

Nursery and Garden Industry Victoria's

Industry Recognition Manual 2026

Introduction

The Victorian horticultural industry is one that is steeped in history and now forms a vital part of the national economy, contributing in excess of \$2.5 billion annually. It's an industry that our association, Nursery & Garden Industry Victoria (NGIV), is proud to oversee which was first formed in 1903. Our members continue to play their part in supporting our state and the national economy, environment and community.

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the NGIV Recognition Manual for 2026.

Through recognising our members, as well as those setting exceptional standards in our industry, we move towards further developing our Victorian horticultural sector as a leader across the nation.

Celebrating the outstanding achievements of the passionate people, inspiring businesses and cutting-edge developments is an important part of our association. Honouring the best of the best is just one way we can continue to inspire excellence within the horticultural industry across the state and country.

This manual is a comprehensive guide to our state-wide industry awards and aims to outline, in detail, the numerous awards allowing us to recognise those setting elevated standards across industry.

We hope this guide prompts you to stop and reflect on achievements from the past year within your own organisation – whether that be staff, innovative ideas, projects or your business' stewardship in the industry. We encourage you to take the time to submit nominations so that we can come together and share and celebrate those deserving of recognition.

I look forward to celebrating with you at NGIV's Annual Awards Evening.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Soderlund'.

Carl Soderlund,
NGIV President

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Overview

This manual provides information on each of the NGIV awards, which are presented at the annual NGIV Awards Evening.

You'll also find information about the selection criteria, application details, and nomination and judging information.

Process for all awards

The majority of the awards and associated applications will be reviewed by an independent panel, consisting of a minimum of three subject matter experts from the NGIV membership base, or external organisations where relevant, to determine a shortlist and ultimately a winner.

All applicants must be NGIV members, or a staff member of an NGIV member business. Applications must be submitted on time and address all relevant criteria to be valid.

Shortlisted businesses may be contacted to provide additional information, at the discretion of the independent panel, to assist with the decision-making process. Should the panel determine that award criteria are not sufficiently met, the award will not go ahead.

Winners will be announced at the annual NGIV Awards Evening 2026.

Key dates

Nomination and awards	
Monday 11 May – Friday 26 June 2026	Award nominations open
Monday 13 July – Friday 17 July 2026	Award judging period

NGIV Awards Evening 2026

Saturday 22 August 2026, 7pm – 11pm

The Leaper Family Room, Melbourne Arts Centre



NGIV Business Awards



Commitment to Environmental Stewardship

The **Commitment to Environmental Stewardship Award** recognises a business, or a specific project undertaken by a business, that demonstrates excellence through positive environmental outcomes and sustainability leadership within the industry.

Examples may include reducing inputs or resource use, collaborating with environmental or sustainability organisations on a particular project, changing workplace practices to benefit the environment, or realising novel sustainability opportunities within the horticultural profession.

Eligibility

This award is open to a business, company or group. Applicants must be full members of NGIV.

A specific project undertaken by a business may also be considered for this award, provided it demonstrates the business' broader commitment to achieving positive environmental outcomes.

Criteria

Sustainable Practices	<p>Demonstrated sustainable practices in their horticultural or allied business.</p> <p>This could include the use of organic methods, a nursery-wide integrated pest management program, reducing water usage, and minimising the use of harmful chemicals.</p>
Conservation Efforts	<p>Strong track record of actively conserving and preserving natural resources or the promotion of its importance.</p> <p>I.e. Efforts to protect wildlife habitats, restoring degraded land, and actively promoting biodiversity.</p>
Environmental education and outreach	<p>Commitment to educating and involving community in environmentally sustainable horticultural practices.</p> <p>This could include work with community gardens, hosting workshops on sustainable gardening practices, and partnering with local organisations to promote environmental stewardship.</p>
Creativity, innovation and research	<p>Pushing the boundaries of what is possible in sustainable horticulture.</p> <p>This could include developing or adoption of new technologies or techniques for reducing environmental impact, exploring new plant varieties that are more sustainable or resilient to changing climates, or experimenting with more sustainable growing methods.</p>
Leadership and long-term impact	<p>Demonstrating long-term impact on the environment and the community, including sustained initiative or efforts that inspire others to adopt environmentally sustainable practices.</p>

Process

- Applicants should submit a digital presentation, such as PowerPoint or PDF, addressing the criteria where relevant.

