

AWARDS 2017

KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL TIDY TOWNS

Keep  Australia
Beautiful

Keep Australia Beautiful National Association
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FOREWORD

By **Australian Tidy Towns Judge Jill Grant**

The process of reviewing the State and Territory winners has been a very affirming experience as it has highlighted the wealth of creativity and community spirit that exists in the Tidy Towns and Sustainable Communities network more broadly. As always the quality of the submissions has been outstanding and the comprehensive itineraries for each of my visits have been a pleasure to undertake.

I am impressed by the similarities and complementary initiatives that exist between the towns as they share many core values including: trust, collaboration, inclusion, respect, purpose,



innovation and optimism. They all have a vision for the future that involves collective benefits for the community, achieved by encouraging health and wellbeing, environmental sustainability and cultural celebration.

The towns showcased in this publication embody these values and aspirations to a high degree and they are making significant contributions to the lives of their residents and the surrounding regions by providing such positive examples of cooperation and progress of the very best kind.

Congratulations to all those involved in this year's awards, your efforts and achievements will serve as an inspiration for others throughout regional Australia.

Jill Grant

Australian Tidy Towns Judge

The full judge reports can be found on the Keep Australia Beautiful website kab.org.au/tidy-towns.

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ABOUT TIDY TOWNS



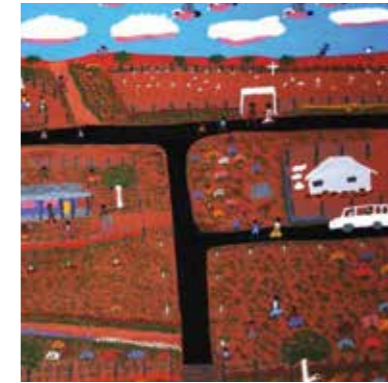
4 The Keep Australia Beautiful Tidy Towns Awards began in 1968 in Western Australia and have been running nationally since 1990.

These awards have evolved to encompass projects and initiatives with a focus on environmental sustainability and resource management to reflect a growing awareness of the importance of community-led environmental action.

The Tidy Towns name has always been synonymous with community pride, cohesion and above all community action. The awards reach beyond tourism to encourage, motivate and celebrate the sustainability achievements of grassroots rural and regional communities across Australia.

The finalists in the Tidy Towns competition who are largely volunteers are some of the most dedicated, passionate and colourful people in all the Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Communities awards programs. Year upon year we see a calibre of community action that allows all Australians to aspire to be tidy Aussies.

Each year, state and territory winners are announced between August and November from the Keep Australia Beautiful network. They then receive a visit from the Australian Tidy Towns judge, with the Australian Tidy Towns Awards presented between March and May.



The awards event, often hosted over two days, consists of networking with sustainability leaders around Australia, finalist case studies, as well as highlights and suggestions from the Australian Tidy Towns judge. If the event is hosted by the town of the previous winner, attendees are invited to tour their projects, sustainable solutions and initiatives to learn firsthand what earned them the iconic Australian title.

Beyond a healthy dose of competition, the Australian Tidy Towns awards competition brings together community leaders, environmental champions, young legends and waste warriors from every corner of our great country to share experiences, learn from and inspire each other. This is the true Tidy Town spirit.



CONGRATULATIONS FINALISTS

AREYONGA (UTJU)

Located 240km to the west of Alice Springs, Areyonga (Utju) is nestled in a spectacular valley in the MacDonnell Ranges.
Population 235

BARMERA

225km from Adelaide, Barmera lies on the shore of Lake Bonney in the heart of the Riverland.
Population 4,500

GREENBUSHES

Located 250km south of Perth, Greenbushes has a unique natural environment and a strong pioneer history.
Population 630



MAITLAND

A heritage centre on the banks of the Hunter River, Maitland lies 170km north of Sydney.
Population 77,000

HORSHAM

The 'Capital of Wimmera', Horsham lies 300km north-west of Melbourne on the banks of the Wimmera River.
Population 19,774

STANLEY

Approx. 400km from Hobart, Stanley is situated on Tasmania's north-west coast in a region known as the 'edge of the world'.
Population 480

OVERALL WINNER



8 BARMERA, SA

WINNER DAME PHYLLIS FROST LITTER PREVENTION WASTE MANAGEMENT & RESOURCE RECOVERY; ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY; ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (JOINT); YOUNG LEGENDS
HIGHLY COMMENDED COMMUNITY ACTION + WELLBEING

