



# Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards 2022



Thank you to our  
awards supporters



## **Keep Australia Beautiful NSW**

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Newtown NSW 2042  
[www.kabnsw.org.au](http://www.kabnsw.org.au)

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### **Disclaimer**

The information in this booklet has been provided by the Award nominees and referees chosen by them. Every effort has been made to present all the information contained in this booklet as accurately as possible.

Cover image: 2022 Overall Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Award Winner - Scone



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## About KAB NSW

Keep Australia Beautiful NSW (KAB NSW) are the leaders in transforming behaviour to create a less littered and more environmentally sustainable New South Wales.

With a legacy of successful community engagement since 1975, our programs inspire individuals, students, organisations, businesses and government to actively care for their local environment.

Our flagship Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns and Sustainable Cities awards programs have been running since 1981. They encourage, recognise and reward local communities, councils, businesses and schools for their outstanding efforts to reduce litter, increase recycling and beautify and improve their local environment.

Our Annual Litter Congress is Australia's only dedicated litter conference that shares successful projects, research, knowledge and best practice in area of litter prevention, management and anti-littering strategies.

Our hugely popular EnviroMentors® sustainability education service is a mobile service to schools, reaching every corner of NSW and covering a full suite of environmental modules.

KAB NSW is an apolitical organisation – we are not activists, we work in partnership with local and state governments, industry, schools and the community to protect and improve our state environment.

We work closely with the NSW Government and partner with them on a range of programs to connect with communities across NSW at a grass-roots level.

Every year the NSW Premier hosts an annual charity dinner for KAB NSW which brings together business, local government, corporates, community groups and industry.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
SYDNEY

Message from

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC  
Governor of New South Wales  
and Mr Dennis Wilson**

Creating sustainable and beautiful environments has been the mission of Keep Australia Beautiful NSW for the past 47 years. Throughout its history, in partnership with governments, councils, businesses, organisations, schools and local communities, it has consistently been a powerful catalyst for transformative behavioural change.

The flagship programs - *Sustainable Cities* and *Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns* - have been instrumental in engaging individuals, organisations and students in a wide range of initiatives to reduce litter and waste, reduce energy use and recycle resources.

While there is always more that can be done, Keep Australia Beautiful NSW and NSW communities can take heart that the standard of this year's entries is among the highest ever received. It is also noteworthy that efforts have not stopped with the Award presentations - entrants are undertaking programs of continuous improvement to practices, processes and technologies.

Wherever we are across our State, our natural and built environments are as important to our mental and spiritual well-being as they are to our physical health and that of our planet.

Thank you, Keep Australia Beautiful NSW and supporters and sponsors for inspiring us to create NSW communities and environments that are clean, green, engaging and beautiful places to live.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Margaret Beazley".

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC  
Governor of New South Wales**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dennis Wilson".

**Mr Dennis Wilson**



# Message from the CEO

Welcome to the 2022 Keep Australia Beautiful NSW (KAB NSW) Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards.

The Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Program endeavours to deliver an inclusive and positive platform that encourages shared learnings and inspires environmental action at the local level. The program recognises and celebrates those rural and regional communities who are pioneering the path towards a more sustainable future.

We could not be prouder to have received such outstanding entries in this year's program. As a long-time follower of the Tidy Towns program, it is so encouraging to see our participants initiatives reflect the most pressing environmental issues. With 2022 being a year of recovery from the effects of the pandemic, the universal theme has been an even stronger sense of community spirit. The sheer amount of collaboration between the community groups, Councils, businesses, schools, and individuals involved in each project will pave the way for continued progress moving forward as the challenges we face evolve.

Knowing just how responsive our community is, we can confidently look forward to future entries aimed at climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture initiatives, and further empowering Indigenous communities to improve social and environmental outcomes for us all.

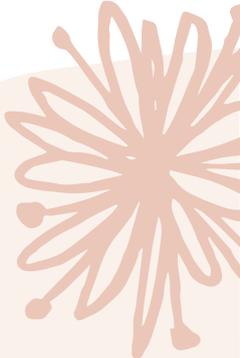
This booklet profiles the 2022 winners and acknowledges their exceptional efforts and commitment to keeping Australia beautiful.

On behalf of KAB NSW, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the judging panel and the on ground assessor for their commitment to the unenviable task of selecting the winners, our sponsors the NSW Environmental Protection Agency, and congratulate all who are profiled here for their inspirational work.



Val Southam  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Keep Australia Beautiful NSW**

**Thank you to our awards program  
and event supporters**



# About the Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards Program

Since 1981, the Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Program has been rewarding and recognising projects around litter, waste management, recycling, heritage, community spirit and other environmental areas in towns across the breadth of NSW.

Winning the title of the “State’s Tidiest Town” has become a much sought-after honour and is highly contested by small and large towns alike.

All regional towns, councils, community groups, businesses, schools and individuals are invited to take part in this program by submitting an entry in one of the 16 categories or the Overall Award. The State Overall winner has the potential to become a finalist for the National Keep Australia Beautiful Award and may also host the awards weekend for the year following their win.

## AWARD POPULATION CATEGORIES

- Population category A: up to 1,500
- Population category B: 1,501 - 5,000
- Population category C: 5,001 - 12,000
- Population category D: 12,001 - 23,000
- Population category E: > 23,000



## FURTHER INFORMATION + CONTACTS

For further information on how to enter and award submissions go to <https://www.kabnsw.org.au/sustainable-communities-tidy-towns/>

Alternatively, please contact Keep Australia Beautiful NSW on  
E: [awards@kabnsw.org.au](mailto:awards@kabnsw.org.au) or T: 02 8594 4000

# AWARDS CATEGORIES



## Resource Recovery and Waste Minimisation Award

The Resource Recovery and Waste Management Award (*sponsored by the NSW EPA*) is for a project or program that tackles a range of waste and recycling problems through waste minimisation and reduction; effective and innovative waste and recycling programs or incentivising behaviour change.



