

Honours Roll



DR DI GOODWIN

Dr Di Goodwin is a legend in the green industries. She bought her first retail nursery in 1982 and has built up her family business into an organisation that includes a chain of retail garden centres and a bedding plant propagation businesses. With a passion for education, she has trained generations of horticultural industry staff in her own business.

Dr Di Goodwin's contribution to the broader green industries began in the early 1990s. With an interest in gardening for youth, Dr Goodwin established a horticultural training programme for youngsters which was sponsored, for nearly a decade, by Nedbank. 'Mulbry the gardening bear' suits and a range of highly publicised 'gardening for youth' merchandise was developed, print media ran her articles for a decades, she appeared regularly on radio and Mulbry became a green ambassador to major garden shows across South Africa. Her contribution to stimulating horticultural interest among a generation of youngsters cannot be underestimated.

Dr Goodwin's interest in training was extended to landscaping, turf and horticulture in the early 2000s. She became the green industries representative to the government's SETA training system in the mid 1990s and she has lobbied for training funding for people working in the landscaping, turf and horticultural industries since that time. Under her leadership, curriculums have been designed for landscapers, horticulturists and turf managers working in the green industries.

Awarded a PhD for her research in horticultural education (botany teaching) in 2007, Dr Goodwin has served on the boards of SAGIC and the South African Nursery Association SANA board and sector groups (Growers, Bedding Plants and Garden Centres) for extended periods during the past thirty years. Her contribution to the South African green industries for nearly four decades is substantial and continues in her leadership of SAGICs training portfolio. Dr Di Goodwin is a worthy recipient of the SAGIC Honours.

Excellence in Training Award



BERNADETTE EKSTEEN

Bernadette Eksteen has been nominated for the excellence in training award. She has used her knowledge and skill set within the broader green industry to compile two most excellent standard documents viz. SALI Landscape: Construction and SALI Landscape: Maintenance manuals. This was no mean feat, her outstanding research and thoroughness, will mean these documents will undoubtedly set the green industry bar for service excellence! I commend her and am truly grateful for her involvement in SAGIC.