



October 2015

Waterwise Garden Competition 2015

The City of Nedlands is proud to announce the winners of the Waterwise Garden Competition 2015, with four gardens to receive prizes.

1st Prize (Residential Category) – 1 Dalkeith Road

This garden is an excellent example of a diverse native plant garden which uses waterwise strategies, high quality mulch, attractive garden layout and a well-thought-out selection of waterwise plants. This garden scored highly for its outstanding presentation while requiring very minimal use of water.

2nd Prize (Residential Category) – 1 Cleland Street

This garden uses the nature strip space to its full potential. The combination of tress and native plants create great homes for wildlife, and scored big points for biodiversity. The effective creation of shade combined with excellent mulching maximises moisture retention. Overall this garden is a delight.

3rd Prize (Residential Category) – 45 Beatrice Road Dalkeith

An excellent selection and variety of interesting native plants makes the garden colourful and interesting for passers-by. Being very well laid out, the garden has excellent conservation features and scored highly on use of waterwise strategies.

Business Category – The Mt Claremont Bethanie Centre

The Bethanie Centre in Mt Claremont is the winner of the Business category. The centre has put a lot of effort in to developing a waterwise garden, growing their own food and putting emphasis on waste minimisation. The centre staff are commendable in how they are involving their users in participating in sustainable practices in the garden.

Gardens were judged on seven key criteria:

1. Waterwise strategies
2. Design and general layout
3. Mulching and compost
4. Waste minimisation
5. Encouraging native wildlife
6. Biodiversity and conservation features
7. Complementary planting and shading for moisture retention and wind protection.

City of Nedlands Mayor, Max Hipkins, said: "The City of Nedlands is proudly a Waterwise council, endorsed by the Water Corporation. The City is committed to using water in the most efficient manner possible in all of its operations, and is encouraging its residents to do the same.

"Water efficiency is critically important for our community. Western Australia is experiencing the effects of a drying climate, and everyone needs to do their part to conserve water. You can reduce water use in your own garden by planting native plants, spreading a 5-10 cm thick layer of waterwise mulch, and only watering your garden on your two allocated watering days."

The independent competition judge, Simon Pawley from Sustainable Outdoors, said "Verge gardens are a great way to save water and are an amazing use of space. It will use minimal water, reduce overall maintenance costs and looks far better than lawn, it will also provide food for native birds and reptiles like lizards and skinks. Western Australia has some amazing plant varieties available making verge gardens more practical than ever before. The best advice I could give anyone starting a new verge garden is to improve the soil with Bentonite clay and add a heavy layer of mulch. A waterwise garden starts with the right foundation."

Special thanks is given to Anderson Davies Real Estate who are the long-term supporters of the City of Nedlands' environmental improvement initiatives and generously donated \$2000 to this competition.

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About the City of Nedlands

The City of Nedlands is situated 7km from Perth and stretches from the banks of the Swan River to the edge of the Indian Ocean. A population of over 21,000 live in the suburbs of Nedlands, Dalkeith, Mt Claremont, Swanbourne, Karrakatta, and parts of Floreat and Shenton Park.

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