



NEUTROG[®]

HMAA Laurels

Carrick Hill

Adelaide 3 September 2026



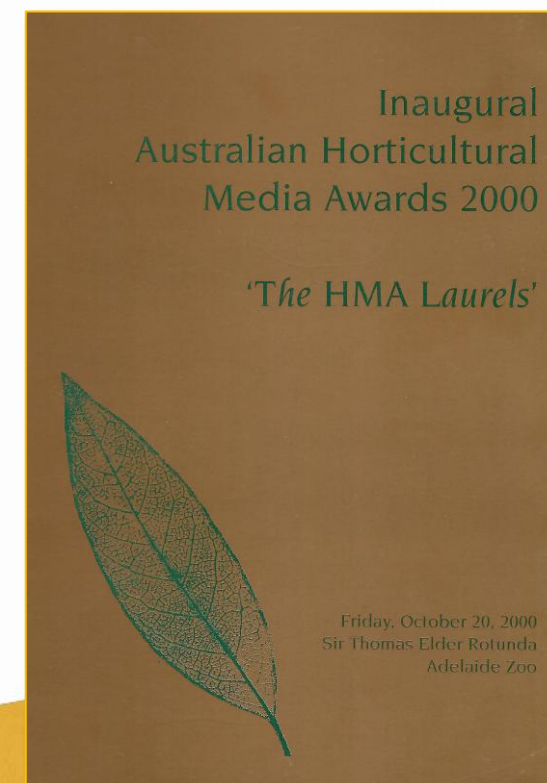
Ramada Hotel Adelaide March 1994



The HMAA Laurels were first held in Adelaide in 2000

The Laurels are the prestigious acknowledgements of the work of HMAA members in promoting best practices and raising the profile of gardening

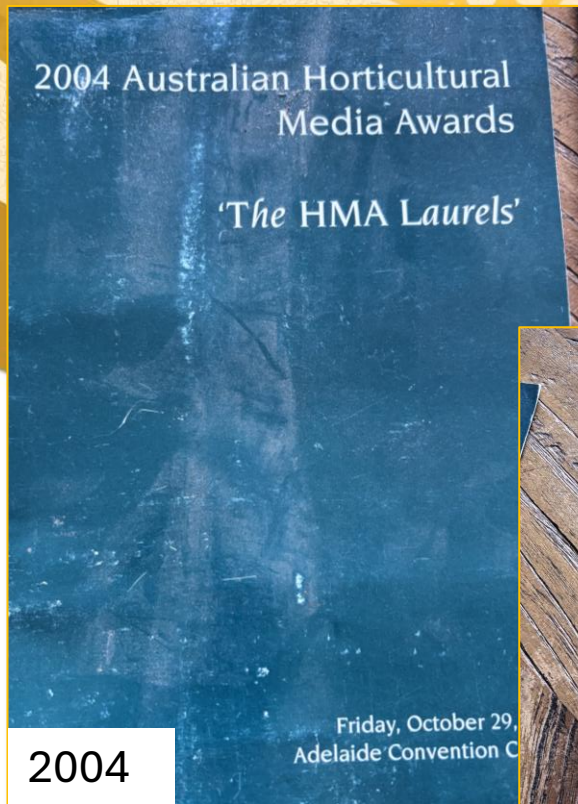
in print, radio, digital and visual media outlets.





