



MT. BARKER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY INC.

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Mount Barker District Show

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2018 MOUNT BARKER SHOW SPRING GARDEN COMPETITION

Well, this year we had cooler than normal judging conditions, ideal spring weather, with the inspection of 15 gardens throughout the Mount Barker District Council, judged on Wednesday 7th November.

There were 4 new entrants this year, with participant numbers 4 down with 2017 total of 19 entrants, with 6 gardens which returned after one or two years off, plus 8 gardens re entering from last year.

Awards in various categories of the competition will be presented on Saturday February 2nd at 9.00pm at the Mt Barker Pre Show Dinner to be held in the St Paul's Lutheran Church Hall, Hahndorf - when all results, including the Grand Champion Garden and Runner-up will be announced.

A dessert competition will be part of the evening's activities, with the entries then served as dessert on the night. There is also a produce competition for the Cut Flowers, Vegetables and Pot Plants.

Proceedings will start at 6.00pm for a 6.30pm dinner, and all entrants are invited to attend, whether for the \$25.00, 3 course meal plus B.Y.O. drinks – or at 9.00pm for the presentation of awards.

(Guest speakers on the night). All results will be on display at the Mt Barker District Show on Saturday March 23rd.

JUDGING COMMENTS:

FRONT AND BACK GARDEN

Philip and Marie Christian, Nairne

Neat and compact garden, with immaculate presentation. Good colour combination with purple and orange in the front, very eye-catching. Particular colour palate ties the front and back garden together. Philip has planned the garden so that there are continuous flowers through the year. New focal points are pears and bench seats. An open garden this weekend.

Lorraine & Patrick Scott "Bucleuch", Mount Barker

Shawn the sheep greeted us as we entered the back garden. Garden was packed with perennials and roses creating a very colourful display. Good standard and enjoyable to wander through. Lots of quirky ornamentation tastefully displayed throughout the garden adding those final touches.

Diane Uppill, Mount Barker

Again we were introduced to some new areas of this "creative" garden, with some new ideas evident. The jeans plant holder looked great, and we were amazed with the new miniature garden. The purple themed area in the front garden was good plus the tea room and outdoor living area. Very colorful in the front and well maintained as usual.

LARGE / RURAL LIVING GARDEN:

Jim & Sue Smith, "Drouin", Littlehampton

Jim & Sue have been living here for 5 years. The Garden has many lovely vistas. and has the feel of a botanic garden Colour combination of the trees very nice. Growth very obvious since first entered as a new garden. More filled in. Addition of lake creates a focal point. Very pretty and an enjoyable wander through. An open garden entrant this year.

Christopher Schmeiss, "Poona Tandan", Nairne

Front garden looks very colourful with roses out in bloom. Garden has extended further, with new area looking nice and well maintained. Cabbages looked nice as did the rest of the veggie patch. Hawthorns very pretty in flower. A large garden to wander through.

Dennis Roberts, "Denella Downs", Meadows

Garden has matured further, providing a lot of shady areas. Contrasting foliage lifts the garden. Some fairly dry areas, but the established plantings are holding out well. Lots of different colours throughout. Row of laburnums behind the shed are growing well. Nice garden to wander through again.

Dick & Meralyn Nagel, Hahndorf

The garden is now 4 years old, and we can see a lot of growth since first visiting the garden last year. The pond feature looked great again this year, with the waterlilies out in flower. Lawned area also great plus all plantings being very suited to the cottage and home.

MOST COLOURFUL GARDEN:**Robert & Marilyn Cooper, Flaxley**

Roses, irises and aquilegias looked lovely and created a magnificent display, once again very noticeable from the road, Roses not yet in full bloom, but still very colourful. Garden once again nicely presented. Surrounded in a lovely rural setting.

SMALL OR RESTRICTED GARDEN:**Kyle Griffin, "KJ's Cottage", Nairne**

Not a thing out of place. Front lawn looks like a bowling green. Continuing at a very high standard. So much variety in the front garden. A real wow factor. So neat and well maintained.. Revamped back garden with a softer look to accommodate new additions. In the open garden scheme this weekend.

Sandi Hogben, Littlehampton

Sandi has been living here 10 years. Compact low maintenance bordered by formal box pillars. Productive garden in the rear yard, very compact , and set up very orderly with every space being used. Espaliered fruit trees and large citrus. Contained raspberries, with horseradish planted in a pot. Good display. .

GARDEN NOT PREVIOUSLY ENTERED:**Malcolm & Jan Kentish, Hahndorf**

Malcolm & Jan have made a lot of changes since moving here with plenty of new additions to the garden. Roses were coming out into bloom. Large rear garden with a large lawned area which was well maintained. Nicely presented.

Michelle & Michael Pietsch, Macclesfield

Michelle and Michael moved here in 2011 and started the garden in 2012. Predominately native, with a lovely rural aspect incorporating a lake. Nicely presented with gabion walling and sloping site with minimal steps. Garden creates a shelter from some of the wind for the house. and is very complimentary.

BUSINESS PRESENTATION AND COMMUNITY GARDEN:

Auchendarroch House, Mount Barker

It is 2 years since we last visited and awarded this garden a Judges Discretionary Award as we noticed the overall high presentation as complimentary to the business. 2 years later a lot of further changes and improvements are evident. Garden has been sign posted to it's Scottish heritage and areas dedicated to family. Sunday guided garden tours are now happening with a high tea included. Garden is being promoted again for weddings. An enjoyable visit..

Infuse Community Garden, Mount Barker

Now established for 3 years. Great community garden, very neatly presented and well noticed on a corner block, looking attractive as you drive past. 150 children meet here regularly for a playgroup. Garden beds are hired out to members of the community at a very minimal rate, either block only or block with drippers hose set up.

The Laurels Residents Association

Stunning display of gardens throughout, all well maintained. Roses were a very colourful feature. Every unit garden of over 100 units of this retirement facility was neat and tidy and we enjoyed our drive through the whole grounds.

JUDGES DISCRETIONARY AWARD:

Johnny Barclay, Macclesfield

Every year the judging panel has the opportunity to acknowledge a garden that is outstanding and deserves special recognition. While driving through Macclesfield this garden took our eye and we stopped to take a look Very colourful with a large rose garden, which made it an eye-catching garden in the street. While we were there we met Johnny, and gave him encouragement to be an entrant next year.

Judged on Wednesday November 7th, 2018 by:

- **Rex Liebelt, Garden Competition Convener and Show Vice President**
- **Cynthia Foyle, past Competition convener and entrant**
- **Erika Heal, Open Gardens Scheme Selector**
- **Christine Elliot, past TAFE Horticultural Lecturer**
- **Sarah Leitke, Guest Judge**