

MEDIA RELEASE

14th February 2024

Hats off to the Australian Institute of Horticulture for their *Grow Shade Wise with AIH* Exhibition Garden at Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show.

The Australian Institute of Horticulture (AIH) are gearing up for the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS) with plans well under way for their ‘Grow Shade Wise’ Exhibition Garden display at this international event from Wednesday 20th March, Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, Melbourne.

Building and designing the ‘Grow Shade Wise’ garden and structures that provide quality shade is at the forefront of the AIH mission, so this exhibition garden will showcase the latest ‘green’ trends in shade-centric garden design.

“Our mission is to enlighten visitors to the display garden about the critical role of designing green spaces for urban cooling and enhancing environmental sustainability,” Alan Burnell President of AIH said.

“It's more than just planting trees for shade; it's about strategically planting the right trees and building sustainable structures to provide a better tomorrow for generations to come that incorporate shaded areas to work or socialise and playgrounds for our children to play in.”

Australia is the skin cancer capital of the world due to our high UV exposure. Quality shade can reduce UV exposure by up to 75 percent, the need to do more it's always at the forefront of any environmental discussion on future planning.

Green walls, roof top gardens and urban horticulture can contribute to urban cooling and help to reduce the use of fossil fuels to cool buildings, enhance air quality, alleviate the urban heat, and promote biodiversity.

The contributions of urban horticulturists can extend to fostering sustainable food production through initiatives like community gardens and urban farming, thereby bolstering local food resilience in the face of urban environmental challenges.

The team at AIH sees MIFGS as the ideal platform to connect with Australians to inspire them to embrace horticulture and recognise it as a powerful tool in the fight to improve overall quality of life without compromising the environment in the process.

AIH will also highlight the many and varied career prospects of those entering the horticultural industry with industry professionals from education and employment organisations on hand to answer questions at the display.



AIH is a not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers and relies on the generosity of sponsors to showcase the importance of horticulture at events such as MIFGS. Sponsors have provided the time, money and expertise that allows AIH to bring this message to the world through their involvement with this international event.

AIH supports the **ShadeSmart Program**, an initiative of the Cancer Institute NSW, Australian Institute of Landscape Architects and Cancer Council NSW to educate and support built environment professionals; designers, planners, managers, and allied industry to on delivering quality shade in outdoor spaces for improved UV protection to prevent skin cancer. The Cancer Council NSW is also supporting workplaces to improve how their outdoor workforce is protected from UV radiation.

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Sponsors & Supporters of the *Grow Shade Wise with AIH* Exhibition Garden

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