The Inaugural Laurels 2000





2004



2007



2009



2011



Gala Dinner

Monday 10th October 2011 7pm

Crystal Ballroom, Luna Park. Sydney

\$115 per head
Drinks and dinner

RSVP online by 10th Sept
www.hmansw.com.au

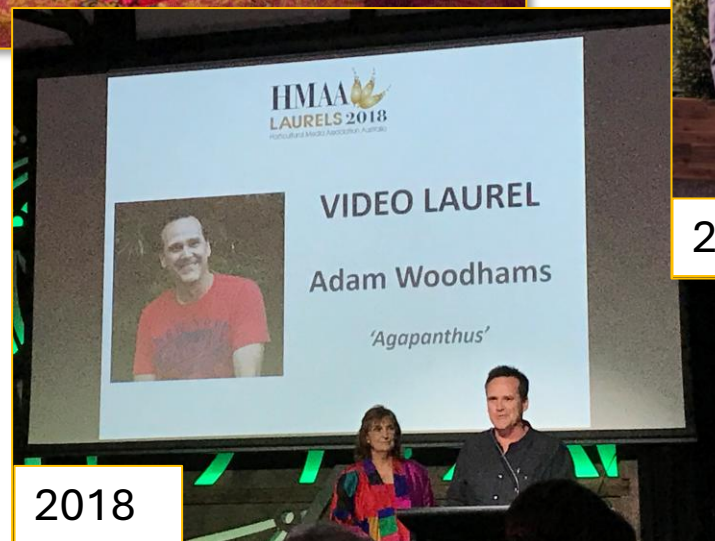




2014



2022

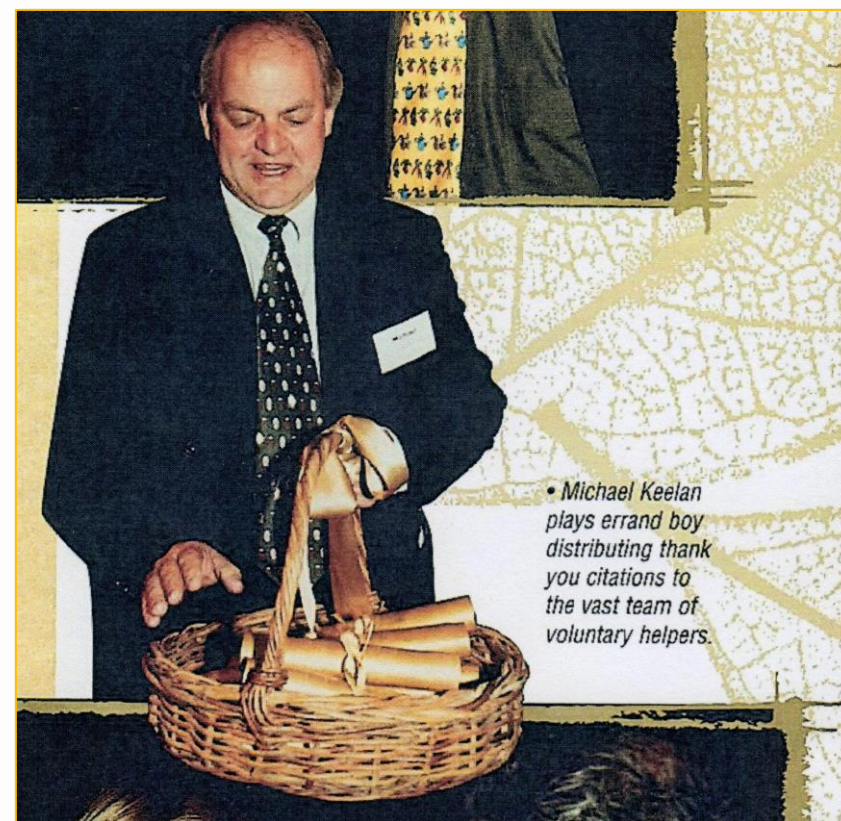


2018



2024

Our Master of Ceremonies **Michael Keelan**



• Michael Keelan
plays errand boy
distributing thank
you citations to
the vast team of
voluntary helpers.



2022

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Thanks to our sponsors





NEUTROG® HMAA Laurels

Carrick Hill

Enjoy your entrée

Adelaide 3 September 2026



The HMAA 2026 Book Laurel
is
Sponsored by *Your Garden* magazine

YOUR garden



2022

SPONSORING PARTNER FOR THE EVENT



2026 Book Laurel Finalists:

Tammy Huynh
'The Plant Book'

Connie Cao
'Your Asian Veggie Patch'

Chloe Foster
'The Rookie Gardener'



2026 Book Laurel will be presented
by
Graham Ross AM VMM FAIH
Director *Your Garden* magazine

Finalists:

Tammy Huynh
'The Plant Book'

Connie Cao
'Your Asian Veggie Patch'

Chloe Foster
'The Rookie Gardener'



Connie Cao
'Your Asian Veggie Patch'



The 2026 winning
Book Laurel
goes to:



2026 Book Laurel

Judges' Comment...

Connie Cao's book broadens knowledge of Asian vegetables and fruit.

Connie's writing is engaging and especially solutions oriented for owners of smaller urban gardens. Her enthusiasm and knowledge leaps off each page.

Your Asian Veggie Patch is a highly useful reference work and is the well-deserved winner of the 2026 *Book Laurel*.