"Barmera has a strong emphasis on engaging all age groups and keeping morale high through some challenging times when prolonged drought has threatened livelihoods and habitats throughout the region." - Jill Grant

Situated on the shores of Lake Bonney, the Lake provides Barmera a central focus for many of the sporting activities and cultural features that celebrate the rich history and traditions of the

area. A healthy lake is central to life, agriculture and tourism in Barmera, so environmental management and education are given priority with the community actively participating in waste management and conservation activities. The popular annual 'Carp Frenzy' fishing competition has had success in promoting the return of native fish species to the region by highlighting the need to control non-native

species and creating wooden 'fish reefs' to mimic native habitats.

Barmera Kindergarten has a strong emphasis on bush play and the use of natural materials that allow investigation of textures, seasonal conditions and interpretive play. This encourages use of spatial awareness and creativity as well as confidence, strength, co-ordination and fine motor skills and an appreciation for the natural world and indigenous culture.

Efforts of the kindergarten are complemented by the lakefront 'Playspace' conceived with community ideas and fundraising to supplement a state government grant. The result is a pleasant area suitable for many different age groups and a focal point for visitors and community to meet. Attractive storm water filtration swales and reed beds have stabilised the area while improving drainage and the quality of runoff entering the lake.

Older students are engaged through the annual Environmental Expo hosted by the Primary School using an innovative 'kids teaching kids' approach. School food and native plant gardens and indigenous plant trails cultivate an understanding and appreciation of ecosystem interactions and habitat requirements, forging a strong awareness and commitment to the environment amongst students that will continue throughout their lives.

Barmera's future leaders are nurtured and their successes celebrated encouraging them to remain in the region to inspire other young people. The entrepreneurial spirit of some young leaders and the desire to make a lasting and positive contribution to their community through fundraising and support for important health and wellbeing initiatives is to be commended.

The Men's Shed is a town hub providing a multilayered service. Disused household items are repaired and recycled, toys and other items are manufactured using the collective skills of the members and fundraising garage sales are held with a range of donated items meticulously sorted and presented by category. The social network of the meetings and the outreach and skills transmission provided between members is complemented by their work with youth and disadvantaged members of the community.



MAITLAND, NSW



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HIGHLY COMMENDED DAME PHYLLIS FROST LITTER PREVENTION WASTE MANAGEMENT + RESOURCE RECOVERY; HERITAGE AND CULTURE

"The town of Maitland is very well kept and displayed with great pride in the historic buildings and cultural heritage." - Jill Grant

Maitland demonstrates a strong emphasis on cultural activities, entertainment and tourism through the celebration of local characters, food, history and multi-culturalism. There is great attention to detail on display throughout the town with modern functionality such as targeted energy efficient lighting integrated to well-preserved buildings and streetscapes.

Maitland has a strong connection to its history

exhibited by rich interpretive guided walks and heritage trails that emphasise the assets of the region. Conservation works to restore culturally-significant landmarks such as the Maitland Jewish Cemetery have been delivered appropriately and sensitively.

Public areas in Maitland are well provided with litter prevention and education infrastructure. The local waste management centre has excellent separation of waste streams and recycling opportunities and the recent introduction of household garden waste collection will produce high quality compost and mulch to be reused in parks, gardens and agriculture.

AREYONGA (UTJU), NT



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HIGHLY COMMENDED DAME PHYLLIS FROST LITTER PREVENTION WASTE MANAGEMENT, COMMUNITY ACTION + WELLBEING, HERITAGE + CULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

"This picturesque community has an amazing spirit and pride exhibited by all generations. Areyonga's emphasis on continuous improvement and leadership in sustainability practices is an example for other remote communities." - Jill Grant

Areyonga (Utju) shows a deep commitment to improving the quality of life and health outcomes for the whole community. Sports are popular in the town with football and basketball competitions and swimming and water safety lessons at the local pool. Access to fresh food is supported by gardens established at the community store, early childhood centre and

resource recovery depot. Fruits and grasses suitable for the region are being propagated in partnership with Alice Springs Correctional Centre to be planted more broadly in the community promoting healthy eating and self-sufficiency in times when access to and from the town is limited by weather events.