- Supporting documentation is recommended, such as environmental impact evidence, sustainability strategies, teaching resources, references or assessments.
- Applicants will present to the judging panel for up to 15 minutes, followed by 10 minutes of questions.
- Presentations will take place between Monday 13 July and Friday 17 July 2026.

Nomination/application information

To apply or nominate a business for this award, please prepare your digital presentation and any additional supporting evidence. Presentation can be in PDF or PowerPoint format.

The deadline for submission is **5 pm, Friday 26 June 2026**.

Important notes:

- Shortlisted nominees must be in attendance at the Awards Evening for acceptance.
- A high-resolution logo must be supplied as part of the application.

Prizes

The prize for the winning business of this award is valued at over \$8000 and includes:

- Customised award trophy and framed certificate
- 1 x full page editorial written by NGIV in Groundswell magazine, describing the win
- 1 x full page advertisement in Groundswell, for use at discretion of winner
- Press release written by NGIV and distributed and shared with local and horticultural media
- Social media coverage (minimum 2 posts on social media channels)
- Collateral and branding supplied to business "*NGIV Commitment to Environmental Stewardship 2026*"

Allied Horticulture Business of the Year

Nursery and Garden Industry Victoria’s Allied Horticulture Business of the Year award recognises an allied business that showcases excellence across several areas, including product quality and supply, technology, innovation and research, customer service and business performance, as well as sustainable practices, as appropriate to the type of allied business.

This award is open to any horticulture allied business of any size and turnover, including businesses involved in manufacturing, distribution, supply, or the provision of services to the horticulture industry.

Eligibility

Business must have representation in Victoria and be a full member of Nursery and Garden Industry Victoria.

Criteria

Product quality and supply	Considered product selection.	25%
	High quality, effective and/or durable products, evidenced by trials, studies, feedback etc.	
	Consistency in supply where not influenced by external forces.	
Technology, innovation and research	Evidence of continual improvements of systems and/or technology to streamline operations, customer orders, data management, review analytics, manage inventory and/or customer insights.	15%
	Demonstrated innovative approach within the business to constantly improve. This can be demonstrated through product research and development, system improvements, etc.	
	Commitment to researching, understanding, adapting to new and evolving external trends, or setting new market trends for the betterment of the business and industry.	
	Dedication to knowledge sharing with industry through publications, workshops, conferences, training programs etc.	
Customer service and relationships	Collaboration with other businesses such as research institutions, educational institutions and industry bodies (if relevant).	15%
	Excellent customer service and support, including both pre- and post-sales service and advice.	
	Analysis of how customer feedback is gathered, and used for continual improvement (could be end-user, distributor or both).	
Business performance	Excellent relationships with clients and or/customers, other businesses, suppliers, distributors or manufacturers (as relevant to applying business) etc, exemplified by long-term, ongoing or repeat purchases/dealings.	15%
	Business strategy in place outlining future plans, with considerations to marketing and brand, scalability, contingencies and succession.	
	Excellent reputation within the broader horticultural community.	

	<p>Management well-structured with a variety of skillsets to provide sound business direction and positive workplace culture.</p> <p>Contributions to industry through involvement in a variety of events both on-site and off-site such as hosting educational tours events, supporting/attending trade shows, involvement in industry associations to promote horticulture to the broader public.</p> <p>Risk management strategies including contingency and emergency planning.</p>	
Sustainability and environmental responsibility	<p>Implementation of sustainable practices, such as reducing waste, sourcing of input materials and energy use, with evidence of monitoring and consistent improvement.</p> <p>Efforts to minimise environmental impact, including carbon footprint reduction and habitat conservation, with attention to pollution control.</p> <p>Evidence of supporting suppliers and customers who limit environmental impact.</p> <p>Involvement in community and environmental initiatives/projects at a local or state level.</p>	10%
Workplace culture and employee welfare	<p>High levels of staff expertise to support effective product recommendations as relevant to role descriptions.</p> <p>Staff training and development opportunities including professional development, horticultural training and knowledge sharing.</p> <p>Positive overall work environment with evidence of employee satisfaction, and safety standards being adhered to. Meaningful performance reviews.</p> <p>Policies and practices promoting diversity and inclusion within the workplace.</p>	10%
Operational efficiency and supply chain management	<p>Efficiency in production processes (where relevant) and inventory management.</p> <p>A reliable and efficient supply chain including all elements of sourcing, transportation and delivery. Effective logistics management in delivering products on time and in optimal condition.</p>	5%
Compliance and safety	<p>Evidence of regulatory compliance.</p> <p>Risk management strategies, including contingency and emergency planning.</p>	5%

Process

- Businesses may be nominated by an employee, director, owner or external nominator with permission from the business.
- Applications should address the criteria, with a 250-word limit per section.
- Supporting evidence, such as photos, videos or letters of recommendation, is encouraged and is not included in the word count.