The HMAA 2026
Article Laurel
is
Sponsored by Nursery & Garden Industry
South Australia



Nursery & Garden Industry
South Australia



2022

SPONSORED BY



2026 Article Laurel Finalists:

Merilyn Kuchel
'Cottage Blossoms at Blackwood'

Melanie Trimper
'A Year in the Life of a Rose'

AB Bishop
'Feather Your Nest'



Finalists

Merilyn Kuchel

'Cottage Blossoms at Blackwood'

Melanie Trimper

'A Year in the Life of a Rose'

AB Bishop

'Feather Your Nest'

2026 Article Laurel will be presented by

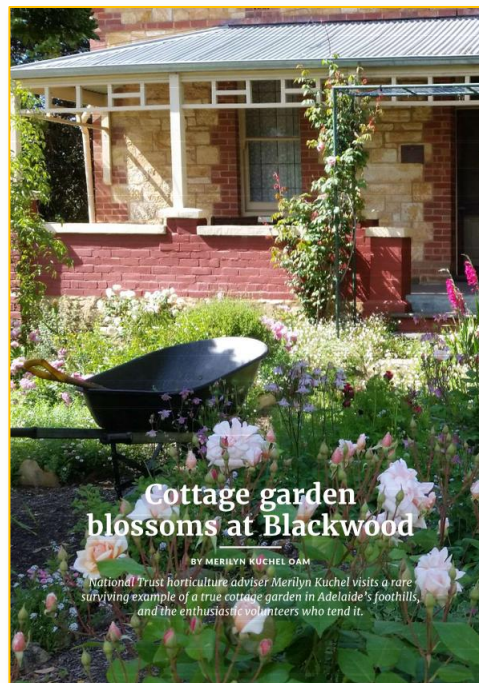
David Eaton

President

Nursery & Garden Industry South Australia



Merilyn Kuchel *‘Cottage Blossoms at Blackwood’*



The 2026 winning Article Laurel goes to:



2026 Article Laurel

Judges' Comment...

Merilyn Kuchel took her readers on a trip down 'memory lane' as she beautifully recounted the history of Gamble Cottage and its garden. Her words and images were inspirational and well-presented. She described the deep commitment of the volunteers who are passionately preserving such a vital part of our colonial history. This classic piece of writing is a well-deserved winner of the 2026 *Article Laurel*.



The HMAA 2026 Video Laurel
is
Sponsored by Ironwood Institute



2022

SPONSORED BY



2026 Video Laurel Finalists:

Darryl Nichols

'Grow It Local'

Phil Dudman

'Short Form video collection'



The 2026 Video Laurel will be presented by

Navtej Bal

CEO and Managing Director
Ironwood Institute

Finalists:

Darryl Nichols
'Grow It Local'

Phil Dudman
'Short Form video collection'



Phil Dudman
'Short Form video collection'



The 2026 winning
Video Laurel
goes to:



2026 Video Laurel

Judges' Comment...

Phil Dudman has produced a relaxed but informative series of engaging video work. He does so in varying styles but with consistently expert information.

With great technical fluency, Phil brings years of experience to a modern medium for new and established gardeners alike.





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HMAA Laurels

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Enjoy your dinner

Adelaide 3 September 2026



The HMAA 2026 Audio Laurel
is
Sponsored by
Open Gardens South Australia



OPEN
GARDENS
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



2022

SPONSORING PARTNER FOR THE EVENT



2026 Audio Laurel Finalists:

Graham Ross – *'Vanilla Orchid'*,
Garden Clinic Radio

Steven Wood - *'Garden Pests'*
All The Dirt Podcast

Graham Ross *'Fire Ants'*
Garden Clinic Radio



Finalists

Graham Ross – *'Vanilla Orchid'*,
Garden Clinic Radio

Steven Wood - *'Garden Pests'*
All The Dirt Podcast

Graham Ross *'Fire Ants'*
Garden Clinic Radio

The 2026 Audio Laurel will be presented by

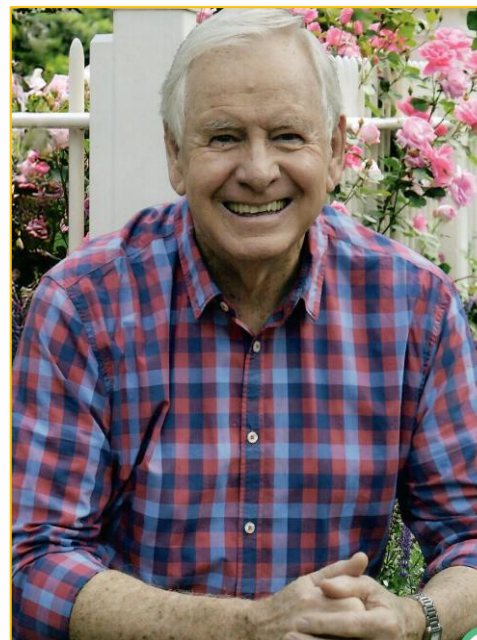
Jamie McIlwain

Chair

Open Gardens South Australia



Graham Ross – ‘*Vanilla Orchid*’,
Garden Clinic Radio



The 2026 winning
Audio Laurel
goes to:



2026 Audio Laurel

Judges' Comment...