## Litter Prevention Award

The Litter Prevention Award (*sponsored by the NSW EPA*) is for a project or program that reduces or prevents litter. This could involve behaviour change techniques, the creation of partnerships or networks or the development of effective infrastructure and place design.



## Circular Economy Award

The Circular Economy Award is for operationally viable projects in the circular economy which do, or could potentially, divert solid materials, fluids or energy from waste streams and return them to the productive economy.



## Heritage and Culture Award

The Heritage and Culture Award is for community projects that enhance and protect our unique, and built heritage, including celebration of a region's heritage.



## Recycled Organics Award

The Recycled Organics Award is for projects and programs that minimise the loss of organics to landfill and supports the community to avoid, reduce and recycle organics.



## Renewable Energy Award

The Renewable Energy Award is for progress and achievements in developing products or services associated with renewable energy.



### **Communication and Engagement Award**

The Communication & Engagement Award is for programs and projects that inspire environmental action, through raising awareness, developing and building partnerships to share resources and creation of spaces and places for environmental education.



### **Community Spirit and Inclusion Award**

The Community Spirit and Inclusion Award recognises communities successfully addressing challenges through proper planning, community partnerships and real outcomes. This award is given to communities that refuse to 'give in'.



### **Habitat and Wildlife Conservation Award**

The Habitat and Wildlife Conservation Award is for projects which create, restore and sustain biodiversity of our native flora and fauna in urban environments, creating wildlife corridors and encouraging habitat conservation.



### **Waterways and Marine Protection Award**

The Waterways & Marine Protection Award *(incorporating Clean Beaches)* is for programs and actions that create, restore and enhance our natural waterways and beaches by advocating for coast and waterway protection, encouraging community participation in the protection of waterways and beaches and sustainable management of water resources.



### **Young Legend's Award**

The Young Legend's Award recognises individuals or groups of people 25 years and under who demonstrate outstanding commitment to their environment and show leadership in pursuing environmental outcomes.



### **Overall Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Award**

The Overall Award is awarded to a community in a town, village or regional centre that has successfully undertaken projects or actions in multiple areas of environmental sustainability and social inclusion across the range of award categories.

# AWARDS JUDGES & ASSESSORS



**Doug MacDonald**

Doug has experience across a broad range of fields, including Civil Engineering, specialising in design and construction, as well as Landuse Planning.

He has also specialised in sustainable urban development, with a focus on low impact development, energy efficient transport and waste management and recycling.

Additionally, Doug has lent his professional dexterity streetscape improvements and bushland management and maintenance, including bushfire mitigation and rehabilitation.



**Ana Corpuz**

Senior Policy Officer, Development  
Water Infrastructure NSW, DPE

Ana has over 25 years experience in policy, regulatory review, project management, strategic planning, technical analysis, research and reporting, communication, stakeholder engagement, organisational systems, benchmarking and process improvement, governance framework setting and compliance monitoring.

Her areas of expertise include environment and sustainability, water and catchment management, air quality, climate change, waste management, mining and exploration, land use, zoning and redevelopment, transport, contract management and mentoring.



**Dr Maryam Esfandbod**

Manager, Business Development  
& Global, CSIRO

Maryam is a Soil Biochemist with strong expertise and experience on remediation of contaminated sites, waste management and organic waste recycling. She plays a key role in linking key Australian industries in agriculture, recycling and environmental remediation to researchers and establishing long-term mutually beneficial relationships.

In addition to university research management and strategy development, Maryam's multi-sectoral career has also spanned applied research, public sector policy and investment roles.



**Layla McNeil**

Waste and Resource Recovery  
Coordinator, CSIRO

Layla has experience in environmental strategic policy development, project and contract management, program delivery, EMS auditing, stakeholder facilitation.

She has knowledge and expertise in developing and delivering strategic environmental and communication plans, cooperative agreements and contracts with multi stakeholders; educational and behaviour change campaigns; environmental auditing, waste and resource management planning; to creating, implementing, reporting and evaluating a variety of sustainability programs.



**Luciano Mesiti**

CEO, Primary Industries  
Education Foundation Australia

Luciano is the CEO of Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia, whose aim is to promote food and fibre education in schools nationally. Prior to his appointment he was a high school teacher, teaching agriculture and technology.

Luciano has extensive experience in curriculum development in agriculture and technology and is a very passionate advocate of Landcare and sustainable land manage curriculum in schools. He has been a Tidy Towns judge and assessor for over 15 years and a great supporter of Keep Australia Beautiful.



**Tasneem Rangwala**

Consultant and Project Manager,  
Jackson Environment & Planning

Tasneem is a 2020 National Council of Women NSW Australia Day Award winner for research achievements.

She is a dedicated leader driving change towards environmental enhancements. Her skills include environmental impacts assessments, project management, overseeing strategic regulatory programs, compliance audits and driving efficiency via enhancing quality of processes.

Tasneem has over 25 years' experience working across a range of industries including Environmental Consultancy, State Government Regulatory Authorities and the Biomedical Engineering field.