Nomination/application information

The application can be submitted in the form of a PowerPoint presentation, Word document, PDF or similar. It must be sent to NGIV via email, by Friday 26 June 2026.

Applications are open between **Monday 11 May and Friday 26 June 2026**.

After applications close, an independent panel of judges will review each application. Depending on number of applications, a shortlist may be created. A time will then be scheduled for the business owner/senior manager to take the judging panel through the submission, with a Q&A session afterwards. 1.5 hours is allowed for this process. From this, an initial score will be determined.

A site visit (in person where possible) will then be undertaken by a member of the judging panel, and further evaluated according to the above criteria, producing a score out of 100. Scores will be averaged between each of the judges with further discussion to be had. Points may be added or subtracted as part of this process of deliberation, at the discretion of the independent panel.

The proposed winner who scored the highest will then be put forward to the NGIV for final endorsement.

The winner of the **Allied Horticulture Business of the Year 2026** will then be announced at the NGIV annual Awards Evening on Saturday 22 August.

Summary of application process with key dates:

1	Submit application by deadline date	5 pm, Fri 26 June 2026
2	Review of applications, short-listing if deemed necessary	Mon 6 July – Fri 10 July 2026
3	Applicant presentation to judging panel (online)	Mon 13 July – Fri 17 July 2026
4	Site-visit by member of judging panel (in person where possible)	Mon 20 July – Fri 25 July 2026
5	Winner announced at Awards Evening 2026	Sat 22 August 2026

Important notes:

- Shortlisted nominees must attend the Awards Evening for acceptance.
- A high-resolution logo must be supplied as part of the application.

Prizes

The prize for the winning business of this award is valued at over \$8000 and includes:

- Customised award trophy and framed certificate
- 1 x full page editorial written by NGIV in Groundswell magazine, describing the win
- 1 x full page advertisement in Groundswell, for use at discretion of winner
- Press release written by NGIV and distributed and shared with local and horticultural media
- Social media coverage (minimum 2 posts on social media channels)
- Collateral and branding supplied to business “*NGIV Allied Horticulture Business of the Year 2026*”

Production Nursery of the Year

Sponsored by Gallagher Insurance

Nursery and Garden Industry Victoria's **Production Nursery of the Year** award celebrates the business which demonstrates excellence in the production of green life.

Several business areas are considered, and the winner will showcase excellence in all categories, such as product quality and range, site infrastructure and maintenance, marketing and logistics, environmental footprint, as well as high standards for staff and management.

Eligibility

Business must be based in Victoria and be a full member of Nursery and Garden Industry Victoria.

Criteria

Product quality and range	<p>Considered product selection.</p> <p>Excellent plant health and crop hygiene practices implemented.</p> <p>Robustness and quality of plant at time of sale/delivery. For example, plant is hardened off and carefully packaged and presented.</p> <p>Consistency in quality and availability as relevant to specific crop or plan, where not affected by external forces.</p>	25%
Customer service and business relationships	<p>High levels of customer satisfaction with evidence of reviews/feedback from customer base and how these are used.</p> <p>Excellent customer service, including provision of support, both pre- and post-sales.</p> <p>Excellent relationships with clients and or/customers, other businesses, suppliers, distributors or manufacturers etc, exemplified by long-term, ongoing or repeat purchases/dealings.</p>	15%
Environmental responsibility	<p>Environmental policy in place with an active strategy and evidence of efforts to minimise environmental impact, including carbon footprint reduction and native vegetation, wildlife and ecosystem management with attention to all waste producing and potential polluting activities.</p> <p>Involvement in local community and environmental initiatives/projects.</p>	15%
Business performance	<p>Business strategy in place outlining future plans, with considerations of marketing and brand, scalability, contingencies and succession.</p> <p>Excellent production record keeping.</p> <p>Management well-structured with a variety of skillsets to provide sound business direction and positive workplace culture.</p> <p>Contributions to industry through involvement in a variety of events both on-site and off-site such as hosting educational tours events, supporting/attending trade shows, involvement in industry associations to promote horticulture to the broader public.</p> <p>Risk management strategies, including contingency and emergency planning.</p>	15%

