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Keep Australia Beautiful Back To Basics With Tidy Towns Grassroots Workshops

Keep Australia Beautiful NSW travelled out to Wagga Wagga, Leeton, Goulburn, Orange and Tamworth this month for the 2008 Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities workshops.

The workshops, which educate rural communities about best practice environmental management, advised that the best contribution toward a more sustainable future was to start sustainable projects at home and in the community.

“The idea behind the workshops is to get down to a grassroots level and physically travel to these rural places to motivate people about sustainability. With over 33 years experience in delivering community programs, such as our flagship Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities, Keep Australia Beautiful NSW has a wealth of knowledge about preserving and sustaining our environment. It’s so important that we share this knowledge with the broader community,” CEO of Keep Australia Beautiful Peter McLean said.

All five workshops proved very popular with councils, schools and community members getting involved in forum discussions on how to improve their local environment. A range of issues were addressed including the benefits of participating in the Tidy Towns Sustainable Community Program, and how to attract publicity and funds for community based projects, through to effective litter, waste and water management.

“The workshops aren’t just a great way of connecting with the community about very important environmental issues; they are a way of encouraging action and partnerships. We have seen some extremely valuable partnerships formed in the past between councils, community members, companies and schools which have resulted in real, measurable and long term benefits for the environment,” Peter McLean, CEO of Keep Australia Beautiful NSW said.

Formal, ongoing partnerships were established between Leeton Shire Council and Hornsby Shire Council in 2007, and Bellingen Shire Council and Randwick City Council in May 2008, as current title holders of the Sustainable Cities and Tidy Towns respectively. The partnerships, initiated by Keep Australia Beautiful NSW, have proven to be very successful thus far.

“The partnerships have seen city and country coming together to drive further support, share knowledge, resources and environmental initiatives. I believe that our city cousins could learn a great deal from the high standards of environmental management, enhancement and community pride shown by rural populations,” Peter McLean said.

World Environment Day on the 5th of June is your chance to make a positive contribution toward the environment. The environment is in a state worse than ever before and with the very real threat of climate change, there has never been a more opportune time to join in the fight for our environment.

Why not start an environmental project in your community and enter one of Keep Australia Beautiful NSW programs; Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities, Sustainable Cities, Clean Beaches and Clean Garden Challenge today!

“Every person is capable of making a contribution toward building a sustainable future – Keep Australia Beautiful NSW programs encourage and recognize these often small yet significant achievements,” Peter McLean said.