



PRESS RELEASE

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WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT 2022 NGINA INDUSTRY AWARDS

The winners of the 2022 Nursery and Garden NSW and ACT (NGINA) Industry Awards were announced at a sell-out gala celebration at Rydges Norwest on Friday night. Hosted by ABC Presenter, Costa Georgiadis, the Awards recognised wholesale/production nurseries, retail garden centers, allied suppliers, apprentices and the next generation of industry leaders from across NSW and the ACT for being the top of their fields.

Anita Campbell, NGINA CEO said the calibre of nominees was truly outstanding and have once again raised the bar. "The standard of entries was exceptionally high and each and every one of this year's finalists could have taken home a prize for excellence in the nursery and garden industry.

"In saying that, some members absolutely excelled this year and NGINA is delighted to recognise the individual efforts and contributions of these industry representatives across a wide range of categories", said Ms Campbell.



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This year's NGINA Industry Award winners are:

Small Wholesale/Production Nursery of the Year: Swane's Garden Care
South Maroota 2756

According to the judges in this category this small nursery at South Maroota is managed with great attention to detail. It provides a diverse range of succulents and indoor plants to retail nurseries and florists. The owners pride themselves on growing good quality stock and have excellent site management.

Large Wholesale/Production Nursery of the Year: Scotts Tubes
Mangrove Mountain 2250

The judges of this category said that while the finalists all set a high standard for the industry to follow, Scotts Tubes stood out as the winner for the third year in a row. The nursery team scored highly across the board demonstrating technical proficiency, immaculate site presentation and strong business management skills. In addition, the nursery displays a commitment towards sustainability and continuous improvement. The results speak for themselves.

Small Retail Nursery of the Year: Native Grace
Robertson 2577

According to the judge Luke and Catheryn Maitland have created a little gem of a place at Robertson. It is a clean, neat, tidy and impeccably presented garden center. It has a Design Studio creating sustainable Australian Native gardens for clients, a gift shop focusing on Australian products and Bush Foods and in addition there is an onsite café van. The stock is top quality and it is a winner in so many ways. The judge was most impressed with the dedication for perfection in every aspect of the business.

Large Retail Nursery of the Year: Heritage Gardens
East Maitland 2323

According to the judge Heritage Gardens is a generational family business currently owned and operated by Dwayne and Olivia Bramble who seem to have mastered the art of proving wonderful displays of colour to inspire everyone. They are continually reinvesting in the business with continuing improvements and ambitious plans for the future. This is a garden centre to explore and maybe take a break for a cuppa in the attractive café that has delightful views out over the centre. The new signage is totally appropriate for the style and heritage of the garden centre and this will link in really well with the new website. 11 qualified horticulturalists is impressive and the staff on duty were all charming and there is a really happy atmosphere. The quality of the stock was superb, the range of pots impressive there was ample off street parking.



Allied Supplier of the Year: CutAbove Tools

Seven Hills 2147

According to the judges CutAbove Tools has implemented many business improvements for their customers base during the past twelve months. These include new functional tool stands for in-store displays, stock replenishment cards for easy reordering, no minimum order quantity and free shipping over \$500.00. They also introduced new technology that has enabled barcoding on all products and a POS system allowing invoices to be printed via a tablet while at trade days.

CutAbove Tools also educates all new customers about their full product range to assist with sales in the garden centre. They educate consumers via workshops on how to maintain their tools enabling brand recognition for future purchases. CutAbove Tools have introduced a new watering equipment range from Italy, Makita battery-operated equipment and Vesco tools. The team at CutAbove Tools should be congratulated for continuing to grow the brand, support their customers and introduce innovative technology to assist with managing and growing their business.

Next Genner of the Year: Jasmine White, Scotts Tubes

Mangrove Mountain 2250

According to the judge Jasmine has worked in both retail and production and has made the most of the opportunities to learn and contribute the maximum she can in both fields. She has taken on a leadership role at Scotts where she is responsible for a team that includes a number of people older than herself. Her employer has described her as having leadership, passion and humility. She has developed and refined production processes that have helped the business to grow. She has maintained her enthusiasm and interest in plants and the environment. She has also been involved in Scouts since she was 12. She is a Rover who heads the NSW Scouts environmental section where she educates other Scout leaders on the outdoors. She is heading the NSW contingent to the upcoming national jamboree in Tasmania and will be involved in the Australian contingent joining in the Centenary Celebration of the establishment by Baden-Powell of the Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland in 2023.

Apprentice of the Year: Raychel White, Penrith City Council

Penrith 2075

The Apprentice of the Year criteria is aligned with that of the NSW Training Awards. The standard of candidates was outstanding and according to the judge, all finalists demonstrate incredible passion and show the key attributes required to be successful in this industry. According to the judge Raychel has recently completed the new CIII Nursery Operations qualification (Production) whilst working at Penrith City Council Nursery. She is considered to be an invaluable team member who shows passion and commitment to industry, studies and skill development.



NGINA Life Member: Brent Tallis

Arcadia 2159

As per the NGINA Constitution a Life Member is a person who has rendered distinguished and meritorious service to the Industry and who after investigation and recommendation of the Board is elected at the AGM. Brent started in the industry in 1986 as an apprentice at Glenacres Nursery. In 1992 Brent was awarded NGINA's Junior Nursery Person of the Year and around the same time was appointed President of the newly re-formed Tree and Shrub growers' group. Brent has served on the NGINA board between 1998 -2006. He served as President in 2003 and 2004 and Vice President before that. Brent has served the industry on multiple committees including the Industry Advisory Committee for Horticulture Australia. Through his business, Brent has been a great supporter of the industry and the events it has organised, particularly conferences both state and national, awards nights, industry run trade expos and trade days.



NGINA is the peak representative body for operators in the nursery and garden industry and is committed to a growing, united and sustainable nursery and garden industry that promotes its contribution to the health and wellbeing on the NSW/ACT economy, its environments and people. The NGINA Industry Awards are decided by an in-depth judging process that is carried out by a panel of industry experts and a band of mystery shoppers.

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