### Matthew Taylor

Owner/Director, Heart HR

As a former CEO of Keep Australia Beautiful NSW, Matthew brings over 7 years' experience from his time managing the organisation, including the Tidy Towns program.

Since leaving KAB, Matthew held a number of roles but his passion for the environment has remained. Currently, he works as HR Manager for a leading environmental consultancy as well as recently setting up his own HR consultancy to support small to medium sized businesses.

Matthew lives in Newcastle, NSW and enjoys competitive road cycling in his spare time.



### Dr Trevor Thornton

Senior Lecturer - Hazardous Materials Management, Deakin University

Trevor is currently employed as a Senior Lecturer at Deakin University and also consults widely on processes to develop and implement programs to reduce environmental impacts for a broad range of industry sectors.

Trevor has a wealth of experience, particularly in areas associated with waste management.

Trevor has been working in various aspects of the waste management industry for over 30 years as a regulator and consultant.



### Chris Tola

Road Safety Education Officer, Upper Hunter Shire Council, Publisher – Surfing Roadies & Yahoo! Surf Awareness School

Chris has had an active involvement with many organisations including Surfrider Foundation, Take 3, the Australian Coastal Society, the Australian Radioactivity Protections and Nuclear Safety Agency, National Parks and Wildlife and the EPA.

Since 2002, Chris has periodically been the Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Beach Challenge National Assessor and State Judge, and the Tidy Towns Assessor; and was the Keep Australia Beautiful (NSW) Program Manager for Clean Beach Challenge and the Tidy Towns Program (2002 – 2005).



### Kristen Tola

Heritage Consultant, RPS Group

Kristen Tola is a heritage professional working in the commercial industry with a focus on Aboriginal and historical heritage.

She has worked in local government, cultural institutions and museums and combines her administrative experience in client services and financial management with cultural heritage and archaeological reporting.

Qualified in Cultural Heritage and Museums Studies (Heritage Practice) and archaeology, she understands place heritage, conservation management, significance, interpretation, and heritage planning.



### Richard Wiesel

Senior Coordinator City Image, Blacktown City Council

Rick has had a varied career in the registered club industry, community development sector and local government. Rick currently leads Blacktown City Councils public place cleansing programs, street cleaning and graffiti removal teams and works in partnership with colleagues and agencies to deliver major street art and public place improvement projects. Rick lives in the Lower Blue Mountains with his family and enjoys playing guitar, golf and volunteering for Keep Australia Beautiful and junior rugby league.



# 2022 Overall Winner

## SCONE

### POPULATION CATEGORY C

Scone has been practicing principles of sustainability as a matter of survival for many years and although new to the Sustainable Communities–Tidy Town Awards, having established a committee in 2021, their projects and programs were exemplary. It is evident that the Scone community has been committed to sustainability principles for a long time, their thinking is clear and purposeful, and they have an inspiring ability to overcome challenges and motivate the community to work towards a better future.

Scone's projects have been as diverse as the individuals and groups involved in seeing through each of the 7 initiatives entered, and what has made Scone stand out is a clear collective vision for what a sustainable Scone looks like.

The Principle and students of Belltrees Public School have excelled in three categories, and all it took was an excursion to Mulloon Creek Natural Farms to completely transform the way this community thought about their relationship with the land. Learning from a regenerative agriculture farm tour the four bright-eyed students at Belltrees Public School and community members from Scone identified several things that they could do to both heal the land and develop a sustainable relationship with it. By hosting their own field days for Ellerston and Murrurundi Public School's to teach others what they had learned, they became inspirational ambassadors for promoting holistic and regenerative land management practices.

The spirit from Belltrees spread across Scone and the Scone Tidy Towns Committee which inspired many other projects aimed at helping the community to recover and for the environment to flourish. One such initiative was the 'Highways and Byways Healing the Land' project which sought to address the lack of nesting places and habitat in the area for birds and wildlife. In close collaboration with Upper Hunter Shire Council an area of bushland was restored after years of drought. The habitat and biodiversity restoration has been celebrated by the local community and is encouraging the Scone Tidy Towns Committee to continue their work.

The ability of Scone's community groups to collaborate with one another and to work towards a shared goal is the perfect demonstration of what the Sustainable Communities – Tidy Towns program is all about.

Congratulations Scone!



# 2022 Population Category Winners & Finalists



## WINNER

Population Category A

### Murrurundi

The community spirit in Murrurundi is dazzling, despite facing four 'once in a lifetime' events in recent years – prolonged droughts, floods, a mouse plague, and a pandemic – this small but big-hearted communities' ability to overcome and persevere is outstanding.

The diverse array of projects entered in this year's Awards – nine in total from a population of 847 – does not even begin to touch the surface of the number of community groups, volunteers, schools, students, Council members, and neighbouring residents who have been involved in seeing their projects to completion.

Murrurundi is a community that always has sustainability front of mind, and with numerous projects stemming from students at Blandford Public School and Murrurundi Preschool, it is evident that their community spirit and commitment to creating a more beautiful world is part of their DNA.

Murrurundi continues to successfully undertake projects in multiple areas of environmental sustainability and social inclusion across the range of award categories. The community punches well above its weight.



## FINALIST

Population Category A

### Bowraville

For decades the Bowraville area has been under threat from clearing of native vegetation, uncontrolled stock access and gravel extraction. These changes, combined with a series of large flood events, have resulted in a degraded river system, poor water quality, and fragmented riparian vegetation with heavy weed infestations.

