

# NURSERY PAPERS

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## The 2010 Nursery & Garden Industry State Young Leaders

The Nursery & Garden Industry Young Leader Award acknowledges an individual, younger than 35, who demonstrates a contribution to industry businesses, particularly in participation to industry activities and strong leadership skills.

In this Nursery Paper we celebrate our 2010 State Young Leaders who will be interviewed by a panel of esteemed industry personnel and vie for the national title. The National Young Leader will be announced at the 2010 NGI Awards Gala Dinner held in conjunction with the National Conference at Darwin in April.



## 2010 Nursery & Garden Industry Awards



The Nursery & Garden Industry Awards are funded by the nursery levy in partnership with HAL



## Mark Engall

### New South Wales & Australian Capital Territory

The Young Leader for NSW & ACT is Mark Engall, owner of Engall's nursery, a citrus, olive and rose wholesale grower in Dural.

Mark says he feels extremely proud to be recognised by his peers in the industry.

Engall's Nursery has long been a family business and Mark recognises the impact his father had on his love of gardening, spending many school holidays and weekends working with him. "My dad set me up with such a good name and reputation, as did his father before that. It has given me the best platform to build on."

Mark says working in the nursery industry ticks all the boxes. "I love working outdoors and with plants which are the lifeline to everything. I also love the down to earth, friendly people that are in this industry."

He intends to use his award win to encourage and inspire; "I want to use it as a platform to encourage as many young people as possible to join this fantastic industry and experience the enjoyment that I get going to work every day.

"The plaque on the wall doesn't mean much; it is more about being able to encourage young people to get into horticulture."

The green-thumb believes it would be fantastic to win nationally. "The highest accolade I could think of, the peak of my career".

With four year-old twin daughters and a newborn girl, Mark hopes he will be able to keep the business in the family. "Hopefully one will take an interest, but I would never push them into it," he says.

Engall's Nursery also won Best Small Production Nursery in the NSW & ACT NGI State Awards for the second consecutive year.

"We're very proud to win for the second time. We work very hard to be the best business we can be," Mark says.



## Ben Scoble

### Victoria

Ben Scoble, Sales Manager for Speciality Trees in Narre Warren East holds the title for 2010 Young Leader in Victoria.

Ben began his career in horticulture with Linton's Garden & Home Retail Nursery and went on to work for Anthony Tesselar International before joining the Speciality Trees team in 2007. He assisted in improving sales by 20 percent in his first year within the company and he is currently part of the senior management group.

Ben is excited and honoured to be awarded the title. "I want a long and fruitful career in horticulture and this is a great feather in the cap to help achieve this." He believes he won the State Award because of his involvement in the industry. "I am quite active in the industry as the chair for NextGen and I attend all Trade Days and many other industry events."

As Chair of NextGen Victoria, Ben ensures that young horticulturists have a say and a real place within the industry, a role over and above the demands of sales in a successful production company.

The passionate plantsman says he entered the Young Leader Award because he wanted to see how he stood against other people in the industry. "When I found out I had won Young Leader for Victoria I was terribly excited and honoured, I didn't think I would win."

Ben believes it would be a huge honour to win the National Young Leader Award. "Some great people have won National Young Leader in the past, winning nationally would be the highlight of my career so far."

Managing Director of Speciality Trees, Hamish Mitchell believes the Award win is well deserved. "Ben has the potential to make a significant difference in the horticulture industry as well as the wider to community and we at Speciality Trees are very much looking forward to having this potential realised."

Speciality Trees also won the Best Medium Production Award in the 2010 NGI Awards. "We are proud and humbled by the recognition from our peers. This award is a great benchmark of where we are at and the steps forward to further improvement," Hamish says.







## Ryan Eaton

### Queensland

Young Leader for Queensland Ryan Eaton says he is "extremely stoked" to have won the recognition. "I am pretty proud of myself and everyone who works with me; this is a big pat on my back for my staff too," he says. "This just gives me more inspiration and focus to encourage and educate younger gardeners about the joys of horticulture."

Ryan began his career in the nursery industry at a young age and was inspired by the commitment and dedication of the industry's forerunners. Three years ago he started his own business; Tambourine based Canopy Wholesale Nursery which grows trees and shrubs - from 140mm groundcovers through to 100lt trees.

He says he entered the Young Leader Award because a few of his industry friends asked him to. "It was a nice honour for them to even think I was worthy of entering."

