



**MEDIA RELEASE
27 November 2007**

Forster Public School wins major State environmental award

Forster Public School is celebrating after winning the inaugural Keep Australia Beautiful NSW State Sustainable Garden Challenge. A \$3,000 prize will also be donated to the school to further develop their sustainable gardens. Caroline Chisholm College in Glenmore Park received a Highly Commended award in the school category too.

Sponsored by leading property group Raine & Horne, the Challenge attracted 95 entries from schools, community groups, councils and individuals, who have created and maintained sustainable gardens across NSW.

Gardening guru Don Burke congratulated Forster Public School on its award-winning entry. "It is great to see that a school has taken the top gong. These children will grow up and become the next generation of sustainable gardeners," said Don.

Peter McLean, Chief Executive Officer of Keep Australia Beautiful NSW, has also thanked Forster Public School for its outstanding sustainable gardening efforts, which he says is a great sign environmental issues are becoming more of a focus.

"The aim of the challenge is to encourage everyone to 'do their bit' and that's exactly what Forster Public School's teachers and students have done," said Peter. "Traditionally gardens are huge consumers of valuable resources, especially water. By actively utilising water conservation, composting and plant selection methods, Forster Public School has achieved great, sustainable results."

Angus Raine, Chief Executive Officer of Raine & Horne, said Forster Public School's garden is an inspiration for the rest of the Forster community. "Besides the ecological benefits, sustainable gardens may also add value to a property via reduced maintenance time and costs," added Mr Raine.

In fact, recent research from Raine & Horne found that homebuyers in areas worst affected by water restrictions were prepared to pay premiums of up to \$5,000 for homes with water-saving features such as water tanks.

The full list of category winners includes:

CATEGORY	WINNER	HIGHLY COMMENDED
Individual	Jenni Francis (Dorrigo)	Adam & Denise Woodhams (Mt Colah)
School	Forster Public School	Caroline Chisholm College (Glenmore Park)
Community	Blacktown College of TAFE	Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living (Mount Annan)
Council	Dubbo City Council	Newcastle City Council
STATE OVERALL WINNER	Forster Public School	

The award presentation will be held on 27 November 2007 at Forster Public School (Head Street, Forster) at 2:30pm and media representatives are welcome to attend the event for a photo opportunity.

For further media information or comments on other award recipients, please contact:

Peter McLean on 02 9633 3380 or 0416 227 158

Emily Doyle on 0409 463 227

Angus Raine on 0409 920 697