Vibrant Public Housing Gardens Awarded

Garden enthusiasts celebrated today with the announcement of Territory Housing’s 15th Annual Public Housing Garden Competition winners for the Darwin, Casuarina and Palmerston regions.

Minister for Public and Affordable Housing, Dr Chris Burns presented the awards today at Tracy Village Social and Sports Club.

"The competition celebrates the hard work and effort of gardeners within public housing and encourages them to show pride in their place," Minister Burns said.

“The awards are our opportunity to recognise and reward our tenants who take special pride in their gardens.

"Beautiful gardens make our neighbourhoods more colourful and vibrant, and provide a place to relax and unwind.

"The winners, runners-up and entrants have worked very hard to make a positive difference to public housing,” Dr Burns said.

Entrants are not only an inspiration for other public housing tenants, but for all Territory residents.

Minister Burns took the opportunity to encourage other public housing tenants to give gardening a go.

“Gardens bring a sense of pride and accomplishment. They are a place to express our creativity.

“The Darwin region alone attracted 50 applications and the calibre of entries keeps getting better every year.

Dr Burns thanked the judges from NT Open Garden Scheme and Territory Housing for volunteering their time to judge all entrants.

Winners received a trophy and a $300 home improvement voucher. Awards were given in six categories:

Best Unit Garden – Betty van der Berg
Best House Garden – Thu Pam
Best Recently Developed/New Garden – Jeff and Cherie Thurling
Most Productive Garden – Merlita J Marquez
Best Communal/Complex Garden – Sarah Worden
Best Environmentally Friendly Garden – Lee and Wally Kitchen

Public housing garden award ceremonies will also be held in Nhulunbuy, Katherine and for the first time, Wadeye. Territory Housing also proudly sponsors the ABC garden competition in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek.
Further Information:

Best Unit Garden
1st Prize: Betty van der Berg (Woodroffe)
2nd Prize: Sarah Worden (Moulden)
3rd Prize: Catherina and Arthur Post (Fannie Bay)
Highly Commended: Milivoje Mitchy Radovanovic
Encouragement Awards: G&D Norton (Fannie Bay), Majidah Hitam (Fannie Bay) and Donna Kittel (Wanguri) Mr Kiem Le & Mrs L Nguyen

Best House Garden
1st Prize: Thu Pam (Driver)
2nd Prize: Merlita Marquez (Karama)
3rd Prize: Florence Pool (Driver)
Encouragement Awards: Saminat Dokthaisong (Tiwi), Maureen Roe (Jingili), Peter and Maree May (Rapid Creek).

Best Recently Developed Garden/New Garden
1st Prize: Jeff and Cherie Thuring (Bellamack)
2nd Prize: James and Louise Marshall (Malak)
3rd Prize: Peter Burnett (Coconut Grove)
Encouragement Awards: Marilyn Davies (Moulden), Anabel Cheetham (Moulden) and Miranda Barfoot (Moulden)

Best Environmentally Friendly Garden
1st Prize: Lee and Wally Kitchen (Woodroffe)
2nd Prize: Catherina and Arthur Post (Fannie Bay)
3rd Prize: Kerri Hefron (Moulden)
Encouragement Awards: Rama Kiel (Bakewell), Jeff and Cherie Thurling (Bellamack), Rhonda Bayne (The Narrows)

Best Communal Garden
1st Prize: Donna Kittel (Wanguri)
Encouragement Award: Heinrich Conrad (Malak)

Most Productive Garden
1st Prize: Merlita J Marquez (Karama)
2nd Prize: Donna Kittel (Wanguri)
3rd Prize: Mr Kiem Le and Mrs Nguyen (Fannie Bay)
Highly Commended: Mitchy Radovanovic (Fannie Bay)
Encouragement Award: Saminat Dokthaiong (Tiwi), Elsa Pantarotto (Moil)

Media contact: Lesley Major 0419 288 284

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