Media release

Wednesday, 16 April 2025

**SOCIAL HOUSING GARDENS CELEBRATED IN ALL THEIR BLOOM**

Gardens at public and community homes across the state have been celebrated in the 2024-25 Victoria in Bloom gardening competition.

At today’s ceremony, finalists and winners of the annual competition, which recognises the great work of gardening enthusiasts living in public or community housing, were congratulated.

Renters enter gardens of all types, including those on balconies, and in back yards and community gardens. Victoria in Bloom was first held in 2004 and continues to grow, with more than 130 entries received this year.

The Victoria in Bloom overall Gardener of the Year award was presented to the Community Garden Group from Flemington. The group of renters also won the Best Edible Garden category for their creation of several garden boxes to grow a variety of vegetables, with recycling also a big part of the planning and management of the community garden.

Other winners are:

* Best Balcony or Container Garden – Waltraud Jansen from Moonee Ponds
* Best Creative Garden – Annie Read from Warrnambool
* Best Small Enclosed Garden – Doreen Floyd from Ballarat
* Best Household Garden – Carina Gemenis & John Wilson from Ringwood East
* Best Sustainable Garden – Kerin Fogarty from Thornbury
* Best Community or Common Area Garden – High Street Garden Group from Preston North
* Best First Year Garden – Thi Lien Phan from Endeavour Hills
* Best Young Gardener (under 25) – Sharliya Bell from Montrose

Nominations for the 2025-26 garden competition will open on 26 August. For more information, visit [housing.vic.gov.au/victoria-bloom-garden-competition](https://www.housing.vic.gov.au/victoria-bloom-garden-competition).