

BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



MEDIA RELEASE

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Council President scoops gardening awards

Barkly Regional Council President Barb Shaw won two gardening awards and received two highly commended at a recent ceremony in Tennant Creek.

President Shaw took home Best Water Wise Garden (Tennant Creek) and Best Arid Zone Garden (Tennant Creek) at the ABC's Central Australian Garden awards ceremony last week.

She also received a highly commended for the Best Tennant Creek Garden and for Garden of the Year: Frank McEllister Memorial Award.

President Shaw, who won the awards along with her husband, Elliot McAdam, said they are always conscious of the use of water because of the hot, arid conditions in the Barkly. "Elliot has designed our garden in such a way that water is captured, then directed to drip down into the soil around the plant. We also use a lot of mulch to reduce evaporation," she said.

ABC Alice Springs Breakfast presenter Stewart Brash said the entries were of a very high standard this year. "We received 63 general garden entries: 30 in Alice Springs, 23 in Tennant Creek and 10 from around the region," said Brashy who hosted the event in town last Friday.

He said 2014 had been a tough year for gardeners with warm and dry conditions persisting over the winter months. Despite the challenges, the winning gardens showcased how persistence and attention to the local conditions can result in stunning gardens adapted to desert living.

Other winners in Tennant Creek were Helio De Souza and Jessica Wooler (Best New Garden), Lynda O'Halloran (Brashy's Pot Shot), Beth Staunton (Best Tennant Creek Garden). Beth was also awarded a highly commended for Garden of the Year: Frank McEllister Memorial Award, with Ben Whippy and Heidi Hopkins also receiving a highly commended for Best Tennant Creek Garden.

President Shaw said she has always been a supporter of the ABC Gardening Competition and had entered in previous years, but had not done so for a while.

"There are local people who regularly enter the competition and continuously do well, like Mrs Beth Staunton who has an impressive garden. I congratulate her for she won Best Tennant Creek Garden and was also commended for the prestigious Frank McEllister Memorial Award.

"I am not one of those persons who have a lot of luck in winning competitions so I am pleased with my awards. I would urge other Tennantites to join the fun and get involved next year."

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