Acknowledging their intrinsic connection to country and the importance of these environmental functions for the future prosperity of the town, the Bowraville community, together with landholders and local council, have collaborated and supported each other to make outstanding contributions to their environment and community.

Bowraville's progressive projects include a large-scale river restoration and riparian vegetation regeneration through the Bowraville Connections project, instilling a sense of respect for their town and environment through the Bowraville Dray and Main Street beautification, and reconnecting Indigenous youth to country, rivers, and ocean beaches by forming the Land & Sea Rangers thanks to the MiiMi Aboriginal Corporation.



## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category B

### **Koolewong-Tascott-Point Clare**

Nestled into the expansive Central Coast Council is the beautiful Koolewong, Point Clare and Tascott region, a small residential community located along the western foreshore of Brisbane Water between Woy Woy and Gosford.

The Koolewong, Point Clare and Tascott Progress Association was established in 1915 and have since been the community's hub for active involvement in environmental and public projects. In recent years they have been involved in the Bungaree Reserve project, the Koolewong Foreshore & Oyster Jetty design, and improving disability access to the Point Clare Railway Station.

The Bungaree Reserve Upgrade project involved widespread planting with endemic vegetation and comprehensive weed management with the aim to protect biodiversity and maintain a healthy koala population in the Reserve. The Association are actively involved in the monthly Bushcare working days with support from Central Coast Council. They have also been working to maintain and update heritage and cultural sites throughout the region, notably the recent commemoration of King Bungaree, a renowned Aboriginal elder recognised as the first Aboriginal man to circumnavigate Australia by boat.

We look forward to many more entries for the KPCTPA in years to come.



## WINNER

Population Category E

### **Queanbeyan-Palerang**

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council uses a very strategic approach in planning for the future resilience and has prepared many policies to guide it, including the Operational Sustainability Policy, Operations Climate Action Plan, and a Waste Management Strategy. Council demonstrates an active and holistic approach to waste management practices and litter prevention with a high amount of collaboration with local communities and businesses.

Heritage and culture values are high within Council as well, with the Rusten House Art Centre rehabilitation project to become the community's hub for art and a celebration of the region's history. Whilst remaining deeply connected to its past, Queanbeyan has innovatively engaged its youth for the future with the Minecraft Sustainable Design Competition which was set-up during COVID to engage with local youth groups on environmental education themes. With communications and engagement at the heart of Councils mantra, the Open Day on Mt Jerrabomberra showcased the healthy open forest and woodlands with available disabled access and a crash course on using a plant identification phone app, connecting more of the community to its expansive natural assets.

## CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

# Resource Recovery & Waste Minimisation

Award category  
sponsored by:



## WINNER

Population Category A



### Reclaim, Recycle, Reuse for Reward

MiiMi Aboriginal Corporation

MiiMi identified that their youth had lost their connections to country and it has made it an imperative that they get back out on country to recognise and protect their environment. MiiMi cooperated with Plastic Collective to provide training to young community members on monitoring litter on country and sea precincts within the Nambucca Valley.

The Land and Sea Rangers were formed, and they were provided with the opportunity for further education and ongoing support in plastic resource recovery and recycling. Removing plastic pollution from the waterways isn't a new concept but commoditising it is. This project obtained a Shruder that was built uniquely for Bowraville to address specific litter problems, recovered plastics are now pelletised, stockpiled, and then distributed to manufacturers.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category A



### Blokes, Bottles & Bins

Jerilderie Men's Shed Inc

Initially, The Jerilderie Men's Shed sought to become part of the Return and Earn Project by being a collection depot for the local community. Due to not meeting the criteria, the Men's Shed members rethought the idea and turned it into a Fund-Raising Project.

The key outcomes/achievements from this project are: Over 100,000 recyclable containers kept out of Jerilderie landfill per year. The whole community is in some way involved in this project.

Children are learning about this small step in recycling by their parents modeling this very important lesson in caring for the environment. The project evokes community involvement and pride and funds are being raised that will ensure the continuation of the project.



## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category B



### **A Moving Feast: Small Acts of Kindness**

Bungendore Rotary Group

It was brought to the attention of Bungendore Rotarians, Karen & Glen Toscan, that the Tumut and Batlow areas needed urgent assistance after the 2019/20 bushfires. With many families losing homes, sheds and their source of income, it became apparent that the collection of goods, second-hand furniture and household items to be redistributed would repurpose a lot of materials destined for the tip to a much-needed cause.

The Feast adapts with each collection. The Toscanos had been working on the ground in the Tumut/Batlow region, assisting and providing business solutions and mental health support after the fires. The successful infrastructure of groups and individuals has been set in place for the future. "With the change in Australia's weather pattern, more disasters may or will occur and we will be ready to help."

## WINNER

Population Category D



### **Singleton Council**

Singleton Tidy Towns

Community consultation has shown that there is a local expectation of meaningful action to minimise Singleton's environmental footprint without compromising the economic viability or social vibrancy of the Singleton community now and into the future.

The installation of the recycled water system at the Singleton Sewer Treatment Plant is an excellent example of leadership and commitment to such. Staff initiative, ingenuity and dedication to sustainable outcomes saw the reuse and redesign of two decommissioned 50kL water tanks into an incredible resource that would result in the facility saving approximately 20,000kL in potable water - a cost saving of around \$25,000 annually!



Award category sponsored by:



## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category D



### St Brigid's Waste Warrior Warfare

St Brigid's Primary Raymond Terrace

After conducting a whole school waste audit which identified the alarming amount of rubbish that the school was sending to landfill. Playground waste was identified as being critical to the plan and identified other areas of concern. To address the issues, the school purchased seven banks of three brightly coloured bins and decorated them with beautiful stickers of native wildlife, to remind students WHY the school was doing what it was doing.

