



President: Mr Rex Liebelt – 0407 181 664
Hon. Secretary: Ms Robyn van Dok – 0430 902 907

2011 STRATHALBYN SHOW SPRING GARDEN COMPETITION

Sixteen entries were inspected on Saturday September 10th, throughout the Strathalbyn portion of the Alexandrina Council – as part of an overall inspection schedule which saw the judging panel travel 155 kilometres.

Awards in various categories of the competition will be presented on Monday October 3rd at 2.00pm at the Strathalbyn Show, when the winner of the Grand Champion Garden Award will be announced. Other results will be released through the media in the week leading up to the Show.

RESULTS AND JUDGING COMMENTS

FRONT & BACK GARDEN

CHAMPION FRONT AND BACK GARDEN – MARIA MAXWELL, STRATHALBYN

The neat, clean style at the front gives a pleasant welcome / introduction – with a more detailed and colourful effort at the rear, including a very useful and appealing garden room / conservatory.

Effective styling, including veggie beds, screening plantings, artistic and structural elements, good use of mulch. Very nice overall.

RUNNER-UP TO CHAMPION FRONT AND BACK GARDEN - ROWENA ANN LESCHYKE, “PLANE TREE”, STRATHALBYN

Very nicely presented – with home, garden and grounds being most complementary. A lot of newer plantings, replacing those lost to 18m months of “un-occupation” – and an immaculate presentation throughout.

Most appealing – a well balanced, harmonious property – and very effective styling. Well done!

LARGE OR RURAL LIVING GARDEN

1ST PRIZE IN BELVIDERE – CHRISTINE AND MICHAEL STEINERT

A high-impact lush tropical setting to say the least – with water cascading down into the feature pond within the driveway loop.

Now much more established and grown since we last saw this property as an overall participant , a few years ago.

More colour catches the eye – and a young rose garden containing mostly relocated plants (from the site of the “not yet in use” Functions Centre.

The rear garden , continuing the tropical theme, is now much more developed and “filled-in” – and the pool and spa are within an almost jungle setting.

Ever evolving! Special recognition for lush, tropical styling.

CHAMPION LARGE OR RURAL LIVING GARDEN – HELEN SCHULTZ “PINE RIDGE”, MILANG DISTRICT

A very pleasant rural setting, with the feature garden within the driveway loop, being an obvious highlight, developed around a striking old gum.

Pathways lead you into and through, with the sound of trickling water and the moss rocks, adding extra dimensions.

(Similar styled appeal between the gazebo and chook sheds – and at the rear of the home, running from the pool, up the rise and through to the wetlands)

Great concepts – and expanding

Well done!

RUNNER-UP TO CHAMPION LARGE OR RURAL LIVING GARDEN- REX AND NORMA KEILY “SERENITY”, STRATHALBYN EDISTRICT

Very nice to revisit – with “Serenity” always reflecting heaps of upkeep effort. Features and highlight areas galore.

A lovely restful setting for the spa, on an outlook knoll with wonderful views.

A seating gazebo is new, at the western end of the front lawn, with adjacent rose garden, including Spirit of Strathalbyn – a bog garden by the new septic system - new glass house, built by Norma – garden seating refurbished by Rex- table grape trellis – etc.

Very evident and very productive veggie and orchard aspects, too – propagation – mulching – grafting and so on.

Lots happening, as usual – with the more established areas being obvious highlights again.

Spick and Span plus lots more.

To be an Open Garden on 22nd and 23rd October.

Good Luck !

(Caption on Certificate to read.. and Special Recommendation for fruit – veggie productivity)

YOUNG GARDEN UP TO 2 YEARS

CHAMPION YOUNG GARDEN – KEITH AND VALMAI SCHUSTER, STRATHALBYN

A colourful young garden – with nice impact along the driveway, leading through to the home.

The first plantings only went in just over a year ago, and the strip across the front and the quite compact rear, look great.

Lots of colour.

The side strip to the east, houses a veggie garden and two rainwater tanks in another well set up area.

3.

2nd PRIZE IN STRATHALBYN – MARY GOLDEN

The oldest parts of this youngish garden, are still only 2 1/2 years old – so we will consider it within the “young “ category.

An interesting mix at the front, including Fig and Quince trees – an orchard house – roses and bulbs – veggie beds – flower area with bird bath – all within a tidy overall presentation – (with dwarf Apples and espaliered Fuji area, being very young)

SPICK & SPAN, OR LOW MAINTENANCE GARDEN

1ST PRIZE IN STRATHALBYN – MERV AND LORNA JOPPICH

An exceptionally tidy presentation throughout – heavy mulching on all of the front beds – in a well set up, maintainable style.

Lots to look at in the rear, including the upside down tomatoes – with very productive veggie beds and plant colour.

Top utilization of space – very healthy plants – and innovation.

SELF SUFFICIENCY – SUSTAINABLE GARDEN

CHAMPION SELF-SUFFICIENCY GARDEN – LYNNE AND DENIS HANSEN, ASHBOURNE

We last saw this garden in 2005. A nice setting behind the front wormwood hedge, but now with quite a change to content, due to previous droughty dry seasons.