Worthy winner of the *2026 Audio Laurel*, Graham Ross delivers classic, highly enjoyable radio content in his *Garden Clinic* interview with grower Robert Legato.

In a strong segment on the lesser-known vanilla orchid, listener engagement is outstanding while Graham imparts important information on care and humidity needs.



The HMAA 2026 Social Media Laurel
is
Sponsored by
Wholesale Plants & Products



2022

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2026 Social Media Laurel Finalists:

Darryl Nichols
'Why I Love my Patch'

Claire Bickle
'Golden Penda Delights'

Connie Cao
'Connie and Luna'



The 2026 Social Media Laurel
will be presented by

Sharon Norman

Managing Director
Wholesale Plants & Products



Finalists:

Darryl Nichols

'Why I Love my Patch'

Claire Bickle

'Golden Penda Delights'

Connie Cao

'Connie and Luna'

Connie Cao
@ConnieandLuna Instagram page



The 2026 winning
Social Media Laurel
goes to:



2026 Social Media Laurel

Judges' Comment...

In her widely followed *@ConnieandLuna* Instagram page, Connie brings her enthusiasm and permaculture expertise to an important newer audience of younger gardeners.

These posts have also gained a strong following amongst established gardeners who are venturing into different forms of garden practice and are discovering produce that's less widely known to the broader population.



The HMAA 2026
Digital Technology & Innovation Laurel
is
Sponsored by Jeffries Group



2022

SPONSORED BY FIRST DIRECT



2026 Digital Technology & Innovation Laurel Finalists:

AB Bishop - ABC Gardening
'Australian Planting Guide'

Natasha Morgan
'Gardenstead'

Darryl Nichols
'Grow it Local, Rainbow Range'



2026 Digital Technology & Innovation Laurel
will be presented by

Lachlan Jeffries

Executive Chairman
Jeffries Group



Finalists:

AB Bishop - ABC Gardening
'Australian Planting Guide'

Natasha Morgan
'Gardenstead'

Darryl Nichols
'Grow it Local, Rainbow Range'

The 2026 winning Digital Technology & Innovation Laurel goes to:



AB Bishop - ABC Gardening:
'Australian Planting Guide'



AB Bishop - ABC Gardening:
'Australian Planting Guide'



The 2026 Digital Technology &
Innovation Laurel
will be accepted on AB's behalf by
Elizabeth Wilson
Editor *Gardening Australia* magazine



2026 Digital Technology & Innovation Laurel Judges' Comment...

This interactive ABC site delivers a hugely useful guide to planting from both a geographical and calendar perspective. With the aid of this contemporary, easy-to-use medium AB Bishop combines innovative site design and her expert knowledge to guide gardeners of all levels into achieving assured outcomes throughout the year.





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HMAA Laurels

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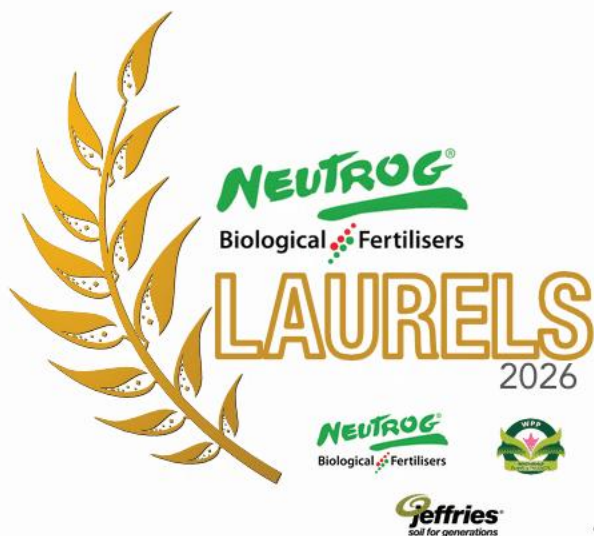
Adelaide 3 September 2026

Enjoy your dessert



HMAA 2026 Anita Boucher Award

The Anita Boucher Award is presented for outstanding contribution to horticultural media by an emerging member.