St Brigid's then considered what waste could be saved from classrooms. Through the Terracycle program, they started collecting old glue sticks and whiteboard markers. To address the large amount of canteen waste, over 350 paper bags a week, the newly formed environmental group have written persuasive texts to the Principal, urging the replacement of paper lunch order bags with reusable bags.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E



### Zero Waste Grocery Shopping

Flame Tree Community Food Co-op

Flame Tree is a cooperative established by a group of sustainable and ethically-minded residents in Wollongong NSW who dreamed of being able to buy food and groceries that were local, organic and package-free at affordable prices.

It is now a thriving store in Thirroul that sells fresh produce, bulk pantry staples, ethical toiletries and cleaning products and more. In line with its values, Flame Tree works hard to minimise waste going to landfill both for its customers and through its shop operations, working with its supply chains to prioritise packaging that can be reused, and recycling almost everything else.



NSW

**EnviroMentors**<sup>®</sup>  
EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

EnviroMentors is a KAB NSW service for Councils to deliver environment and sustainability teaching modules to schools and students across your LGA.

We offer a range of sustainability education programs focussing on motivating individuals and communities to participate in simple and practical ways to live more sustainably every day.

### EnviroMentor Offerings Include

#### Primary School Incursions

Eight EnviroMentors<sup>®</sup> modules, covering waste disposal and minimisation, resource conservation, organic waste recycling, litter, and catchment health. Up to five classes, or approximately 150 students, can participate each day in the incursion-based workshops.

#### Primary and High School Audits

Two audit programs for both primary and high schools, focusing on Waste or Litter. Both are designed for a selection of students to participate in the audit itself, education and discussion on waste services and litter can be incorporated for more classes to participate.

#### Teacher Training

Tailored for each LGA and available to Early Childhood, Primary and High School Teachers and teaching staff. Teachers and school staff learn how waste is sorted and disposed of, as well as resources and initiatives they can incorporate in school life.



If you are from a regional or rural NSW council and would like to learn more about our EnviroMentors Program, we would love to hear from you.

 [education@kabnsw.org.au](mailto:education@kabnsw.org.au)

 [www.kabnsw.org.au/enviromentors](http://www.kabnsw.org.au/enviromentors)

## CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

# Litter Prevention

Award category  
sponsored by:



## WINNER

Population Category B



### We CARE Eurobodalla

Eurobodalla Shire Council

We CARE aims to reduce single-use plastic and take away waste. It is a business and community engagement and education program guided by the principles of CARE; Carry, Avoid, Re-use and Encourage. The We CARE program works with local businesses including food, accommodation and retail to reduce single-use plastic by helping them make the change to environmentally sustainable products and packaging by;

- finding environmentally sustainable products that suit them
- connecting them with local suppliers
- offering trial packs to test available products
- brainstorming other creative ways to reduce single-use and takeaway waste.

Tangaroa Blue, local suppliers and Eurobodalla Business Chambers are key stakeholders. So far, 115 businesses, community groups and other organisations have signed onto the program.

## WINNER

Population Category C



### NSW Visitor Economy Litter Prevention

Take 3 for the Sea

Building on its brand and educational expertise in plastic/litter reduction, Take 3 collaborated with NSW NPWS Parks Eco Pass Operators and Outdoors NSW/ACT on a EPA Community Litter Grant Round 6 - First Wave: NSW Tourism Industry Pilot Program #Take3forNSW ('First Wave'), to create awareness and develop a shared vision for litter prevention in the Visitor Economy Industry (VEI).

A significant outcome of First Wave was the NSW Visitor Economy Litter Prevention Strategy 2030 - aimed at creating strategic partnerships and ensuring litter prevention strategies are understood, delivered, and integrated within the NSW VEI. Ground Swell represents Phase 2 of the Strategy. This whole-of-VEI approach to litter prevention has already secured support and commitment to reducing visitor litter from significant key stakeholders within the NSW VEI.



## WINNER

Population Category E



### **Butt Free Byron Shire Phase #2**

Byron Shire Council

The project focused on visitor education and raising awareness on the impacts of litter to the Cape Byron Marine Park. The project aimed to address the increase in litter in public spaces that coincides with the large volume of visitors during peak holiday periods.

To tackle this issue, council developed unique and creative video resources that were displayed in local tourism venues and the Ballina Airport to help reach the visitor audiences. Council also increased enforcement, worked with local businesses and partnered with local NFP's and organizations to successfully achieve the key objective of a 40% reduction in litter volume. Council learnt to be adaptable and innovative, in this case changing from face- to-face education events to video and online education.



## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category D



### Lifeline Tipshop

Lifeline Broken Hill Country to Coast Tipshop

Lifeline Broken Hill Country to Coast provide services for Suicide Prevention, they do this by running op shops and the Broken Hill Tip Shop, absolutely everything that can be sold, repurposed, salvaged or recycled in some way, is. This provides much needed cheap goods for the community and all the money made goes back into saving lives.

Almost anything you can think of they sell. If they cannot sell an item, it is then turned into scrap metal, or the clothing is sold as cut rag or exported overseas. Lifeline has just moved location into a new shed next door to enable them to transform the current shed into a much bigger area for resource recovery. This has enabled a constant stream of clean items to restock the shop and many more options to recycle and upcycle unsellable items.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E



### Greening the Green

Albury City Council

The Greening the Green project aims to boost soft plastics recycling by rewarding sporting clubs with free equipment made from recycled soft plastics they've collected. In 2021, Albury City supported two local sporting clubs in collecting soft plastics by assisting with the project.

