



2024 NGINA

# Annual Awards & Gala Dinner

CREATING A COLOURFUL WORLD



The Nursery and Garden Industry NSW and ACT (NGINA) proudly celebrated excellence within the sector, unveiling the winners of its prestigious 2024 Industry Awards during a sold-out gala at Rydges Norwest last Friday. Hosted by Costa Georgiadis, beloved ABC Gardening Australia presenter, the evening was a vibrant celebration of the industry's best.

The awards recognised outstanding individuals and organisations within the nursery and garden industry, covering a broad spectrum of categories, from wholesale/production nurseries and retail garden centres to allied suppliers, employers, trade day exhibitors, and apprentices. The ceremony also highlighted emerging leaders who are shaping the future of the industry across NSW and the ACT.

NGINA CEO Anita Campbell commended the calibre of this year's entrants, noting, "The quality of the entries we received this year was exceptional, setting a new standard for excellence in our sector. Every finalist showcased remarkable skill and dedication, making the selection process particularly difficult."



## 25 YEAR RECOGNITION AWARDS

- Berry Park
- Eden at Byron
- Bayside Garden Centre

## LIFE MEMBER

- Mike Mehigan

## 40 YEAR RECOGNITION AWARD

- Elegant Outdoors

## 50 YEAR RECOGNITION AWARD

- Alpine Nurseries





## SMALL WHOLESALE/ PRODUCTION NURSERY

### SWANE'S GARDEN CARE

Swane's Garden Care, led by Ruby and Robert Swane, impressed judges with their efficient, well-organised operations and commitment to innovation. They continually refine their processes, experimenting with growing media and pest control to enhance their offerings of indoor plants, while staying engaged in industry events and trends.

## LARGE WHOLESALE/ PRODUCTION NURSERY

### CAMERON'S NURSERY

Cameron's Nursery received this accolade for the second consecutive year, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to sustainability and quality. With multiple accreditations, including the Ethical Nursery Production Specification certification, they are industry leaders in environmental responsibility and active contributors to horticulture's future.



## SMALL RETAIL NURSERY OF THE YEAR

### FOUR SEASONS PLANT BUG

Four Seasons Plant Bug stood out with its exceptional layout, diverse product range, and enticing displays. Judges praised its welcoming atmosphere, well-presented stock, cross merchandising, and a delightful café that keeps customers returning.

## LARGE RETAIL NURSERY OF THE YEAR

### FOUR SEASONS NURSERY & GARDEN CENTRE BELROSE

Four Seasons Nursery & Garden Centre in Belrose was recognised for its professionalism, excellent customer service, and diverse inventory. Its thoughtful layout and online presence enhance the customer experience, solidifying its reputation for excellence.



## ALLIED SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR

### EVERGREENCONNECT

EvergreenConnect has simplified sourcing and inventory management for nurseries, landscapers, and designers, making a significant impact on the greenlife industry. Their service continues to enhance business operations across the sector.



## NEXT GENNER OF THE YEAR

### TAHLIA ROLFE FROM ALPINE NURSERIES

Tahlia Rolfe from Alpine Nurseries has cultivated an inspiring career over nearly a decade. Her leadership skills, passion for horticulture, and ability to motivate her team have made her an integral part of her workplace and a rising industry star.

## MOST IMPROVED HORTICULTURE STUDENT:

### KANE GILLETT OF OASIS HORTICULTURE

Presented to Kane Gillett of Oasis Horticulture, whose passion for plants and dedication to his craft has set him apart. Kane is versatile and has a proactive approach, he has the ability to adapt to change and solve problems with initiative.



## APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

### KATHERINE BONFIGLIO OF ANDREASEN'S GREEN

Katherine Bonfiglio of Andreasen's Green was recognised for her exceptional work ethic, willingness to learn, and technical expertise. Her proactive attitude and contributions to her team make her a standout apprentice.





## EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

### YARRALUMLA NURSERY

Yarralumla Nursery in the ACT was commended for its inclusive work culture, career development opportunities, and innovative initiatives like the Healthy Lifestyle Allowance. It fosters a supportive and diverse environment where employees thrive.

## TRADE DAY STAND OF THE YEAR:

### GARDEN CITY PLASTICS

This category recognises the creativity and effort standholders invest in making Trade Day visually appealing and engaging for buyers. Vanderley Nursery was awarded the Northern Rivers Trade Day Stand of the Year, while CutAbove Tools earned the title for Port Macquarie. Garden City Plastics has raised the bar at Sydney Trade Days and was named the overall NGINA Trade Day Stand of the Year for their consistently innovative and customer friendly presentations, which have set a new high standard for the event.



## PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

### LUMPY'S NURSERY & LANDSCAPE YARD

More than 3,000 customers cast their votes in the People's Choice Award, with Lumpy's Nursery & Landscape Yard taking the top spot in a tightly contested race. This highlights the deep and enduring relationships nurseries cultivate with their communities, reflecting the trust and loyalty they inspire through their dedication to local gardeners.



## SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS:

### NGINA AMBASSADOR



#### BRENT TALLIS

Brent Tallis was honoured for his passionate advocacy and leadership in promoting the nursery and garden industry, serving as an inspiration and driving force within the community.

### DIGITAL IMPACT



#### TIM'S GARDEN CENTRE

Tim's Garden Centre excelled in digital engagement, using innovative online platforms to connect with customers and amplify their reach, setting a benchmark for digital excellence in the industry.

### HEART OF THE COMMUNITY



#### JUSTIN LONGHURST

Justin Longhurst was recognised for his unwavering commitment to building connections and fostering support within his local community, embodying the heart of the industry.

## THANK YOU

A HUGE thank you to our event sponsors:

**Elegant Outdoors** for their delicious "Elegant Escape" to help us kick the night off! **The Green Gallery** for the spectacular table centrepieces, **Alpine Nurseries** for supplying and installing the green life which transformed the room.

A big thank you as well to all our Partners for their support of the Industry with special thanks to:

- Craig Williams & the team from **Garden City Plastics**
- Gareth from **NGINA Insurance Service/Lederman Insurance Brokers**
- Graham from **NuFlora International**
- **Learning Sphere**
- Josh from Moshie and Matt from **EvergreenConnect**
- Belinda from **HR Focus**
- **Quality Plastic Products**







