

MEDIA RELEASE

THE WINNERS OF THE 2022 SYDNEY MARKETS FRESH AWARDS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED

Following a two-year hiatus the winners were recognised at a glamorous event in Sydney

NSW and ACT's top florists, greengrocers, providores, wholesalers and content creators were crowned the freshest and best in the business at Sydney Markets' 2022 <u>Fresh Awards</u> at a glittery cocktail function at the ICC Sydney this evening.

The annual Fresh Awards are a much anticipated industry event. As with most events across the country, Sydney Markets was forced to cancel the award ceremony twice during the pandemic. After a two-year absence, this year's awards night was back bigger and better than ever! The industry's elite came out in numbers to celebrate and acknowledge their achievements, staff, colleagues and resilience.

Master of Ceremonies and Fresh Awards favourite, Chris Bath, returned to the stage this year in celebration of the NSW and ACT's freshest. Bath, along with special guests and Sydney Markets leaders awarded 17 incredible winners amongst the fresh produce, floral and content industries.

The Fresh Awards are one of the industry's most highly-regarded accolades. They encourage and acknowledge best practice and innovation in the growing, retailing, wholesaling and content creation of fresh produce and flowers. This year saw 63 finalists recognised across 17 categories which, for the first time, included recognition for businesses in the Non-Retail/Studio Florist sector.

Brad Latham, CEO of Sydney Markets, took great pride in recognising the hard work and dedication of those working within the fresh produce and floral industries, and welcomed the night of celebration with the Markets community.

"The Fresh Award contenders are some of the heroes of our industry. They have had to navigate some of the most challenging times in business both with the pandemic and natural disasters, yet not only have they survived, many have thrived. These small businesses have remained cornerstones of our local communities, pivoting and adapting to ensure they can continue to service their customers."

John Pearson, Chairman of Sydney Markets added, "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. Sydney Markets has been looking forward to commemorating our Fresh Awards finalists and winners with an awards ceremony like we have not seen before – and tonight's event did not disappoint."

Retailers and growers were evaluated through an intensive mystery shopping program. They were judged on everything from produce quality and freshness, customer service and industry knowledge, as well as their store appearance and innovative approaches.

Non-Retail / Studio Florist and Fresh Content creators were assessed by a panel of esteemed judges including journalists, authors and industry experts.



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.

For further information about the 2022 Fresh Awards, visit www.freshawards.com.au

Media contact: Nina Willoughby, GoodPR, 0427 400 961 or <u>nina@goodpr.com.au</u> Patty Barret, GoodPR, 0424 324 181 or <u>patty@goodpr.com.au</u>

SYDNEY MARKETS FRESH AWARDS FINALISTS & WINNERS 2022

GREENGROCER AWARDS

Greengrocer of the Year: WINNER: Fruitezy - Miranda *Finalists:* The Grocery Store – Miranda The Whole Fruit and Grocery Store – Sylvania Ziggys Fresh - Fyshwick

Retail Presentation WINNER: Tom's Superfruits - Belconnen

Finalists: Fruitezy - Miranda LoSurdo's Fresh Food Grocer – Northbridge Ziggys Fresh - Fyshwick

Knowledge in Action WINNER: LoSurdo's Fresh Food Grocer - Northbridge *Finalists:* Fruitezy – Chatswood Fruitezy – Miranda Tom's Superfruits – Belconnen Ziggys Fresh – Fyshwick

Service Excellence WINNER: Jannali Quality Fruit & Vegetables - Jannali *Finalists:* Fruitezy – Miranda The Whole Fruit and Grocery Store – Sylvania Ziggys Fresh - Fyshwick



Best Small Business WINNER: Wollombi Road Providore - Cessnock

Finalists: Daily Fresh – Randwick Summer Hill Village Fruit Shop – Summer Hill Thirroul Fruit Barn - Thirroul

Best Medium Business WINNER: Willoughby Fresh - Willoughby

Finalists: Menai Top of the Crop – Menai The Whole Fruit and Grocery Store – Sylvania Thre3 Brothers Fresh – Dural

Best Large Business

WINNER: Ziggys Fresh - Fyshwick Finalists: Fruitezy - Miranda LoSurdo's Fresh Food Grocer - Northbridge The Grocery Store - Miranda

FLORIST AWARDS

Florist of the Year: WINNER: Belfield Blooms - Belfield *Finalists:* Art of Bloom - Balmain Bella Floral Boutique - Morisset Your Favourite Florist - Engadine

Retail Presentation

B & M Florist - Monterey *Finalists:* Eden Flower Studio - Gregory Hills Floral Ink - Wentworth Falls Mary K Floral Design - Maroubra

Service Excellence WINNER: Bella Floral Boutique - Morisset *Finalists:* Art of Bloom - Balmain Eden Flower Studio - Gregory Hills Your Favourite Florist - Engadine



Merchandising and Branding WINNER: Touchwood Flowers – Port Macquarie

Finalists: Belfield Blooms - Belfield Funky Flowers - Caringbah Your Favourite Florist - Engadine

Non-retail/ Studio Florist

WINNER: HANANINGEN - Sydney Finalists: Florada – Waterloo MN Floral Images – South Wentworthville Peony Story – Rosebery The Naked Florist – Cardiff Heights

GROWERS AWARDS

Produce Grower of the Year: WINNER: Grech Farm Trading - Theresa Park *Finalists:* Gourmet Herbs - Glossodia Grima's Fresh Farm - Horsley Park Parilla Fresh - Milperra

Flower Grower of the Year: WINNER: Bagala Bros Australia - Horsley Park *finalist:* Commercial Flowers - Kenthurst S & P Dominello Flower Growers – Peats Ridge Thornton Bros Roses - Thirlmere

WHOLESALER AWARD

Wholesaler of the Year: WINNER: Perfection Fresh – Sydney Markets *finalists:* Allcrops – Sydney Markets Alvaro Bros – Sydney Markets Tropicana Banana – Sydney Markets



PROVIDORE AWARD

Providore of the Year Award: WINNER: MD Provodores - Auburn Finalist: Alpha Fresh Foods - Hume, ACT PARISI Wholesale – Sydney Markets Sydney Direct Fresh Produce - Huntingwood

FRESH CONTENT AWARD

Fresh Content Award Winner: WINNER: Anita Garrido – cre_ate_dbyanita

Finalists: Mary Politis - Mary's Kouzina Suzanne Robinson – Mummy to Twins Plus One Tilly Pamment – Tilly's Table