

Victorian Quarantine Centre takes out inaugural 'National Best Government Nursery Award'

AQIS Post Entry Plant Quarantine Centre of Knoxfield has been named the National Best Government Nursery at the 2010 Nursery and Garden Industry Awards held in Darwin this week for its continued achievements and success over the past year.

Kimberley Thomas, AQIS Post Entry Plant Quarantine Centre Manager, said the win was testament to her team's professionalism and their commitment to protecting Australia from exotic pests and diseases.

"It's great to be recognised for the important role we perform, not only within the nursery and garden industry but also for the wider Australian community" Kimberley said.

NGIA National Production Nursery Judge Lionel Sach said, "This organisation's interaction with the industry is commendable. AQIS is a model which all quarantine nursery facilities should aspire to have. They are certainly setting the benchmark within the Nursery & Garden Industry."

The inaugural 'Best Government Nursery Award' acknowledges a government owned nursery that is publicly funded and demonstrates extraordinary commitment to all aspects of daily business operations.

The plant quarantine centre at Knoxfield is the only government post-entry quarantine facility for high-risk plants in Victoria. Through the detection of plant diseases, AQIS provides invaluable protection to the Australian horticultural and agricultural industries worth \$32 billion annually. The centre also educates importers, and promotes the safe entry of plant germplasm into Australia.

About the 2010 Nursery & Garden Industry Awards

The Nursery & Garden Industry Awards praise outstanding businesses and individuals within the industry, who have shown excellent business practice in the past 12 months.

There are 14 prestigious categories and are featured at the awards program including two new categories this year, Best Government Nursery and Best Propagation Nursery.

Other categories include the Environment Award, Community Award, Training Award, Export Award, Best Small, Medium and Large Garden Centre, Best Small, Medium and Large Production Nursery, Allied Supplier Award and Young Leader Award.

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