Infrastructure and functional design	<p>Excellent nursery/facility layout which is highly functional.</p> <p>Well-maintained and appropriate infrastructure including growing areas, media storage, chemical and equipment storage, buildings, offices, staff amenities.</p> <p>High levels of care in general presentation of nursery and stock, making it suitable for customer (and other) visits.</p> <p>Accessibility considered in design and layout of nursery.</p>	10%
Operational efficiency and supply chain management	<p>Efficiency of plant production processes, including propagation (where relevant), growth cycles, and inventory management.</p> <p>A reliable and efficient supply chain, including all elements of sourcing, transportation and delivery. Effective logistics management in delivering products on time and in optimal condition.</p>	5%
Technology, innovation and research	<p>Use of systems and/or technology to streamline operations, customer orders, data management, review analytics, manage inventory and/or customer insights.</p> <p>Demonstrated innovative approach within the business, which could include, but is not limited to, implementing or testing new techniques, products, technologies, innovation in plant breeding (if relevant) etc.</p> <p>Commitment to researching, understanding and adapting to new and evolving external trends for the betterment of the business and industry.</p>	5%
Workplace culture and employee welfare	<p>High levels of horticultural qualifications/expertise among key staff.</p> <p>Staff training and development with evidence of staff retention and progression. This could include professional development, horticultural training knowledge sharing opportunities.</p> <p>Positive overall work environment with evidence of employee satisfaction.</p> <p>Policies and practices promoting diversity and inclusion within the workplace.</p>	5%
Compliance and safety	<p>Evidence of regulatory compliance.</p> <p>Safety standards followed for employees, customers and visitors.</p>	5%

Process

- Businesses may be nominated by an employee, director, owner or an external nominator with permission from the business.
- Applications should address the award criteria, with a 250-word limit per section.
- Supporting evidence is encouraged and may include photos, videos or letters of recommendation. This is not included in the word count.
- Applications may be submitted as a PowerPoint, Word document, PDF or similar.
- Applications must be emailed to NGIV by Friday 26 June 2026.

Applications are open between **Monday 11 May 2026 and Friday 26 June 2026.**

After applications close, an independent panel of judges will review each application. Depending on number of applications, a shortlist may be created. A time will then be scheduled for the business owner/senior manager to take the judging panel through the submission, with a Q&A session afterwards. 1.5 hours is allowed for this process. From this, an initial score will be determined.

A site visit (in person where possible) will then be undertaken by a member of the judging panel, and further evaluated according to the above criteria, producing a score out of 100. Scores will be averaged between each of the judges with further discussion to be had. Points may be added or subtracted as part of this process of deliberation, at the discretion of the independent panel.

The proposed winner who scored the highest will then be put forward to the NGIV for final endorsement.

The winner of the ***Production Nursery of the Year 2026*** will be announced at the NGIV annual Awards Evening on Saturday 22 August.

Summary of application process with key dates:

1	Submit application by deadline date	5 pm, Fri 26 June 2026
2	Review of applications, short-listing if deemed necessary	Mon 6 July – Fri 10 July 2026
3	Applicant presentation to judging panel (online)	Mon 13 July – Fri 17 July 2026
4	Site-visit by member of judging panel (in person where possible)	Mon 20 July – Fri 25 July 2026
5	Winner announced at Awards Evening 2026	Sat 22 August 2026

Important notes:

- Shortlisted nominees must be in attendance at the Awards Evening for acceptance.
- A high-resolution logo must be supplied as part of the application.

Prizes

The prize for the winning business of this award is valued at over \$8000 and includes:

- Customised trophy and framed certificate
- 1 x full page editorial written by NGIV in Groundswell magazine, describing the win
- 1 x full page advertisement in Groundswell, for use at discretion of winner
- Press release written by NGIV and distributed to relevant local and horticultural media
- Social media coverage (minimum 2 posts on social media channels)
- Collateral and branding supplied to business “*NGIV Production Nursery of the Year 2026*”

Horticultural Retailer of the Year

Nursery and Garden Industry Victoria's **Horticultural Retailer of the Year** is a major award presented to the horticultural retail business who showcases excellence and success in the horticultural retail space.

Several elements are considered, including facility infrastructure and layout, customer experience, on-site displays and product range, investment in staff and marketing, as well as sustainable practices.

