

Judges' Award

WINNER:

Seasons, Villawood Properties

A job well done

Seasons and Villawood Properties are no strangers to the judges of the UDIA Awards for Excellence.

Last year we recognised that excellence and the quality of the project by judging it to be the best residential development of more than 250 lots.

In 2002 we applauded the passion and innovative approach of Villawood's managing director, Rory Costelloe, by bestowing on him and Villawood the Judges' Award for the great work they did on transforming a neighbourhood in Werribee.

Today, we offer the same applause and our heartiest congratulations for the exceptional work he and his team have done at Seasons. That work has centred on the environment and the need not only to protect and enhance it - which they have done in so many ways - but also on persuading and educating its residents towards that need.

For that, and much more, Villawood justly deserves our Judges' Award as a mark of the industry's recognition for everything it has achieved.

Seasons in the sun

Helping to pave the way for sustainable, community-oriented residential development, Villawood Properties' Seasons estate has been judged among Victoria's best.

The multi-award winning development added yet another accolade to its swag of awards, picking up the Urban Development Institute of Australia - Victoria (UDIA Vic) Judges' Award.

Seasons estate was highly acclaimed by the judges for its dedication to engaging unique sustainable methods and activities to help the community embrace better environmental living standards.

It is the third award in as many years Seasons, which last year received the UDIA (Vic) award for the best residential development of more than 250 allotments and the City of Wyndham Environmental Award. In 2004 the estate was a finalist for the Premier's Business Sustainability Award.

A feature of Seasons estate has been the dedicated Green Guide to help buyers understand the cost benefits of choosing more sustainable building alternatives, products and appliances.

Villawood was also the first private developer to gain State Government backing to incorporate an educational program titled Sustainability Street, to help encourage community involvement and understanding of how to care for the environment

and live more sustainably every day.

The program has been gaining huge community support and is leading the way in the Wyndham area for pro-active community activities that highlight the importance of being caretakers of the environment.

Further initiatives applauded by the UDIA (Vic) judges this year included the implementation of the Phytofoam system that injects foam beneath the large grassed open-space areas to absorb water for slow release, saving on over-watering and helping to preserve water supplies.

With an emphasis on superior landscaping and public interaction, Seasons estate is almost sold out. It has been among the City of Wyndham's most sought-after estates.

Seasons incorporates beautifully presented community gathering areas including a large pergola or stage area ideal for community events, basketball and tennis courts, and a large wetland system that is now home to a variety of native flora and fauna.

Seasons estate was among the first residential communities in the City of Wyndham to place a strong focus on community art features. Large iconic sculptures range from the entrance, with its representation of a tulip's lifecycle, to the wetlands area, with two-metre sculptures of birdlife and interactive sculptures such as the sun-dial in the central park.

Villawood's executive director, Rory Costelloe, said the UDIA (Vic) Judges' Award highlighted the project as among Victoria's best, particularly after it was awarded the best development in the category of more than 250 lots last year.

"This accolade underlines again that Seasons is an outstanding development that is not only a great place to live but is an intelligent community that is living proof of Villawood's philosophy of providing superior community developments that are sustainable and encourage better community interaction, resulting in friends for life."

A Seasons resident, Brenda O'Sullivan, said that open spaces and the developer's commitment to improving sustainability at the estate were among her family's primary reasons for buying at Seasons.

"I love the outdoor areas and walking tracks that we utilise frequently with our dogs. We loved the sustainable approach that Villawood has taken with design and community interaction, which really stood out as a point of difference to us."

"My 14-year-old son loves the tennis courts and my older son is a physiotherapist and uses the extensive walking paths a lot. We used to live on a quarter-acre lot and as nice as it was we certainly didn't have the luxury of the parks and gardens and lifestyle right at the back door."

