



# Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show blooms with floral beauty and talent for its 19<sup>th</sup> year

**Media Release**

**December 2013**

The heritage listed Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens will be brought to life once again for the 19<sup>th</sup> year of the [Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show](#) (MIFGS). Presented by Jenny Craig, the five day event features world class landscape designs and floral exhibits, taking place from Wednesday, 26 March to Sunday, 30 March.

Boasting a spectacular line-up of Australian landscape designers, the Carlton Gardens will play host to some of the country's most accomplished landscape designers, while inside the Royal Exhibition Building, displays by Australian and international florists will transform the heritage listed building into a floral wonderland.

MIFGS Event Manager, Kathleen Rushford, is excited about the abundance of talent at the 2014 Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show.

“This year we’re looking to build on our reputation as the most successful horticultural event in the Southern Hemisphere. Having locked in such a diverse and talented mix of MIFGS regulars and newcomers from Australia and abroad, we’re sure we’ll be upping the ante in 2014.

“There’s a wide range of activities for the whole family including the award winning Show Gardens, the Sculpture Garden featuring live sculpting sessions, the Great Hall of Flowers with its floral design workshops as well as the Kids Under Cover Cubby House Challenge to keep the little ones entertained and raise awareness for a great cause.

“Whether you’re a seasoned gardener or a weekend warrior, MIFGS is sure to send you home with new ideas and inspiration you can take straight to your outdoor living area,” said Ms Rushford.

As the most successful horticultural event in the Southern Hemisphere, it is expected that MIFGS will attract more than 110,000 international, national and local visitors across the five days.

Decorating the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, Show-goers can expect to see these fantastic displays:

- Critically acclaimed landscape designer [Paul Bangay](#) makes his first appearance at MIFGS with a Show Garden featuring his trademark contemporary classic style.
- The prestigious and highly coveted Show Garden Design Award series recognises the best in the landscaping business across various categories. The awards are announced on the first day of the Show and are attended by the biggest names in the landscaping and floristry industry.
- The Royal Exhibition Building once again comes to life as the Great Hall of Flowers, playing host to a floral wonderland for the duration of the Show with vibrant exhibits from leading florists and floral designers.
- International floral designer [Pim van den Akker](#) makes his debut at MIFGS creating his first floral design and hosting floral workshops and demonstrations.



- Award winning florists [Bart Hassam](#) and [Matthew Landers](#) will be creating floral masterpieces and doing live stage presentations in the Great Hall of Flowers.
- 2013's Gold medal winners [Cycas Landscape Design](#) will be returning with a garden titled 'The Patriarch's Garden', inspired by a personal tragedy and the strength found through the hardship.
- After the success of their 2013 MIFGS partnership, [Eckersley Garden Architecture](#) collaborates again with [Australian House & Garden](#) to create a surreal and enchanted garden space.
- In a first for MIFGS, [Local Nurseries](#) and [Vivid Design](#) are joining forces to create 'The Gardener's Library,' an enchanting woodland style garden complete with secret courtyard, featuring some of the newest release plants from around the world.
- Inspired by open plan living and using water to create positive energy, [Hunter Black Design](#) is collaborating with Victoria University students to create the ultimate outdoor entertainment area for its 2014 Show Garden.
- Multiple award winning landscape designer [Jason Hodges](#) returns to MIFGS in 2014 with a beautiful garden featuring his trademark landscaping style, sponsored by [Sir Walter Buffalo](#).
- [Ros McCully Garden Designs](#) is teaming up with [Str8line Landscaping](#) to create an attainable garden, fusing both soft and hard design features to create a beautiful garden space.
- [Bay Road Nursey](#), [Candeo Design](#), [Atkinson Pontifex](#), [Semken Landscaping](#) and [Warner's Nurseries](#) have come together to create 'Connect – The Family Life Garden' designed to highlight the important work of the Family Life Charity, providing the perfect garden retreat for families.
- Multiple award winning landscaper, [Ian Barker](#), returns to MIFGS with a garden that explores the potential of 'left over' spaces in our city, demonstrating how that space can be transformed in to a functional green pocket.
- [Phillip Withers](#), [Outdeco](#) and [Semken Landscaping](#) are putting their collective forces in to creating a Show Garden, titled 'Here and Now' that makes use of a small urban family backyard, celebrating the space while carving out a sustainable system to work for a young family.
- [The Australian Institute of Landscape Designers and Managers](#) is entering MIFGS with a bang through its garden that reflects a fusion of designs showing how a small space can be modified and transformed through creative thinking and innovative landscape design.
- [Peta Donaldson](#) becomes the first female to achieve consecutive show gardens over three years with her 2014 submission, 'The Muse', a celebration of contemporary design and emotive elements, in reflection of personal experience over the last 40 years.
- The Sculpture Garden will line the central garden path with beautiful pieces of garden art available for purchase. Live sculpting demonstrations will also take place daily.
- Live floral design competitions will take place throughout the Show which will see floristry students compete against their peers for the top awards.



- The Show's official charity partner, Kids Under Cover, will be supported by some of Australia's best architects and notable faces for its annual Cubby House Challenge. The mini mansions will be open for inspection (and play) during the Show and will be auctioned and raffled off on the last day of the event, with proceeds going towards the fantastic work the charity carries out.
- Fantastic floral fashion creations will be on display courtesy of the incredibly talented RMIT Fashion Design students. Creating 'living' fashion using flowers and foliage to suit a designated theme, the RMIT Floral Fashion Design Competition will see budding design talent create fashion masterpieces that have to be seen to be believed.
- The Fresh Flower Market enables show-goers to buy fresh blooms each day directly from the growers and get expert advice on how to get the best out of their flowers.
- The Honda Sustainability Award returns in 2014, recognising the exhibit that demonstrates high quality design features whilst displaying or hosting sustainable attributes in line with Honda's vision of leaving blue skies for our children.
- The Landscaping Victoria Boutique Gardens Design Competition awards one of five designers with a gold medal for their creations within set design parameters. This year the designers are required to create a beautiful garden within a small garden space.
- Students from NMIT, Swinburne and Holmesglen are once again creating small, stylish and functional gardens for The Avenue of Achievable Gardens. Students are tasked with the challenge of creating stylish gardens that can suit anyone's skill level, and visitors are encouraged to take home 'recipe cards' that guide them on how to create the mini landscapes themselves.

A fun and affordable day out for the whole family, this event is not to be missed.

Tickets are available for purchase through the RACV at [www.racv.com.au/travel](http://www.racv.com.au/travel) or RACV HolidayLine on 13 13 29.

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