

We have Highly Commended 106 O'Connor Street.

The owners' purchased the property approximately 7 years ago, and with a young family, have worked hard to balance the elongated tear shaped garden's old world charm derived from its established roses (standard and climbing), camellias, jacaranda, and apricot trees, with a modern perspective - the desire to have room for their children and dog to play as well as introduce bird attracting shrubs. Through trial and error the garden has slowly evolved with callistemon and grevillea flowering abundantly along the fence line, and lemon and kefir citrus trees providing fruit, scent and privacy.

We were introduced to the vegetable patch, which is in its infancy, and we look forward to viewing the garden again in 12 months' time.



In Third Place is 110 Dalhousie Street.

The owners have lived at the property for 30 years, and the garden perfectly complements the house. The front beds and side passage reflect the love for colourful annuals, roses (both standard and climbing), camellias, orchids and soft ground cover plants such as clivias and agapanthus.

The back garden is partially shaded from a neighbouring tree, and the owners have thoughtfully grown hedging and shade plants against southern aspects, vegetables (beans, tomatoes, lettuce) against northern aspects, and fruit trees (figs, lemon and orange trees) grow happily in between (wherever the sun's rays could be utilised). The grass was perfect and I found it difficult fighting the urge to walk on the grass barefooted. While Giulio may not be in the best of health, his garden is a true testament to him.



In Second Place is 5 Tressider Avenue.

Hasn't this garden been popular! It is a lovely cool garden, with established camphor laurel, magnolias and camellias (japonica and sasanqua), and ground covers of irises, daisies, azaleas, daphnia, marigolds and forget-me-nots. A self-seeding garden.

The side is fully utilised with violets, clivias, strawberries, hibiscus, lilies and Christmas Bush but the hidden gem is the back yard. A jacaranda and two coral trees stand as sentinels, casting welcome shade over bromeliads, prayer plants, camellias, orchids, cacti including the moonlight cactus ("Queen of the Night"). Chickens happily scratch in a designer coop/chicken run, fronted by and servicing a healthy veggie and herb patch including rosemary, thyme, sage, and chillies. Fig and lemon trees co-exist, as do passionfruit and nasturtiums. Everywhere you look you will find something potted or vying for soil.

A real joy and worthy of second place.



First Place is 49 Northcote Street.

“Wow”, “just beautiful”, and “out of a magazine” are the words and phrases which sprang to my mind whilst judging this garden.

The front yard and driveway are elegant and understated, with a central white theme highlighted with a pop of purple from the limoniums. The roses along the driveway include originals from 1912, but it is only when you are in the back yard, that you realise the painstaking efforts Lloyd and Jeremy have made to make the whole garden appear as extensions of the house.

There is a wonderful flow. Wherever you stand or sit, you have some sort of view.

The garden flowers 9 months of the year and is fully utilised with raised veggie beds, annuals, a mango tree, citrus trees, water features, ornaments - your senses are assailed with colours, textures and sounds.

Whilst the word “eccentric” was used to describe the garden on the day of our visit, we see the whole garden as beautifully crafted and made with love.

By night it can be transformed into a sophisticated, contemplative and intimate haven for the owners.

By day, it is a dynamic, productive, warm and inviting garden capable of accommodating extended family and friends.

