

# **Garden expo turns over a new leaf**

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BY ERIN SOMERVILLE  
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**THE Central West Garden and Lifestyle Expo may still be months away but its committee is already in full swing preparing for what they hope will be the biggest and best event yet.**

**While the expo has always helped residents in the region get the most out of their backyard gardening patches, one major change to this year's March 20 and 21 event will be a heavier focus on lifestyle.**

**"It's going to be a lot broader," said Central West Garden and Lifestyle Expo chairman Bruce Reynolds, who added the expo would have a rural fair feel.**

**The committee hopes the expo will soon become a major family event and eventually be comparable to the Australian National Field Days, but in the meantime is focusing on making this year's event the best one to date.**

**To help give residents a literal taste of what they can grow in their own backyard, the committee has planted a large vegetable patch full of delicious treats such as peaches, nectarines, corn, nuts, melons, potatoes, zucchinis, beans and roses to show visitors how they can do the same.**

**With the expo aimed at people living in the Central West there will also be a heavy focus on water-wise gardening practices and how to sustain a great garden on little or no water through mulching and selecting the correct plants.**

**To include the children and the young-at-heart, competitions such as thong throwing, gumboot decorating and creating scarecrows will feature to ensure everyone squeezes the most out of the \$8 day.**

**"It is going to be a value for money event, and people will walk away with information and potential products," Mr Reynolds said.**

**Last year there were 60 exhibitors and the committee is encouraging all those interested to take advantage of the sales-focused event.**



**GROWING A GREAT EVENT: Bruce Reynolds, Jayne West and Mandy Littlewood are working hard to make the Central West Garden and Lifestyle Expo a major event on the regional calendar.**