Business size and turnover are not considered in this award.

Eligibility

Business must be based in Victoria and be a full member of Nursery and Garden Industry Victoria. For businesses that have multiple sites, only one site can be entered for this award.

Criteria

Criteria	Scoring criteria	Weight
Product quality and range	Quality and maintenance of greenlife on offer.	25%
	Diversity of product and range (seeds, plants, gardening tools, and accessories etc).	
Customer service and experience	Quality and range of services offered, such as providing horticultural expertise, education, plant health advice, garden design for customers. Hospitality services are excluded.	25%
	Evidence of considerations of sustainability in product range.	
	High levels of knowledge of horticultural practices among staff, and ability to provide helpful advice. Can be demonstrated through horticultural qualifications and/or experience/dedication to industry or role.	
	Excellent visual merchandising displays, which inspire, and inform visitors with horticulturally accurate information aligned to relevant trends, days of note, etc.	
Aesthetic and functional design	High standard of presentation of infrastructure, and staff on-site. Customer engagement through workshops, events, educational programs.	10%
	Successful customer loyalty program in place to promote repeat business and relationship development.	
	Analysis of how customer feedback is gathered and used for continual improvement.	
	Infrastructure and facilities fit for purpose with considered property design, layout and maintenance throughout all areas (including signage, street frontage, carpark, entrance, trolley bay, service desk, bathroom facilities, plant and product displays etc).	
	Accessibility for diverse abilities considered in property layout, ensuring inclusivity for all visitors.	
	Clear consistent way-finding signage and communication throughout.	

Sustainability and environmental responsibility	<p>Eco-friendly practices in place, such as recycling and re-purposing, waste management, water conservation, use of environmentally sound products.</p> <p>Efforts to minimise carbon emissions and other environmental impacts.</p> <p>Supporting suppliers and customers who limit environmental impact.</p>	10%
Business performance	<p>Evidence of a business plan in place, to achieve sales growth and positive financial performance, as well as mitigate or overcome challenges.</p> <p>Operational efficiency in inventory management, supply chain efficiency, and overall operational effectiveness.</p> <p>Business demonstrates understanding of target market and implements tools and strategies to appropriately attract and service.</p>	10%
Innovation and technology	<p>Excellent online presence through preferred channels (can include website, enews communications, social media or other) ensuring it is up-to-date, responsive to requests, and horticulturally accurate where relevant.</p> <p>Assessment of innovative practices or techniques or technologies used by the business. For example, water recycling program, etc.</p>	5%
Compliance and Safety	<p>Regulatory compliance with all relevant regulations.</p> <p>High level of safety standards for both employees and customers.</p> <p>Effective risk management strategies and contingency planning evident</p>	5%
Workplace culture and employee welfare	<p>Staff training and development opportunities provided for professional furtherment and horticultural training.</p> <p>Excellent overall work environment with evidence of employee satisfaction and low turnover.</p> <p>Up-to-date staff policies, including those that support diversity and inclusion practices.</p> <p>Management well-structured with a variety of skillsets to provide sound business direction and positive workplace culture.</p> <p>Excellent business-to-business relationships with suppliers, partners etc.</p>	5%
Community Involvement	<p>Involvement in the local community through partnerships, donations, support of local events.</p> <p>Educational outreach about horticulture and gardening via schools, on-site workshops etc.</p> <p>Involvement in wider horticultural industry through memberships, attending events, etc.</p>	5%

Process

- Businesses may be nominated by an employee, director, owner or external nominator with permission.
- Applications should address the criteria, with a 250-word limit per section.
- Supporting evidence is encouraged and is not included in the word count.

- Applications may be submitted as a PowerPoint, Word document, PDF or similar.
- Applications must be emailed to NGIV by 5 pm, Friday 26 June 2026.

Applications are open between **Monday 11 May and Friday 26 June 2026**.

After applications close, an independent panel of judges will review each application. Depending on number of applications, a shortlist may be created. A time will then be scheduled for the business owner/senior manager to take the judging panel through the submission, with a Q&A session afterwards. 1.5 hours is allowed for this process. From this, an initial score will be determined.

A site visit (in person where possible) will then be undertaken by a member of the judging panel, and further evaluated according to the above criteria, producing a score out of 100. Scores will be averaged between each of the judges with further discussion to be had. Points may be added or subtracted as part of this process of deliberation, at the discretion of the independent panel.

