

# 2012 Nursery & Garden Industry Awards



## Magic and Excitement Heralds Nursery Industry Achievers

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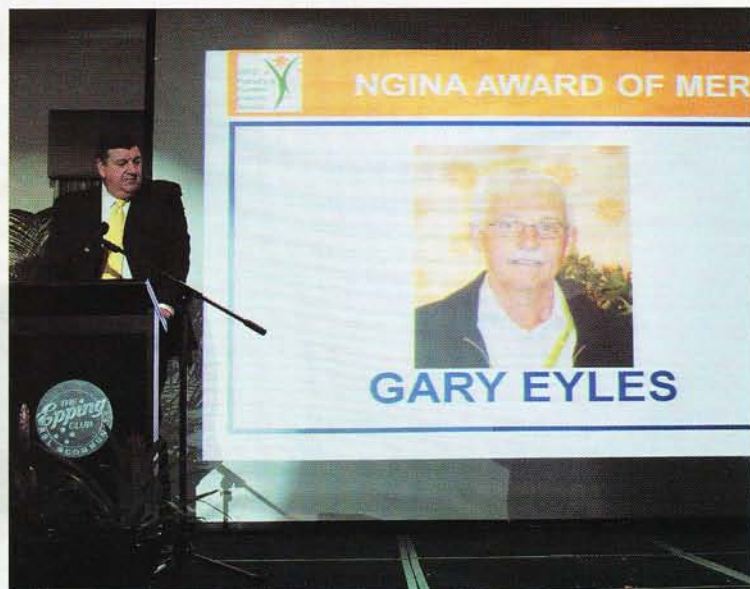
A night of magic and excitement surrounded the Nursery and Garden Industry NSW & ACT (NGINA) annual end of year celebration and awards dinner. Held at the Epping Club on the quintessentially intriguing dateline of 11/11/11, it saw the bestowal of 3 special NGINA Honours and presentations to all State and Territory award winners in the NGIA 2012 awards. It also marked the end of an era with a farewell to retiring CEO Mike Skegg.



### NGINA Awards of Honour

#### Gary Eyles - Award Of Merit

One of NGINA's highest recognitions was presented to Gary Eyles at the awards dinner. The award was made for his outstanding contribution to the horticultural industry. A third generation nurseryman, Gary learnt at an early age the value of maintaining and producing the highest quality stock. This has seen his interest in the production of clean budwood leading to his involvement with AusCitrus, and he is currently the president of the International Society of Citrus Nurserymen. He has served on many industry committees and is currently an NGINA director. To read the full citation see link.



**Tracey Knowland - Outstanding Individual Award**

This award was presented to Tracey Knowland for her outstanding service to the Association in the Northern Rivers Region. Joining NGINA in 2006 Tracey wasted little time in coming to grips with industry issues and offered her services on the local committee. She took over the running of the Alstonville Expo and left no stone unturned to sign up exhibitors and promote the show to buyers.



**Peter Whitehead - Tubestock Growers Perpetual Award**

While the connection between a retired garden centre owner and the Tubestock Growers Group may not be obvious, the fact that this award went to Peter Whitehead reinforces the value tubestock growers place on anyone who promotes or stimulates the greenlife market. Peter is driven by his passion to sell more plants, and his legacy is running three Green Expos in Sydney.



**Training Award**

Awarded to Alpine Nurseries for demonstrating an outstanding approach and commitment to staff training.



**Training Award: Presenter, Melissa Wortman, Agrifood Skills with Andrew and Peter Knox, Alpine Nurseries**

**Industry Supplier Award**

Won by Yates Australia for their outstanding industry contributions and exemplary services to customers.



**Industry Supplier Award: Nick Roberts, Sue Rhind, Peter Marshall, Judy Horton and David Jakobs, Yates Australia**

**Environment Award**

Awarded to Provincial Plants and Landscapes for demonstrating leadership and commitment to environmental management, sustainability and community participation in relation to environmental issues. This is the third year in a row this award has been won by Provincial.



**Environment Award: Lisa Roberts, Provincial Plants and Landscapes**

**Marketing Award**

Won by A T Eyles and Sons – for the best marketing campaign in the last 12 months; judged on concept, execution and evaluation of success.



**Marketing Award: Michael Danelon accepting for Gary Eyles, A.T. Eyles & Sons**

**Maroun Maait wins NSW Young Leader Award**

Maroun Maait from Alpine Treemovals, Glenorie, was chosen as one of 6 finalists in the new National Young Leader Development Program. This will culminate in the national winner being announced at next year's annual NGIA conference on the Gold Coast in March.

In the meantime this entitles Maroun (or Morrie as he is popularly known) to be awarded the NSW/ACT Young Leader for 2012.



**NSW Young Leader Award: Maroun Maait, Alpine Treemovals**

**Best Production Nursery Awards made judge work hard**

"It really makes you think!" was the comment from Production Nursery Awards judge, John Gabriele, Head Teacher of Horticulture at Illawara TAFE, after completing this year's judging round. Entries were down this year, but it still doesn't make the judging job any easier, as there is still a mass of detail to sift through on every site visited.