Youth programs build confidence and skills in information technology, music recording and performance. Local knowledge about plants, traditional medicine, food sources and culture is shared in Pitjantjara at school leading to a regeneration of language and significant stories.

STANLEY, TAS



12 WINNER COMMUNITY ACTION + WELLBEING (JOINT); HERITAGE + CULTURE

“Stanley is, above all, a town supportive and collaborative in all their endeavours.” -Jill Grant

This immaculate and historic town is set on the shores of Bass Strait amidst productive farming land and the dominant natural feature of Circular Head or the “Nut” as it is known locally.

Stanley demonstrates a strong connection to its past and great enthusiasm for the future. Significant pride is placed in historic buildings, their restoration and maintenance. Churches, hotels, stores and the character of the main street capture the diversity of interests and events that have shaped the town and its

surrounding areas. The Town Hall, with its preserved art deco features, has been reimagined for a 21st century audience hosting monthly film society nights, community Christmas carols, weddings and major events. Stanley’s historic streetscapes have recently been recognised for their authenticity by the film industry, attracting new trade to the region.

Various health and wellbeing initiatives such as a community fun run aiming to motivate women to improve their health and fitness have led to an increased focus on exercise and wellbeing in the whole community with yoga and taekwondo classes now on offer to all.

HORSHAM, VIC



13 WINNER ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (SHARED) HIGHLY COMMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, YOUNG LEGENDS

“Horsham has a strong sense of community pride immediately evident in the town’s immaculate streetscapes, sporting facilities and public spaces.” -Jill Grant

There is a sense of connection in the town: community gardens, Horsham Urban Land Care and the Christian Emergency Food Centre link community members, businesses and support services while providing important opportunities for people to contribute in many ways. These initiatives rely on the willingness of townspeople to share resources, knowledge and time. Volunteer-led organisations such as the Horsham Men’s Shed, Rotary, Lions, the Historical Society and the Agricultural Society provide leadership and

mentoring for young people, developing skills and knowledge in the community.

Horsham celebrates its wonderful natural assets and recognises the importance of its youth as future environmental leaders. Local organisations come together to deliver a series of events and activities aimed at building an awareness and understanding of local environmental challenges amongst Horsham’s school children. One such program is the Nyupun (spirit/soul) leadership project conducted as a partnership between Barengi Gadgin Land Council and the Wimmera CMA to build important cultural knowledge and local Wergaia language skills through plant and animal species conservation.

GREENBUSHES, WA



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WINNER **COMMUNITY ACTION + WELLBEING (JOINT)**

HIGHLY COMMENDED DAME PHYLLIS FROST LITTER PREVENTION WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCE RECOVERY; ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY; YOUNG LEGENDS; ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

“The sense of inclusion and forward planning to create a better life for all residents and a sustainable legacy for the future are overarching features of this town.” -Jill Grant

This attractive town is set in a region famous for its agriculture, forestry and mining heritage. Greenbushes' diverse and close knit community has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for residents and the health of the local environment while forging powerful linkages across generations and between volunteer groups that are so active in the town.

Greenbushes Community Garden is a central meeting place and attractive venue for community events.

Demonstrating innovation in the recycling and reuse of produce and materials, the garden is an access point for environmental education and plays a central role in providing healthy living advice to visitors.

The well-supported community school continues conservation and biodiversity promotion, cultivating student enthusiasm for their town and its local flora and fauna. The pride these young people display in the improvement of habitats through bush block regeneration and other activities is quickly spreading throughout Greenbushes, providing an ideal opportunity for intergenerational knowledge and skill sharing.

ALL WINNERS

OVERALL WINNER

Barmera, SA



DAME PHYLLIS FROST AWARD

Barmera, SA (Winner)
Maitland, NSW
Areyonga (Utju), NT
Greenbushes, WA



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Barmera, SA (Winner)
Horsham, VIC
Greenbushes, WA



COMMUNITY ACTION + WELLBEING

Stanley, TAS (Winner)
Greenbushes, WA (Winner)
Areyonga (Utju), NT
Barmera, SA



HERITAGE + CULTURE

Stanley, TAS (Winner)
Maitland, NSW
Areyonga (Utju), NT



YOUNG LEGENDS

Barmera, SA (Winner)
Horsham, VIC
Greenbushes, WA



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Barmera, SA (Winner)
Horsham, VIC (Winner)
Areyonga (Utju), NT
Greenbushes, WA



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