

MEDIA RELEASE
Monday 8th March 2010



Join the Tidy Towns Family - Enter NOW!

Would your town like to become part of a supportive network of regional towns within NSW?!
Join the Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities program NOW!

There are numerous benefits to participating in the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities program:

- ✓ Increases valuable media exposure for your town and community projects
- ✓ Links your town to a network of experienced community volunteers, support and resources across NSW
- ✓ Provides an independent assessment and report of your town's projects and achievements
- ✓ Celebrates your achievements and promotes them to relevant stakeholders

Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities is celebrating its 30th birthday as the flagship program of Keep Australia Beautiful NSW. With over 100 towns and villages throughout the state participating each year, Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities continues to be the largest program focused on promoting environmental sustainability and enhancing the unique beauty of regional New South Wales. The program recognises communities who work together to protect, preserve and enhance their local environment.

"Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities opens up participants to a network of towns, and support in creating sustainable communities. Entering in this program is a great way for towns to foster community spirit, show pride in their local environment and gain an external perspective of their town. Assessor recommendations help towns overcome project challenges and develop strong local partnerships." CEO Peter McLean said.

"The size of the project is immaterial; we welcome projects big and small! Even if your project is in the planning stage you are eligible to enter. Entry into the Tidy Towns is FREE for new participants and we encourage past participants to get in contact with neighbouring towns, and "bring a friend for free." " Phil Kelly, Programs Manager added.

All participants are invited to attend and network at the annual Tidy Towns Awards Weekend in Lockhart on 4th-7th November 2010. Lockhart was last year's Overall Tidy Towns Winner in NSW and shares a vibrant culture and strong local partnerships. Submissions are due Friday 11th June 2010.

As well as the overall title of Tidy Town of the Year (NSW), awards will be given in the following categories, to be announced in November in Lockhart:

- Country Energy Bush Spirit Award
- Grundfos Water Conservation Award
- Heritage Branch Cultural Heritage Award
- "Do the Right Thing" Waste Minimisation Award, sponsored by Packaging Stewardship Forum
- Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW Wildlife Corridors and Habitats Conservation Award
- Schools Environment Award

For further information on the 2010 Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities program please contact Phil Kelly, Tidy Towns Program Manager on 02 9633 3380 or 0409 463 227 or visit the website www.kabnsw.org.au

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EDITOR'S NOTES: This year marks the 30th Anniversary of Tidy Towns. The program originally began as a competition focusing on cleanliness and beautification however Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities has undergone a number of changes throughout the last three decades and now provides a blueprint for local communities to achieve environmental, social and economic success and sustainability.

For further media information please contact: Elizabeth Jarrett, Media and Communications Manager on 02 9633 3380. For media comment contact Peter McLean, CEO of Keep Australia Beautiful NSW on 0416 227 158.