In total, 180kg of soft plastics were collected and both clubs received a park bench made from recycled soft plastics in their club colours. The results and learnings are being used to engage with other sporting clubs across NSW to implement soft plastics recycling at their clubs and help them to reduce their reliance on soft plastics through improved purchasing habits.

Overall, this has been a positive trial program, the first of its kind, which strives to teach the volunteer community within sporting clubs purchasing habits and opportunities for the recycling of soft plastic materials.



## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category A



### **Paddock to Plate, Garden to Classroom**

Belltrees Public School

Regenerative agriculture is the flavor in the classroom at Belltrees Public School. Students grow their own fruit, vegetables, eggs and lamb and serve up a delicious collection of subjects to enable learning about science and agriculture.

After the regenerative agriculture road trip and then running the schools own field day, students built on the 143 years of local agricultural knowledge and designed and created a sustainable regenerative farm.

Through terraforming, creating dams, wetlands and leaky weirs, an orchard was planted using sustainable methods such as mulching, irrigation, bees, composting and worm farming. Combined with raised garden and wicky beds, purchased from Return and Earn proceeds, students grew produce to eat in class and to sell in the school marketplace. A truly tasty curriculum.

## WINNER

Population Category D



### **St Brigid's Waste Warrior Warfare**

St Brigid's Primary Raymond Terrace

St Brigid's school was drowning in rubbish! After investigation, they were shocked to learn that the school was contributing 23 x 240 litre bins a week to landfill.

To address this crisis, an action plan for change was created. They purchased new bins and implemented a radical new sorting system which separates playground waste. They sorted glue sticks and pens in the classroom to be sent for recycling and started a plan to overhaul canteen waste.

Initially, this was driven by Year 6 students and a small number of teachers, however, this has now changed, and now the whole school is involved. Not only have they HALVED the schools landfill contribution, but they have changed behaviours for the longterm.

## CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

# Communication & Engagement

## WINNER

Population Category A



## Regenerative Agriculture at Belltrees

Belltrees Public School

The project began very simply, with a conversation. A question to the P&C President Rob Scott, about how Belltrees could revamp the school's agricultural curriculum with the spectre of the worst drought in a century for the Upper Hunter. And this is where Belltrees' journey into regenerative agriculture started.

He said, "Shane, look into a place called Mulloon Creek." From there the students and community went on a journey of excursions and incursions to learn about and teach regenerative agriculture. Students, staff, and parents completed a road trip visiting farms and then developed their own field day to teach Ellerston and Murrurundi PS about what they had learnt. Today the school is a fun, dynamic, and rich learning environment with gardens, animals, leaky weirs and wetlands.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category A



## Murrurundi Seed Library

Murrurundi Preschool

The Seed Library provides encouragement for the community to grow more of their own food and to increase consumption of vegetables. Since the opening of the seed library, there has been an increase in the cost of fruit and vegetables due to supply chain issues and labour shortages following the impacts of COVID-19 and extensive flooding in agricultural areas of NSW.

The opportunity to grow more of their own food can help to ensure people in the community have reliable access to fresh vegetables. The project was initiated by the Murrurundi Preschool and supported by Upper Hunter Shire Council and Murrurundi Men's Shed. Murrurundi Preschool is taking the lead in making the community more resilient to extreme events, all the while encouraging healthier eating.



## WINNER

Population Category C



### The Two-Week Red Bin Challenge

The Great Aussie Waste Challenge

The Two-Week Red Bin Challenge® is an educational campaign that takes a household on a 2-week journey educating them on the reasons why waste needs to be separated and managed correctly, and then shows them how to correctly divert from landfill using the services on their doorstep from council and other recycling streams.

The Challenge changes a household's waste management habits permanently. It excites the participants and inspires continued growth and action around waste management. With an average landfill reduction of 50% across the participants, the effectiveness and flexibility of the communication campaign has captured the attention of various councils as it grows and changes to adapt to specific waste challenges.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E



### Minecraft Sustainable Design Competition

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council

Though Minecraft is not a new game, QPRC developed a new and innovative concept of environmental education for the community. It was thought that engaging the youth with an environmental task may be a great way to host World Environment Day 2022.

As an innovative way to involve the community and in particular schools during "COVID", QPRC hosted a Minecraft Competition with a public viewing of entries and awards night.

To engage with local youth groups on environmental education themes. Each entrant could submit a sustainable design entry to council in the lead up to WED 2022. The 2022 design competition followed the theme, highlighting the need to live sustainably in harmony with nature by bringing transformative changes towards cleaner, greener lifestyles.

## CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

# Community Spirit & Inclusion

## WINNER

Population Category A



### Spring Hill Comes Together

Spring Hill Activities Group/  
Spring Hill Land Managers

Spring Hill Restored – residents and volunteers have come together to rejuvenate the Village, and unite the community through ‘their Village pride.’ Numerous volunteers of Spring Hill Activities Group have worked together to obtain funding to upgrade the recreation ground to refurbish the grounds amenities block to include showers, toilets, and a dump point to encourage grey nomads into the Village.