The proposed winner who scored the highest, will then be put forward to the NGIV for final endorsement.

The winner of the ***Horticultural Retailer of the Year 2026*** will be announced at the NGIV annual Awards Evening on Saturday 22 August.

Summary of application process with key dates:

1	Submit application by deadline date	5 pm, Fri 26 June 2026
2	Review of applications, short-listing if deemed necessary	Mon 6 July – Fri 10 July 2026
3	Applicant presentation to judging panel (online)	Mon 13 July – Fri 17 July 2026
4	Site-visit by member of judging panel (in person where possible)	Mon 20 July – Fri 25 July 2026
5	Winner announced at Awards Evening 2026	Sat 22 August 2026

Important notes:

- Shortlisted nominees must be in attendance at the Awards Evening for acceptance.
- A high-resolution logo must be supplied as part of the application.

Prizes

The prize for the winning business of this award is valued at over \$8000 and includes:

- Customised award trophy and framed certificate
- 1 x full page editorial written by NGIV in Groundswell magazine, describing the win
- 1 x full page advertisement in the MIFGS edition of Groundswell, for use at discretion of winner
- Press release written by NGIV and distributed and shared with local and horticultural media
- Social media coverage (minimum 2 posts on social media channels)
- Collateral and branding supplied to business "*NGIV Horticultural Retailer of the Year 2026*"

Years of Full Membership

The **Years of Full Membership** acknowledge various membership milestones to Nursery and Garden Industry Victoria. The categories for recognition are within 10-year increments (10 years, 20 years, etc.). At the time of receiving the award, the business must be a full NGIV member.

No application is necessary for these awards. They will be presented at NGIV Annual Awards Night 2026.



NGIV Individual Awards



Horticulture Student of the Year

The **Horticulture Student of the Year** award is presented to a student of any age who is currently enrolled and studying for an apprenticeship or training course within the horticulture sector that leads to a nationally recognised qualification.

Eligibility

- An NGIV member, staff of NGIV member business or student of member training organisation
- A permanent resident of Australia
- Completed or due to complete a training course in the period 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2026
- Must be studying a horticulture or nursery-related qualification
- Student must have achieved a pass, or be on track to achieve a pass in their chosen course

Criteria

Career and study achievements	<p>Why have you chosen to study in the horticulture sector?</p> <p>How has it changed or impacted on you?</p> <p>What have you gained from your apprenticeship/course to date or in completing your course?</p> <p>What new skills have you been able to bring to your workplace?</p>
Team and communication skills	<p>What have you been able to pass on to workmates, employers, friends, or family, about your training?</p> <p>What do you like about working in your team?</p> <p>What traits do you think are important to positively influence others?</p>
Ability to be a representative for the horticulture sector	<p>Examples where you have taken a leadership role inside or outside of studying or work.</p> <p>Other activities where you have been a representative for the industry.</p> <p>The qualities or activities you feel would be useful in promoting your role as Horticulture Student of the Year.</p>

Process

NGIV welcomes applications from people who wish to nominate themselves or someone else (e.g. an employee) for an award. Due to the nature of the application and award process, NGIV strongly encourages discussion and collaboration between the person making the nomination and the nominee during the preparation of the award application.

The nominee must provide a written application and submit it through the online award application form (link below) and be no longer than 1,500 words (excluding supporting evidence). This should include:

- A brief introduction, including, who you are, the name of your course, where you are studying or undertaking your apprenticeship.
- Your ambitions within the industry, and where your passion for horticulture comes from.
- Response to the selection criteria, detailing your excellence against some or all the criteria.

This can be completed on Word and uploaded into the application as a PDF or Word document.

Include any supporting documents (e.g., certificates, awards, references) that may benefit your application.

The nominees must be available for an interview with members of the NGIV Education & Training Committee, which will take place in the week Monday 13 July – Friday 17 July 2026. The team at NGIV will be in touch with you to arrange a suitable time once your application has been received.

The winning and highly commended nominees will be recommended by the NGIV Education & Training Committee and affirmed by the NGIV Board.

Nomination/application information

Application tips

- Make sure you read all the information
- You do not need to provide a response to all the selection criteria– select what you think are your strongest attributes or examples
- Provide good, clear examples that relate to your study/apprenticeship
- Keep your choice of words simple and formal; avoid the use of slang and/or jargon
- Proofread, or seek assistance in proofreading, your application.
- Do not rely exclusively on ChatGPT or similar AI tools in the writing of your application. Your application should be specific to you and provide specific examples of your achievements and suitability for this award.

