



RACHEL NOLAN MP

Member for Ipswich

Booval Professional Centre
125 Brisbane Rd BOOVAL

PO Box 98
BOOVAL Q 4304

Ph: 3202 3452
Fax: 3202 4778

Email:
ipswich@parliament.qld.gov.au

22 October 2004

STATEMENT BY THE MEMBER FOR IPSWICH **RACHEL NOLAN**

Garden Awards winners announced today

Queensland's winning "green thumbs" were recognised today at the Department of Housing's state-wide 2004 Garden Awards presentation in West Moreton.

Member for Ipswich, Rachel Nolan, who presented the awards today, said it was a great way to reward the efforts of proud gardeners across the West Moreton area.

"The Garden Awards recognise tenants who show pride in their properties through gardening and acknowledge their efforts in building beautiful green neighbourhoods," she said.

Ms Nolan said the winners were selected from many quality gardens with the 2004 Garden Awards attracting almost 1700 entries state-wide and 68 entries in the local area.

"The sheer number and quality of this year's entries presented a great but very enjoyable challenge to the judges in deciding the winners," she said.

"The judges looked for gardens that reflected pride in a home or neighbourhood.

"One of the first decisions of the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing, Robert Swarten, was to re-start the Garden Awards after they were scrapped by the former Coalition Government."

Ms Nolan said awards were presented in eight categories which included small gardens for units, verandahs or even a little section of a backyard, house gardens, gardens created by children, group gardens, newly-established gardens, native plant gardens, environmentally friendly gardens and practical gardens.

"All entrants will receive a certificate, a photo of their garden and a plant or voucher for garden products. Special prizes and certificates will be given to winners," she said.