

Garden and lifestyle expo's rosy outlook

BY ERIN SOMERVILLE
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GROWING: Bruce Reynolds is looking forward to a successful expo over the weekend. Photo: JUDE KEOGH

ORGANISERS for the weekend's Central West Garden and Lifestyle Expo are confident that this year's event will be the biggest and best one yet.

The event already has 80 exhibitors, which is 20 more than last year, along with many interactive activities and workshops, and a richer selection of lifestyle exhibitions compared to the last three years.

"We are very optimistic that this event is going to continue to develop and people will embrace the event," Central West Garden and Lifestyle Expo chairman Bruce Reynolds said.

"There is a good mix, and it is a real value for money day out."

The expo will feature exhibitors from both the local area as well as inter-regional and inter-state and is expected to bring more than 3000 visitors to the National Field Day's site at Borenore.

Water wise gardening practices will be one of the main focuses at the event, despite Orange City Council not being as enthusiastic to participate in the initiative as expected as local gardeners battle to keep their gardens alive under the level 5A water restrictions.

"So many nurseries are trying to push drought tolerant plants and mulching," Garden and Lifestyle Expo administration assistant Mandy Littlewood said.

"We really wanted to push that with Orange City Council but they haven't come to the party."

The event organisers are also excited to welcome renowned gardener Costa Georgiadis, who will be presenting lectures on both days, to the expo.

"We were expecting him to only come for a few hours but he is really keen to do things here," Ms Littlewood said.

The recent weather conditions have proved perfect for keeping the expo's showcase vegetable garden thriving, but has created more work for organisers in maintaining the lush site than planned.

