

Youth to the Fore in NSW

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garden
RETAILERS
OF NSW & ACT

Two Young Leaders Nominated for National Development Program

Two leading NSW contenders for the NGIA National Young Leader Award, to be decided in 2013, were named at the NGINA Awards Dinner last November. Both will go forward into the Young Leader Program where they will undergo various coaching and leadership development over the next year.



Leigh makes acceptance speech at the NGINA awards night.

Sarah Peacock

Sarah Peacock spent her early years in the bushland of the Illawara escarpment in New South Wales. A keen bushwalker, with an early interest in native plants and their identification, Sarah excelled in science and biology at school. This led her to complete a Bachelor of Applied Science at Southern Cross University in Lismore, during which she gained a wider understanding of conservation and environmental issues.

In 2010 Sarah was job hunting and knocked on the door at Jamberoo Native Nursery where owner Geoff Bailey quickly realising he would be silly to let her escape, offered her a job in the bush regeneration division. She quickly learnt the role and with a year's hands-on experience under her belt, in 2011 took on the role of Sales and Marketing Coordinator at the production nursery. Again Sarah showed her ability to learn quickly which, coupled with her knowledge of the bush and experience in its regeneration, saw her contributions adding further value to the production of tube and potted stock at the nursery.

During the last two years she has studied marketing, management, IT and photography, as well as attending the usual industry compliance courses and gaining a thorough understanding of EcoHort certification.

Her participation in industry activities includes being a member of the Weed Risk Assessment Committee, exhibiting in several industry Expos and being selected on the Organising Committee for the 2014 National Conference in Sydney. Sarah also entered Jamberoo Native Nursery in the NGIA awards and in 2012 they won the national award for the Best Medium Sized Garden Centre.



Sarah is keen to further her education with a post graduate degree in Botany or similar. She sees her passion of raising the profile and use of Australian native plants in all parts of the landscape as meeting the bigger challenge of greening Australia.

Leigh Brennan

Leaving school in Year 10, Leigh studied agriculture at Tocal Agricultural College. His first taste of horticulture was a job with Davidsons Nurseries before working at Bails and Common Scents Nursery. During a few years out of the industry he realised that nursery work was his passion joining Alpine Nurseries as a nursery hand. He quickly became a supervisor and commenced studies in a Diploma of Horticulture.

During this time Leigh had a wonderful industry grounding and while he attributes much of his success to many influential mentors he came into touch with, those who have worked with him pay tribute to Leigh's insatiable thirst