Anita Boucher Award

Previous Winners

2024	Rebecca Mumford
2022	Kate Wall
2020	Sophie Thomson
2018	Jennifer Stackhouse
2016	John Colwill & Catherine Stewart

2014	Chloe Thomson
2011	Tino Carnevale
2009	Millie Ross
2007	Linda Ross

The 2026 Anita Boucher Award
is sponsored by
Felco Garden Tools

It will be presented by
Luke Bennett

Felco Brand Manager, Australia



Connie Cao



The winner of the 2026
Anita Boucher Award is:



HMAA 2026 Hall of Fame Gold Laurel

The Hall of Fame Gold Laurel is presented for outstanding and sustained contribution to horticultural media over the winner's entire career.



2026 Hall of Fame Gold Laurel

Previous Winners

2024	Dianne Hall
2022	Trevor Nottle
2020	Jennifer Stackhouse
2018	Annette McFarlane
2018	Angus Stewart
2016	Jane Edmanson
2014	Gwen and Rodger Elliot
2011	Graham Ross

2009	Colin Campbell
2009	Judy Horton
2009	George Jones
2007	Michael Keelan
2007	Don Burke
2007	Gardening Australia
2004	Stirling Macoboy
2004	Shirley Stackhouse

2004	Sue Stubbs
2002	Tim North
2002	Rod McMillan
2002	Michèle Adler
2000	Kevin Heinze
2000	Allan Seale

The 2026 Hall of Fame Gold Laurel
is sponsored by Neutrog

It will be presented by
Angus Irwin
Managing Director of Neutrog

NEUTROG®
Biological Fertilisers



Attila Kapitany



The winner of the 2026
Hall of Fame Gold Laurel
is:



Attila Kapitany



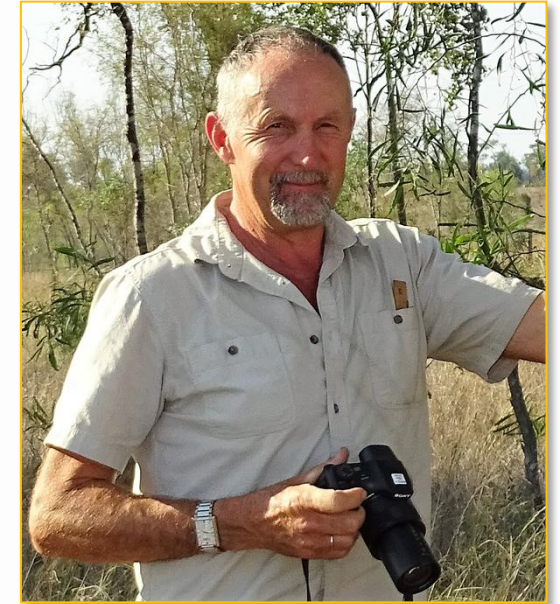
Attila's 2026 Hall of Fame Gold Laurel
will be accepted on his behalf by
James Wall, President of Garden
Centres of Australia



Attila Kapitany

Attila Kapitany has spent much of his lifetime promoting the appreciation and cultivation of rare, unusual, and interesting (mostly) Australian native plants to local and international audiences. He:

- Began working life as a nurseryman growing cacti and succulents.
- Since 2000 he has concentrated on garden talks and tours and on developing his trial garden which has been featured on TV and radio and in magazines and newspapers.
- Has been invited to the USA more than 9 times to speak at conferences, botanic gardens and garden clubs.
- Has been a consultant to the world-renowned Huntington Botanic Gardens in California.
- Has written feature articles for UK and European journals and given international Zoom presentations.
- Has written 18 books which are in many international libraries.
- Joined the Cactus & Succulent Society of Australia in 1999 and is now a Life Member. Also a member of British Cactus & Succulent Society, the Cactus & Succulent Society of USA. The Australian Plants Society and, of course, HMAA.



Congratulations Attila!



Judges' overall comments

The judges were greatly impressed by the diversity and breadth of 2026 entries, significantly greater in number than in 2024. As print media circulation declines and some mastheads disappear, younger-generation gardeners are creating very quality, new digital content for emerging audiences. This year's entries delivered more video and social media content, while the strength of the articles submitted showed there's been no decline in the quality of long form writing. The Judges hope there will be more audio, video and podcast content entered in future years, because this is a key forward trend in media audience growth.



HMAA Judging Panel
July 2026.

Congratulations to the winners and all the entrants.

Again, thanks to the judges.

And thanks to all of you who carry on supporting the ethos of HMAA in our aim to continue providing great gardening information in our chosen forms of communication.



Thank you to the sponsors who made this evening possible.

As you leave, Neutrog, our naming rights sponsor, will present each attendee with a gift bag to help your garden grow and remember this wonderful evening.





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