

MEDIA RELEASE 2019'S PICK OF THE BUNCH ANNOUNCED - FROM FARM, TO MARKET, TO SHOPFRONT

The winners of the 2019 Sydney Markets <u>Fresh Awards</u> were announced this evening, with the best greengrocers, florists, growers, wholesalers and fresh bloggers from across NSW and the ACT recognised for being the top of their fields.

The Fresh Awards are one of the industry's most highly-regarded accolades. They encourage and recognise best practice and innovation in the growing, retailing and wholesaling of fresh produce and flowers.

Sue Dodd, Sydney Markets' Manager of the Fresh Awards said the finalists this year have once again raised the bar.

"Our Fresh Award winners are some of the heroes of our industry. In an ever-changing society, these local businesses have remained cornerstones of our local communities because they have adapted and maintained their relevance to modern consumers," explained Ms Dodd.

"These businesses are a credit to themselves, and to the industry in general. They work tirelessly to deliver top quality produce, customer service and value for money," added Ms Dodd.

The Fresh Awards are decided by an in-depth judging process that is carried out by a panel of industry experts and a band of mystery shoppers over a period of 6 months. Nominated businesses are assessed based on numerous criteria including business presentation, customer service, product knowledge, produce quality, range, freshness, innovation, WHS, food safety and environmentally sustainability.

Brad Latham, Sydney Markets CEO, said the entire Markets community takes great pride in honouring these industry leaders for their hard work and dedication.

"These thriving local businesses have continued to aim high and deliver to an exceptional standard. They deserve to be recognised and celebrated for their commitment to our industry," Mr Latham said.

"Many of these businesses have been running successfully for generations. Some have been passed along through families, others have been built by unbreakable partnerships. Whether longstanding or new to the industry, all of these businesses share an unwavering commitment to the fresh produce and flower industries."

Sydney Markets is home to the Sydney Produce Market, Sydney Flower Market and Sydney Growers Market. Supplied by over 20,000 local and interstate growers, more than 700 businesses call the Sydney Markets home, selling fresh fruit, vegetables and cut flowers to florists, fruit retailers and consumers.

The winners were announced during an awards ceremony at The Star in Sydney this evening. For further information about the 2019 Fresh Awards and this year's winners, visit <u>freshawards.com.au</u>

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2019 WINNERS & FINALISTS

GREENGROCER AWARDS

2019 Greengrocer of the Year

Winner: Kareela Grocer (Kareela) <u>Finalists:</u> Minto's Fruit Orchard (Minto) Parisi's Food Hall (Rose Bay) Ziggy's Fresh (Fyshwick)

Service Excellence

Winner: Farmer Bob's Fruit Market Brewery Lane (Tamworth) <u>Finalists:</u> Best Fresh Grocer (Caringbah) Country Growers (Brookvale) Three Brothers Fresh (Dural)

Retail Presentation

Winner: Parisi's Food Hall (Rose Bay) <u>Finalists:</u> Best Fresh Grocer (Caringbah) Cronulla Gourmet Grocer (Cronulla) Kareela Grocer (Kareela)

Knowledge in Action

Winner: Freshworld (Maroubra) <u>Finalists:</u> Topline Fruit (East Lindfield) Richmond Fruit Market (Richmond) The Green St Grocer (Brookvale)

Best Small Business

Winner: Fruiticious (Gymea) <u>Finalists:</u> Daily Fresh (Randwick) Figtree Greengrocer (Lane Cove West) Plumpton Fruitworld (Plumpton)

Best Medium Business

Winner: Ziggy's Fresh (Fyshwick) <u>Finalists:</u> Harbord Growers Market (Harbord) Ziggy's Fresh (Belconnen) Kareela Grocer (Kareela)



Best Large Business Winner: Minto's Fruit Orchard (Minto) <u>Finalists:</u> Best Fresh Grocer (Caringbah) Fruitezy Marketplace (Chatswood) Parisi's Food Hall (Rose Bay)

FLORIST AWARDS

Florist of the Year Winner: Jodie McGregor Flowers (Annandale) <u>Finalists:</u> Bella Floral Boutique (Morisset) Eden Flower Studio (Mount Annan) Touchwood Flowers (Port Macquarie)

Service Excellence Winner: Bella Floral Boutique (Morisset) <u>Finalists:</u> Bunch It With Country (Narellan) Eden Flower Studio (Mount Annan) Jodie McGregor Flowers (Annandale)

Retail Presentation

Winner: Eden Flower Design (Mount Annan) <u>Finalists:</u> B & M Florist (Monterey) Bella Floral Boutique (Morisset) The Floral Decorator (Erskineville)

Merchandising & Branding

Winner: Touchwood Flowers (Port Macquarie) <u>Finalists:</u> B & M Florist (Monterey) Bunch It With Country (Narellan) Eden Flower Studio (Mount Annan)



GROWER AWARDS

Flower Grower of the Year

Winner: Commercial Flower Growers (Kenthurst) <u>Finalists:</u> Eagles Green Supplies (Ourimbah) Politio Flower Farm (Annangrove) S & P Dominello (Peats Ridge)

Produce Grower of the Year

Winner: D Fresh (Mangrove Mountain) <u>Finalists:</u> Grima Farm Fresh (Horsley Park) Hydrotech (Maroota) Vegie King (Rossmore)

WHOLESALER AWARD

Fresh Produce Wholesaler of the Year

Winner: Export Fresh (Sydney Markets) <u>Finalists:</u> Goldenfruit (Sydney Markets) Perfection Fresh (Sydney Markets) Zappia Produce Group (Sydney Markets)

BLOGGER AWARD

Fresh Blogger of the Year Winner: Sugar et al - Sonali Ghosh <u>Finalists:</u> Mulberry Pomegranate - Katrina Kallos Mumma's Country Kitchen - Helen Vlahakis Photo Before We Eat -Emma Bickley