

# Renown by a billabong

**Finalist | Cassie Maher**

A GLEN Iris landscape business keen to eradicate “concrete jungles” has been named a finalist in the Premier’s Sustainability Awards 2010.

Phillip Johnson Sustainable Landscape Systems is vying for the Built Environment Award against two much larger competitors, Mirvac and Major Projects Victoria, to be announced on April 22.

General manager Vaughn Greenhill said it was “exciting” to be selected.

Judges were impressed by the business’ “innovative water capture and storage techniques” including its billabong concept, featured in a Malvern East home.

“We converted their pool into a billabong to get that natural managed water use,” Mr Greenhill said. “So rather than topping it up and adding chemicals we can just leave it to its own devices and fluctuate seasonally. The owners can still swim in it and are looking at putting fish in it.”

Native plants, herb gardens and solar panels were also much used by the company.

“Our gardens thrive in water restriction conditions because we’ve taken a lot of what’s happening in national parks and bushland and brought that back to people’s homes,” Mr Greenhill said.

“We like to create habitats using all the sustainability elements. It’s good for people but also for frogs, fish and other animals.”



Vaughn Greenhill of Phillip Johnson Landscapes, a finalist in the Premier’s Sustainability Awards, pictured in one of the company’s garden designs in Malvern East.  
Picture: STEVEN CRABTREE N41MP801