



• Gavan and Trish Neil-Smith and Warren McGrath get waterwise in Paddington Street.  
*Photo by Neil Woodgate*

# Catching a friendly gong

A NORTH PERTH resident is \$500 richer after winning this year's Catchment Friendly Garden category in the Town of Vincent's garden competition.

"I'm very happy with the win," Gavan Neil-Smith of Paddington Street told the *Voice*. "I've always been interested in native plants.

"I was sick of the turf, so I sprayed it out and put the natives in."

Also a Town of Vincent

gardener, Mr Neil-Smith's two big tips were picking plants suited to local soil types, and installing drip irrigation.

"Less frequent, deeper watering with the drippers encourages the roots of native plants to develop," the keen chlorophile said.

"That increases their drought tolerance."

The garden took three years to develop, and it was all worthwhile, according to Claise Brook Catchment Group chair Warren McGrath.

"Gavan's winning garden is an example of how we can reduce our environmental impact while providing something of beauty for the whole neighbourhood to enjoy" Mr McGrath said.

The catchment-friendly prize recognises gardens that are waterwise, don't require fertiliser and provide habitat for native animals. In its sixth year, the category is sponsored by the Water Corporation and supported by the catchment group.