

MEDIA RELEASE

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Tondoon Botanic Gardens team proud to receive another award

The Gladstone Tondoon Botanic Gardens' team of volunteers and staff is enjoying another proud moment after winning the Judges' Choice Award at the 2019 Best in Business Awards.

Business peers have recognised the Gardens for its community role as an education centre, an events' site and a hub for botanical research and conservation.

Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett acknowledged there was a wonderful team working together at the Gardens to offer the community a multi-purpose space which enriches the lives of everyone who visits.

"Three years ago, Tondoon went through a watershed moment when we approved its first ever Strategic Plan which clarified what Council and the community wanted," Councillor Burnett said.

"The plan set the tone for everything the team of volunteers and staff out there has taken on since.

"The five themes in the strategy of research, conservation, education, recreational use and development means the Gardens deliver for the community in different ways and that makes Tondoon 'stand out' a bit in the crowd," Cr Burnett said.

With strong Council support, the team is always looking to introduce innovative ideas to benefit the Gladstone Region.

They have included day and night workshops, Australia's best attended Bonsai exhibition, hosting the Rotary Markets, the Biondello Bolt event and continuing to pursue botanical conservation.

The Gardens' popularity is reflected in the growing number of volunteers working there and the interest shown by young people wanting to train in Horticulture and Administration.

Sustainability will be an important aspect of its future with the focus to be on a balanced approach between the maintenance of natural beauty and botanical value, while also offering a great event space.

Renovations and 'rest periods' will be introduced to make sure this is achieved so the Gardens, as a destination, can continue to shine.