



Council of Australasian Weed Societies

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MEDIA RELEASE

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BULLEEN WINS NATIONAL NURSERY AWARD

Efforts by a Victorian garden nursery to help protect Australia's unique environment has won it the annual Australian CAWS 'Weed Wise' retail nursery of 2007 Award.

Melbourne's Bulleen Arts and Garden has been praised by the Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS) for educating its customers about plants that can escape from gardens and become major weed threats to the environment.

The nursery also recently won the National Nursery & Garden Industry Australia Community and Environment Award.

CAWS President John Virtue said the National Awards created awareness of invasive garden plants, and recognised retail nurseries that removed invasive garden plants from sale, supported appropriate labeling schemes and educated customers.

"Bulleen is a Sustainable Gardening Australia accredited nursery. It regularly updates its internal weed species lists to reflect the latest research," Dr. Virtue said.

"The lists are used by all plant buyers, and are accessible to all staff and customers via their website, together with the nursery's environmental and weed policies," he said.

The CEO of Bulleen Arts and Garden Nurseries Paul McMorran, on accepting the Award, said there was a challenge for nurseries to be educated and up to date about weed issues.

The Council of Australasian Weed Societies is an independent body that can express National and regional views on all issues relating to weeds and their management. The Council is composed of delegates from Australian State weed societies and the Plant Protection Society of New Zealand.

“We have made mistakes and will again, but our aim is to continually improve. Education of the public through signage in the nursery has helped to improve their knowledge,” Mr McMorran said.

The Manager of the nursery Anna Thirkell-Johnson said Bulleen Arts and Garden educated the public in a low-key way by removing inappropriate plants from sale, and offering a suitable alternative.

“If the suggested replacement plant is more environmentally friendly and suitable then we are all happy and we help stop weeds from invading environments,” Ms Thirkell-Johnson said.

Nurseries are assessed for the National CAWS Awards by state Weed Societies against the following criteria:

- The voluntary removal of invasive species
- The sale of local native flora
- The standard of labeling of plants including the use of the correct scientific name, and identification of potentially invasive species
- Industry accreditation
- Policy on invasive species and/or related issues
- Participation in schemes such as ‘Grow Me Instead’

Other State winners were:

TASMANIA – New Town Station Nursery

WESTERN AUSTRALIA – Zanthorrea Nursery

NEW SOUTH WALES – Sydney Wildflower Nursery West

There were no entries this year from Queensland or South Australia.

The Council of Australasian Weed Societies Inc. is the overarching body for six Australian State weed societies and the Plant Protection Society of New Zealand. It is an independent group that seeks to inform, encourage and promote effective weed management to minimise the high economic, environmental and social impacts of invasive plants.

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PHOTO CAPTION 1:

Paul McMorrان, CEO and Anna Thirkell-Johnson, Nursery Manager, Bulleen Arts and Garden with Weed Society of Victoria's President Ken Young, celebrating their win as Australian CAWS Weed Wise Nursery 2007.



PHOTO CAPTION 2: *An example of the weed wise signage used at Bulleen Arts and Garden*

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