The deadline for submission is **5 pm, Friday 26 July 2026**.

Summary of application process with key dates:

1	Submit application by deadline date	5 pm, Fri 26 June 2026
2	Review of applications, short-listing if deemed necessary	Mon 6 July – Fri 10 July 2026
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Young Horticulture Leader of the Year

Sponsored by Moshie Enterprise Coaching and Development

This award recognises Victoria's up-and-coming horticultural talent. This person may only just be starting out in their career, but have displayed the capability, commitment, and vision, to become a future leader.

Eligibility

All nominees must be:

- An NGIV member or staff of NGIV member
- A permanent resident of Australia
- 35 years old or under

Criteria

Adaptable to different professional environments
Demonstrated passion within horticulture
Adjusts communication style to suit audiences
Able to comprehend and apply direction and instructions efficiently
Takes proactive steps to further develop knowledge and experience
Demonstrated ability to think creatively to solve problems
Displays a thoughtful approach to diversity and inclusion
Inspires colleagues to perform to the best of their ability
Demonstrates a willingness to learn from their colleagues

Process

NGIV welcomes applications from people who wish to nominate themselves or someone else (e.g. an employee) for an award. Due to the nature of the application and award process, NGIV strongly encourages discussion and collaboration between the person making the nomination and the nominee during the preparation of the award application.

The nominee must provide a written application and submit it through the online award application form (link below) and be no longer than 1,500 words (excluding supporting evidence). This should include:

- A brief introduction, including, who you are, where you work and your role, your experience and where your passion for horticulture comes from
- Response to the selection criteria, detailing your excellence against some or all the criteria.

This can be completed on Word and uploaded into the application as a PDF or Word document.

Include any supporting documents (e.g., certificates, awards, references) that may benefit your application.

The nominees must be available for an interview with members of the NGIV Education & Training Committee, which will take place in the week Monday 13 July – Friday 17 July 2026. The team at NGIV will be in touch with you to arrange a suitable time once your application has been received.

The winning and highly commended nominees will be recommended by the NGIV Education & Training Committee and affirmed by the NGIV Board.

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Summary of application process with key dates:

1	Submit application by deadline date	5 pm, Fri 26 June 2026
2	Review of applications, short-listing if deemed necessary	Mon 6 July – Fri 10 July 2026
3	Applicant presentation to judging panel (online)	Mon 13 July – Fri 17 July 2026
5	Winner announced at Awards Evening 2026	Sat 22 August 2026

Life Member

To be eligible to be considered for Life Membership:

Clause 6 (d) of NGIV's Articles of association states:

A Life Member shall be a person deemed by the Board to have rendered valuable and distinguished service to the Association and who has been a Member for not less than ten (10) years and who has been elected by the Members at any Annual General Meeting of the Association as a Life Member of the Association.

Any current NGIV member can nominate an individual for Life Membership, however they are deemed eligible and selected by the NGIV Board.

No application process is required. To nominate, please email NGIV@NGIV.com.au

Honorary Member

Honorary members are to be appointed or re-appointed by the Board each year, prior to ratification by the members at the AGM.

Clause 6 (b) of the NGIV's Articles of Association states:

An Honorary Member shall be a person deemed by the Board to have rendered valuable and distinguished service to the Association, and who has, as a result of the person's service record, been recommended by the Board to the Members at any Meeting of the Association to be appointed as an Honorary Member of the Association for the period until the next Annual General Meeting of the Association.

Prior to each successive Annual General Meeting, the Board shall review the roll of Honorary Members and shall make recommendations to the Members for the appointment of new Honorary Members or the re-appointment of existing Honorary Members for the ensuing year.

Clause 8 of the NGIV's Articles of Association states:

An Honorary Member shall not be obliged to pay membership fees.

Any current NGIV member can nominate an individual for Honorary Membership, however they are deemed eligible and selected by the NGIV Board.

No application process is required. To nominate, please email NGIV@NGIV.com.au

President's Distinguished Service Award

The **President's Distinguished Service Award** recognises an individual that has made a significant contribution to the association and the industry over an extended period of time and has done so freely, willingly and selflessly.

This award is recommended by the NGIV President to the Board for approval. Winner(s) are presented at NGIV Annual Awards Night.

Thank you for reviewing NGIV's Recognition Manual.

For any questions, please contact events@ngiv.com.au