The highlight was Jamberoo Native Nursery winning their 7th award in a row for Medium Production Nursery category. This is an outstanding effort for Geoff Bailey and his talented team, including Nathan Sparkes, Sarah Peacock and Anne Hogan. Plantasy Nursery from the Tweed/Brunswick region was a first time winner in the Small category, while Ramm Botanicals in Propagation and Colourwise Nursery in Large were both multiple award winners



**Best Medium Production Nursery Awards: Nathan Sparkes, Jamberoo Native Nursery**



**Best Small Production Nursery Awards: John Nosworthy accepting for Plantasy Nursery**



**Best Production Nursery Awards: Gloria McConnell and Jeff Cooke, Ramm Botanicals**



**Best Large Production Nursery Awards: Malcolm and Penelope Thompson, with Scott Hill, Colourwise Nursery**

**Back-to-back Awards for Three Best Garden Centres**

Mittagong Garden Centre showed yet again that if you keep on improving, you keep on winning. This was exemplified by winning their sixth straight state Garden Centre of the Year award in the Medium Category, as well as taking out the National title last year. Ask owners Phil and Roz Mather what it takes and they will say every time "there is always something to keep working on, things to change, new ideas to try, as well as keeping the product range fresh."



**Back-to-Back Awards for Three Best Garden Centres: Phil and Roz Mather, Mittagong Garden Centre Nursery**

Edgerton Nursery and Country Garden in Narromine also won their second successful title in the Small Garden Centre Category, a great effort in this most competitive group. It also reinforced the resilience and planning of owners Anna and Greg Hitchcock, given that the local economy in the state's western regions is only just starting to show signs of a return to prosperity.



Back-to-back Awards for Three Best Garden Centres: Greg and Anna Hitchcock, Edgerton Nursery & Country Garden

It was also a repeat performance for Eden Gardens in North Ryde in the Large Garden Centre Category. It is obvious to any regular visitor to Eden that they continue to strive to make improvements and build foot traffic and in accepting the award Anna Ainsworth paid tribute to the whole team at Eden. They now enter the biggest challenge of trying to win the national award. The onsite judge was industry consultant Rob Reynolds, Classico Australia Pty Ltd, who commented on the high standard in this year's entries.



Back-to-back Awards for Three Best Garden Centres: Nick Susnjara, Anna Ainsworth, Chris Ryan and Brian Merrick, Eden Gardens

## Complete Summary of the 2011-12 NGINA Award Winners

### 1. NGINA SPECIAL INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

- **Outstanding Individual In A Region Or Special Interest Group Presented to:** Tracey Knowland, Bangalow Wholesale Nursery
- **TubeStock Growers Perpetual Award Presented to:** Peter Whitehead
- **NGINA Award Of Merit Presented to:** Gary Eyles, AT Eyles and Sons

### 2. NGIA STATE CATEGORY AWARDS

- **Training Award:** Winner - Alpine Nurseries
- **Industry Supplier Award:** Winner - Yates Australia  
Finalist: Irrigation & Water Technology
- **Environment Award:** Winner: Provincial Plants and Landscapes  
Finalists: Alpine Nurseries; Back to Front Garden Centre; Eden Gardens.
- **Marketing Award:** Winner: A T Eyles and Sons  
Finalists: Eden Gardens; Ramm Botanicals.

### 3. NGIA STATE YOUNG LEADER AWARD

**Winner:** Maroun Maait, Alpine Treemovals, Glenorie  
The other Entrant was Jon Dunkley from Yates Australia.

### 4. GARDEN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

**Certificates presented to:** Edgerton Nursery and Country Garden, Narromine; Elegant Outdoors, Turramurra; Honeysuckle Garden Centre, Bondi Junction; North Manly Garden Centre, North Manly; Rodney's Plants Plus, Piallago (ACT); Tims Garden Centre, Campbelltown; Wallsend Community Nursery, Wallsend (Newcastle).

Please see pages 16 and 17 for more on this Excellence Award and the Awardees

### 5. NGIA BEST NSW/ACT GARDEN CENTRE AWARDS

- **Best Small Garden Centre:** Winner - Edgerton Nursery (Narromine)
- **Best Medium Garden Centre:** Winner - Mittagong Garden Centre (Mittagong)
- **Best Large Garden Centre:** Winner - Eden Gardens (North Ryde)  
Other Finalists were: Back to Front Garden Centre; Bushy Bloomin Things, and; Poppys on Oakdale Garden Centre.

### 6. NGIA YATES PRODUCTION NURSERY AWARDS

- **Best Small Production Nursery Award:** Winner - Plantasy Nursery (Burringbar)
- **Best Medium Production Nursery Award:** Winner - Jamberoo Native Nursery (Jamberoo)
- **Best Propagation Nursery Award:** Winner - Ramm Botanicals (Tuggerah)
- **Best Large Production Nursery Award:** Winner - Colourwise Nursery (Glenorie)

The Other Finalist was: Brindley's Nursery (Coffs Harbour).

## Thanks To The Sponsors

### State Sponsors

CAD Partners, Eden Gardens, Everris, Garden City Plastics, Grange Growing Solutions, Hunter Valley Gardens, Kenthurst Nursery, Mittagong Garden Centre, Oasis Horticulture, Plantmark, Prime Super, Ramm Botanicals, Universal Magazines, Yates Australia

### National Sponsors

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