details:

**Large Garden:** large private residential garden - may be the whole garden or just a section

**Small Garden:** small private residential garden - may be the whole garden or just a section

**Courtyard or Balcony:** private residential garden using pots, planter boxes, ornaments, walled gardens

**Edible Garden:** vegetable, fruit, permaculture

**Children's Garden:** private residential gardens inspired and created by a child, group of children or a family with young children

**School Garden:** gardens within local primary or high schools where students and teachers or the community have worked together

**Pre-School Garden:** gardens within local pre-schools where students and teachers or the community have worked together

**Community Garden:** garden projects where the local community, groups or community organisations have worked together.

**Commercial Garden:** gardens within local businesses and commercial organisations, eg hotels, retirement villages, commercial premises, small businesses, universities etc.

**Bushcare Site:** for an outstanding contribution made by volunteers to a Bushcare site.

**NEW - Native and Habitat-friendly Garden:** gardens which feature Australia native plants and include habitat elements to encourage native fauna such as birds, lizards, possums and insects.

- Entries close to 31 August. For full details go to [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/gardencomp](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/gardencomp)
- All entries will be personally judged by a panel of appointed garden judges and horticulture professionals during September/October.
- Winners announced at a special Gala Event 22 October at Eden Gardens

**Gold Sponsors** Eden Gardens, Snowden Parkes, Top Ryde City

**Silver Sponsor** SUEZ environnement

**Bronze Sponsor** Sam The Paving Man

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