

IN BRIEF

HIDDEN SYDNEY 2018

By Vanessa Walsh

Hidden Design Festival returned to Sydney on 10 and 11 March 2018, with visitors being treated to a wonderful weekend of open gardens.

Over 750 ticket-holders meandered through a selection of private designed gardens across Sydney - a real treat for garden and landscape design lovers. After a long, dry summer the gardens were blessed with rain the week prior then the clouds retreated for a mild, sunny weekend which was ideal.

Visitors loved the unique opportunity to meet and talk with the creators of each garden. Designers fielded questions about plants, design, construction, products and the process involved in creating their wonderful outdoor space. The designers and garden owners embraced the opportunity to connect with admiring garden lovers and potential customers, to showcase their work and of course to receive lots of positive feedback. Thank you to the designers for the hours spent in preparation and the garden owners for so warmly welcoming the public.

Hidden is important for our industry, raising the profile of landscape design to the public and creating a wonderful opportunity for colleagues to renew relationships as they bump into each other over the weekend.

Funds raised are shared between AILD M and a nominated charity. This year we are pleased to have donated \$15,000 to the GO Foundation, from ticket sales and donations.

Hidden is only possible thanks to the many hours of hard work and dedication of volunteers. Thanks are due to Hidden's coordinator, Karen Staunton-Ross, and to Julie Parker and AILD M's Hidden Director, Mark Curtis. Recognition and thanks also goes to the reliable and cheerful volunteers who welcomed visitors to each garden, and to Rowena McMahon as the enthusiastic bus tour guide.

Hidden was proud to appoint Catherine Stewart as Patron for 2018 in recognition of her role in creating the event and her ongoing support. The launch party was held at Garden Life and sponsored by Alpine Nurseries, allowing it to be an event enjoyed by the wider landscape industry.

Looking ahead, Hidden welcomes Andrew Munroe as AILD M's next Hidden Director. For news about future events sign up to the Hidden newsletter, or follow @hiddendesignfestival. **Website:** hiddendesignfestival.com



TOP TO BOTTOM

Garden Life, St Peters: the venue for Hidden's 2018 launch; Designers and colleagues catching up at the launch; Peter Knox from Alpine Nurseries with AILD M's new president, Craig MacDonald (right) and industry colleagues

See the upcoming Spring edition of LO for the gardens and designers of Hidden Sydney 2018.