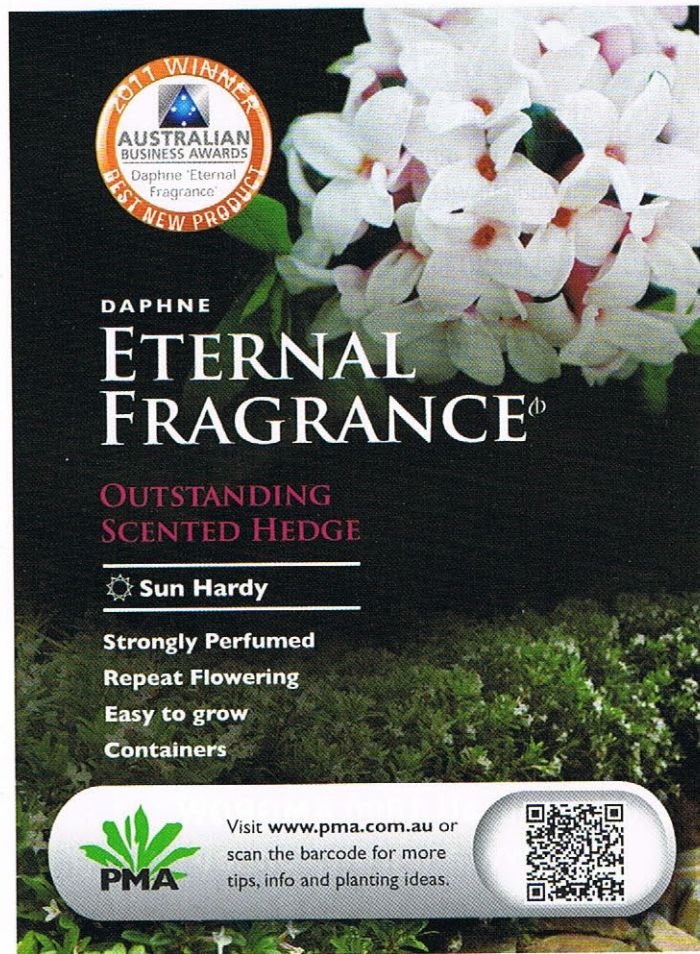


Melbourne's Landscape Australia Expo

The weather was good (it's always good in Melbourne isn't it?); the NGIV Garden Party was in full swing and the Royal Exhibition Building was full of great exhibits. It was an early start for the Designer's Breakfast and the excellent speakers.



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The Designer's Panel started the morning with presentations from Phillip Johnson, Phillip Johnson Landscapes, and Richard Bellemo, RB Landscapes. Their theme was: 'Going beyond the visual and contributing to ecological systems'. I won't try to do justice to their talks in this small space but they were both excellent and the photo on this page perhaps exemplifies their philosophies. Both speakers showed images of their designs. The photo here of The Templestowe Garden by RB Landscapes has a feeling of sustainability and tranquillity.

Phillip indicated that his aim is to create beautiful landscapes. He told us that swimming pools sometimes sent a poor environmental message but he is now forming Australia's first 'Natural Pools Association' to help overcome this perception. His aim is to use local materials and plants including sustainable timber and reclaimed materials where possible. He also aims for 80% plants and 20% 'hardscaping' in his designs.

Richard was keen to have natural ponds with natural filtration and was proudly bringing frogs back into the equation. He uses visual art and sculpture in his gardens and pointed out that 'Mother Nature' always prevails.

He was adamant that architects and builders need to work with Landscape Designers from the very beginning so that the landscape is part of the plan and not an after-thought. He said: "It shouldn't be just the left-over dollars for landscape. Indoor/Outdoor spaces require sustainable living and we need to work with the environment and nature."

Living Walls and Roof Gardens

This topic really needs an article on its own. However, the message that came through to me from Sidonie Carpenter was that maintenance and plant selection are huge issues to get right. We saw some brilliant photos and many roof and wall gardens are helping our environment but many aren't. I'll see if we can run an article in a later edition of Greenworld.

The Expo looked great and was well attended. We'll have a full report on it in December/January Greenworld.