The efforts from the community will provide long-term benefits to Spring Hill by attracting visitors to this historic town and embedding a strong sense of community engagement. The Group has worked together to overcome challenges, engaged numerous stakeholders, and boosted the confidence of all involved by utilising and celebrating individual skillsets that have contributed to the achievement of a common goal.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category A



### Adopt a Spot

Murrurundi Landcare Tidy Towns  
Committee

Murrurundi Landcare Tidy Towns Committee have actively promoted the benefits of keeping the town of Murrurundi a beautiful scenic place to live and to visit. Several residents took the initiative to take responsibility for their favourite spots in town that needed attention. In 2022, Upper Hunter Shire Council supported the group by purchasing branded signage to promote the program.

The Adopt a Spot project enables the town to maintain and improve the appeal to locals and visitors while not imposing pressure and costs on Council. The sense of ownership the volunteers feel as a result of their efforts is rewarding for them and provides leadership and positive role models in the community.



## WINNER

Population Category B



### **New Playground for Social Inclusion**

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council

After the economic devastation of summer bushfires of 2019/20, Council worked with the Bungendore community to campaign for funding to construct a new adventure-style playground, suitable for a wide range of ages and abilities.

The new playground is enhancing the social connections of Bungendore families and local family and children's organisations.

The project has delivered a recreational and social facility, not only for local community use, but for estimated 212,000 visitors to the town, providing a respite and a rest stop for through-traffic on the busy Kings Highway. The new playground has now become a "destination playground" for tourists, who are also gainfully providing an increase in economic benefit to the Bungendore community.

## WINNER

Population Category C



### **Upper Hunter Shire Council Hall Crawl**

Upper Hunter Shire Council

Over the past several years, the community in the Upper Hunter Shire have experienced adversity through an extreme and prolonged drought, severe bush fires, the COVID-19 pandemic and a mouse plague, which left many locals feeling socially isolated.

Council applied for funding to build resilience in the communities across the local government area through a series of community events to bring people together, access service providers, enjoy entertainment and a shared meal in underutilised local halls.

Community groups were consulted to determine the events to be held in each location, including Bush Bards, live music, bush poetry and Opera in the Hills with a high tea at Moonan Flat, and have been a great way for locals to reconnect.

## CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

# Community Spirit & Inclusion

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category C



### **Kurri Kurri Community Educational Garden**

Kurri Kurri Community Services

The Kurri Kurri Community Garden was designed as a native habitat and food producing garden. As well as being multifunctional, accessible, and inclusive legacy asset for the whole community.

The Kurri Kurri Educational Garden is a journey rather than a destination, that the community is on together. A special place for individuals and community groups to become involved, share experience, knowledge, and skills.

Whether it be the local Primary school, Scout and Guide Groups or the Men's Shed. A person with a Disability, a senior citizen or a young person, the Garden is a place for all.

## WINNER

Population Category E



### **Hampers of Hope**

Hampers of Hope (Griffith)

Hampers of Hope rescue food from local supermarkets, farmers and businesses that would otherwise end up in landfill, preventing it from generating harmful methane gas. Hampers of Hope diligently strive to minimise food wastage and give to those who are desperately in need.

Volunteers collect in excess of 400kg of food per day and create over 130 hampers per week, providing hundreds of meals to local families in crisis including those who are homeless, refugees, asylum seekers or victims of domestic violence. Hampers of Hope also provide meals to the local women's refuge, school breakfast programs and church groups.



## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E



### **Mount Lindsay Rotary Park Project**

Orange City Council

On the 20 November 2021, with the park looking a little untidy and unkept, the 3 Rotary Clubs in Orange came together with the assistance of Orange City Council to undertake some tree planting and general tidying work at Rotary Park. Orange City Council provided the resources with the Rotary Clubs providing the physical labour to undertake the required work. Trees and shrubs were planted to screen a tin shed and to fill in an area on the western embankment that will eventually screen the sight of the back of Dudley Hospital.

Sadly within 1 week of this work being undertaken someone removed a number of the trees planted. The obvious disappointment with this combined effort was short-lived when Newcrest Mine came and offered to restore the work undertaken.

## CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

# Habitat & Wildlife Conservation

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category A



### **Bush Tucker Native Garden**

Blandford Public School

The sustainable food movement is changing how we eat. Whether we eat more in line with the seasons, buy organic, or reduce food waste, by far the most sustainable option is to eat native ingredients - bush tucker.

Through engaging with the traditional custodians of the Wonnarua Nation, Blandford Public School is building on an invaluable source of knowledge around the native species and bush tucker endemic to the region.

The project has helped raise awareness about the value of native species and bush tucker through the planting of the native garden at the school. And hopes to be a catalyst for more awareness and availability of bush tucker.

## WINNER

Population Category B



### **Kindra Conservation**

Coolamon Landcare Group Inc

For years the Kindra Forest was the unofficial town tip, a shooting range and a motor bike speedway. That was until the Grade Three Coolamon Central School students asked the council to help the community to clean it up.

The community worked together with Forestry Corp to fence the area, and before long it was cleaned up and plantings were implemented, which are now on the National Herbarium. Kindra Forest was assessed as a possible Endangered Environmental Community (Box Gum Woodland) sharing 51 Aboriginal cultural sites.

Now with bike and walking tracks, Kindra Forest is an attraction for all to enjoy. "The theme was always to advance the idea that with eyes wide open everyone can have a living museum."



## WINNER

Population Category C



### Highways and Byways Healing the Land

Scone District Garden Club

The main challenge that the Highways and Byways Healing the Land project was seeking to address was the lack of nesting places and habitat in the Scone town area for birds such as pardalotes, robins and thrushes; and small mammals such as sugar and feathertail gliders and medium and small micro bats for habitat.