Ryan believes he has got to where he is today due to the support from his wife, Bethany "You don't succeed without really good people behind you," and the help from his staff. "You are only as good as the people you employ."

Ryan intends to use the recognition as a promotional tool. "We are about to open a landscape department so we will use the win to promote the business as well as to promote this fantastic, holistic industry!"

If he wins nationally he says he would be extremely honoured and humbled. "Even to be put in the same category as these people is an amazing honour, I am pretty proud to have been nominated with all of them."



## Krystal Elliot

### South Australia

South Australian Young Leader Krsytal Elliot says she is "excited and extremely proud of this achievement so early in my career."

Krystal's family began Murray Bridge based Serenity Garden Centre 13 years ago, and through that time Krystal has grown alongside the family business; "I studied a Bachelor of Visual Arts & Applied Design and have a Certificate III in Horticulture. I fuse what I learnt in art with my passion for gardening and am continually inspired by my parent's knowledge."

She is thankful for the Award as it reflects the garden centre. "I guess we've had the business for so long it is good to be acknowledged for the service we've put into the community."

Krystal entered the Young Leader Award because she had seen the recognition that previous entrants had gained through winning.

The 26 year old intends to use the State win to encourage and educate; "I want to use this opportunity to continue to promote water wise gardening, to teach and encourage people in the community to garden sustainably."

Krystal's passion for sustainable gardening was apparent during her acceptance speech at the SA awards ceremony. "I had people ringing me and thanking me for the speech I gave."

The 'Young Gun' believes it would be overwhelming to win nationally. "I would give me a lot of confidence to go further in my career."

Krystal says she is really looking forward to the National Conference in Darwin and mingling with other people from the nursery industry around Australia.





## Dominic Campisi

### Northern Territory

Head horticulturist of Winellie based Allora Gardens Nursery, Dominic Campisi says he is “excited and extremely proud” to be the Northern Territory 2010 Young Leader. “My parents joked that I was born with green thumbs and I have been gardening since I was two.” However, his real start in the industry was when he was 16. “I’ve always been passionate about plants and gardening and I have been privileged to travel the State, working with different climates and landscapes.” He says.

He will use the Award win to encourage and educate; “I want to use this opportunity to continue to support young colleagues and members of the industry and demonstrate that you can achieve your goals if you have passion.”

Being actively involved in the community makes Dominic an inspiration to budding gardeners, “I love working with the community!” Dominic is involved in talks with groups such as nursing homes and garden clubs and working with Allora Gardens when they recently landscaped a Riding For The Disabled centre.

Dominic says he is very happy to have won the award. “I was given lots of support and encouragement from people in the industry on the night of the NT Awards.”

The Top-End-er is passionate about environmentally friendly and sustainable gardening. “I always make sure to explain to customers the consequences of using chemicals and how to use them correctly. Even though we do not have a water shortage in Darwin, I still make sure I am responsible with water in respect of the environment.”

Allora Gardens Nursery also won the Training Award in the 2010 NGI Awards. Owner Estelle Cornell says: “It is great for the staff to receive the recognition and acclamation from the Award; they are an incredibly loyal, enthusiastic and dedicated bunch of people.”



## Ben Mitchell

### Western Australia

WA Young Leader Ben Mitchell is founder and owner of garden consultancy, Growing Free. Ben says he is excited and honoured to be given the title. “The real honour in this award is being recognised as a leader. I am good at what I do and am very passionate about gardening but it is a very different thing altogether to be considered a leader.” Part of his industry work revolves around his position as Chair of the NextGen Industry Group in Western Australia, a role he cherishes.

Ben owes his passion for plants to his grandfather who gave him his start in horticulture; “My grandfather bought a nursery when I was eight and I followed him round for the next four summers or so. I have never considered it as a career choice, I just naturally gravitated towards gardening.”

This award win will allow Ben to continue to foster more young green thumbs within the community; “Being Young Leader will give me the opportunity to work at the top of my field and show the youth of the industry what NextGen can do for them,” Ben says.

The 34 year-old started his business, Growing Free, because he liked the idea of working for himself. The business is a holistic garden consultancy – offering both garden design and landscaping as well as garden maintenance. Ben also provides workshops on growing food and sustainable gardening practices as well as a weekly online newsletter.

As well as being a leader in the industry, Ben is also an avid practiser of sustainable gardening. “There are basic horticultural principles which, if you use them well you save on resources. Everything I do in my business is with sustainable practises even though this is not always the easy choice.”