Pretty aspects, but now with much more of a focus on productivity / sustainability – rabbits, chooks, ducks, veggies, goats, orchard trees, lots of water tanks, bird-protected veggie igloos etc. – all within an acre of land.

A very nice vine and shrubbery screen to the back verandah.

Well planned – well presented.

RUNNER UP CHAMPION SELF-SUFFICIENCY GARDEN – THE McPHERSON FAMILY

A new timber fence lines the entry driveway, giving a touch of formality to the open-style frontage.

Self-sufficiency is the focus here – including orchards, bees, goats and kids, chickens, veggies, cow, berries, lambs, herbs, ducks and so on.

Good use of mulch was also very apparent – and propagation and seedlings. Very productive.

Expanded since our last visit a couple of years ago –and looks to be more structured.

A very pleasant “cottagey” style garden is a nice touch between the church and home.

Thank you to Rachael Marie for being our guide.

4.

BUSINESS PRESENTATION OR COMMUNITY GARDEN

CHAMPION BUSINESS PRESENTATION – “HAMILTON HOUSE”, JOY AND CHRIS BOURNE, STRATHALBYN

Beautifully presented, with masses of appeal.

Lots for visitors and B & B guests to enjoy – with pathways inviting you to wander and wonder – now including a mosaic seat at the very rear – extra paving and features – a Balinese garden - and propagation.

A big variety – to be on-show as an Open Garden on September 22nd and 23rd.

2nd PRIZE BUSINESS PRESENTATION, IN STRATHALBYN – THE STUDIO OF MOSAIC ART, BRUCE LONG

Artistic aspects naturally abound, such as those around the top car park, under the studio's verandah – and in and through the embankment garden below the studio.

The big fernery continues on – unfortunately it isn't sunny enough today for the solar powered “mug” fountain, to be working – the area outside of the wellness treatment room, now has new mosaic Animals etc. – and 2m high wire framed elephants at the front, will be ivy features with growth time – and the tub chair is quite new.

(Things are always evolving here, with the mug fountain's base pond to have mugs added, too)

A more homely styled garden frames the entry driveway, leading into the home, initially - with the drive then heading up the hill.

1ST PRIZE – COMMUNITY GARDEN IN STRATHALBYN – “STRATHALBYN OLD COURTHOUSE MUSEUM”, NATIONAL TRUST OF S.A.

Very well presented grounds and property – through volunteer effort.

The raised garden beds in the courtyard, are attractive, also doubling as seating – constructed by secondary students and volunteers prior our 2010 visit.

(A “solar flare” display is under construction at present – housing the world-beating solar assisted recumbent bicycle)

2nd PRIZE – COMMUNITY GARDEN, IN STRATHALBYN “GLEN BARR HOMESTEAD”

This c.1842 historic homestead was gifted to the Bowman-Bateman Foundation in 1975 – by Daphne Bowman and Kathleen Bateman.

The Nat. Trust listed property is formally managed through the Foundation, by a committee of volunteers - and volunteers and supporters have put in a solid effort over the past couple of years to redevelop and upgrade the garden areas, including irrigation systems for the side lawn and garden beds.

Recent efforts show out, including edging and tidying for our visit today.

Plant donations from the Garden Club have been of assistance.

5.

MOST IMPROVED GARDEN SINCE 2010 – PAT INGLETON “OLD SCHOOL”, POINT STURT

A lovely setting with heaps of character and appeal.

Artistic touches throughout – more now than when we first saw this property last year – including the Mad Hatters Tea Party.

Mulch now gives a more integrated and much less dusty style, throughout.

The delightful, cottage styled rear garden, is a highlight.

A virtually completely new section at the lower end of the driveway, adds an extra highlight – at the bottom end of the “trimmed up” Pepper tree belt, which now also houses a “large” tea cup setting.

Great to revisit !

(152 year old school, with Pat now in residence for 10 years)

JUDGES DISCRETIONARY AWARD FOR 5 YEAR IMPROVEMENT – HEATHER McMURTRIE, “BURNLEA”, BLETCHLEY.

Our fifth annual visit, now with a garden feature along the entry driveway, and tidy up efforts along Burnlea Road.

Always something more to see – either new or a consolidation on from young work we’ve seen before.

New works also include the rock edged bed, on the way to the igloo and chook run, plus Aggies – veggies igloo, garage – rainwater tanks – mulch – plantings – etc.

The more mature areas are a credit to and a reflection of your earlier efforts.

Thank you for the notes.

Well done – not easy conditions.

As we’ve noted before, passion and persistence personified.

JUDGED ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2011 BY:

REX LIEBELT, SHOW SOCIETY PRESIDENT AND GARDEN COMPETITION CONVENOR

ANN WOOLFORD, DEPUTY MAYOR, ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL

ROSS SWAYNE, OAM, FORMER DIRECTOR, KESAB TIDY TOWNS PROGRAM



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