Together with Upper Hunter Shire Council the STTC identified an area of bushland on the southern boundary of the Bill Rose Sport Complex that needed restoration work to provide a biodiverse habitat and more nesting areas. Funds were from a grant provided by the Missionary Sisters of Service.

Twenty-two nesting boxes were installed, and 127 plants were planted by Garden Club members and Council staff in May 2022.

## WINNER

Population Category D



### Muscle Creek Rehabilitation Project

Muswellbrook Shire Council

The Rehabilitation of Muscle Creek for Community and Environmental Benefit Project has helped transform the once deteriorated Muscle Creek into a thriving environment with vastly improved local habitat. This project has also transformed the low level of community awareness and appreciation of the public toward the local ecosystem.

These challenges were addressed by implementing this project that focused on on-ground works and conducting a wide range of nature-focused community engagement activities. The main stakeholders were Muscle Creek Landcare and Muswellbrook Golf Club.

The key outcome of this project is the enhancement of the natural local habitat and increasing awareness of the local communities and improving their appreciation of their local environment. The project has turned challenges into opportunities as work has been tailored to suit the different target audiences.

# Habitat & Wildlife Conservation



## WINNER

Population Category E



### The Enhancement of Waratah Wetlands

Orange City Council

Waratah Wetlands is situated in North Orange and is crown land under the care and control of Orange City Council. Part of the 17 hectares has sporting fields managed by the Waratah Sporting Club whilst the remainder is a naturally occurring wetland overseen by Orange City Council's Natural Resources Team.

Over the past several years the wetland section has been developed and enhanced with funding from the Water and Environment Alliance and assistance from the local community through Orange City Council's Parks Alive Program.

Since 2018 there have been 14 community events held at Waratahs attracting 192 community members who planted 4,660 native tube stock resulting in a vast improvement in the local biodiversity.

# Heritage & Culture



## WINNER

Population Category A



### Murrurundi 150<sup>th</sup> Train Festival

Murrurundi and District Historical Society Inc

This project was enabled through community cooperation between groups including the Murrurundi and District Historical Society Inc, The 150th Anniversary Committee, Murrurundi Arts and Crafts Council, Upper Hunter Shire Council and several other community groups in Murrurundi, as well many volunteers. By working together, a successful event was planned and coordinated encouraging rail buffs from across the Hunter Valley and NSW to attend the celebrations.

The event included a "Picnic Train" coming to Murrurundi from Newcastle with 300 people onboard. Markets stall, model train displays, and high tea served at the historic Murrurundi Railway Station to celebrate the rich history of the Railway.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category A



### The Bowraville Dray and Main Street

Bowraville Chamber of Commerce

Bowraville's Chamber of Commerce sought to keep the town streets attractive and relevant, and to encourage young people to participate in the town's beautification program. The Bowraville Dray and Main Street are used by the youth of the town as a meeting place and the aim of the beautification program was to encourage them to respect their environment.

The Lions Club and a group of young disadvantage members of Shoretrack have helped to return the sites to their original condition. Council is trying to return the Red Cedars back to health, they are an iconic tree of the area.

## CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

# Heritage & Culture

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category B



### Remembering Our Past

#### Branxton Community Hall

The Branxton Community Hall was once the YMCA hall at Greta Army Camp when used by soldiers, it later became the meeting point for migrants, which was the social hub at the time. The aim was to preserve, retain and share Branxton's past, and to educate visitors and Branxton's youth on its history.

Three silhouettes were installed that were made locally from corrugated iron to represent the history of the Greta Army and Migrant Camp with descriptions on the plaques.

"We wanted to share the history of the descendants of the Greta Army and Migrant Camp. The project demonstrates the need to educate younger generations and to keep our history alive for future generations."

## WINNER

Population Category C



### Literary Festival Patrick White Oration

#### Scone Literary Festival

The mission of the Scone Literary Long Weekend Inc (T/A Scone Literary Festival) is to promote the 'love of words' in all its evolving manifestations and to celebrate the role of literary endeavours in enriching the human experience. In particular, their role is to develop and promote Upper Hunter Valley literary endeavours.

Such is the rich literary heritage that Scone could well be called the 'literary capital' of Australia. That is one of the guiding forces behind the establishment of the Patrick White Oration to celebrate and recognise the contribution of Australia's only Noble Laureate for Literature to the literary heritage of the Upper Hunter Valley.



## WINNER

Population Category E



### Flame of Hope and Reconciliation

Orange City Council

The “Flame of Hope and Reconciliation” is the dream shared by Wiradjuri elder, Uncle Neil Ingram, and local real estate agent, Chris Gryllis. This inaugural National Reconciliation Week event saw the flame brought in relay to the South court on 27 May where a specially designed cauldron was lit in a ceremony featuring traditional dancing.

On one side of the cauldron is written the Wiradjuri word, Ngumba-dal, which means unity. On the other, Yindyamarra, which embodies a deeper meaning of ‘respect’ - “It is Wiradjuri philosophy of respect, respect for all people, all things, especially our Elders.”

It’s hoped this symbol of reconciliation might one day be taken up by communities all around Australia.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E



### Rusten House Art Centre

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council

Rusten House has been a significant building in Queanbeyan since its construction in 1861. It was the region’s main hospital until 1914 and continued to be in high demand as a hospital until the 1940s. Planning for, and delivery of, a restored Rusten House has been both a labour of love and a series of challenges.

It was very much a collaborative effort across Council involving the Arts, Historical, Heritage, Building, Maintenance, Landscaping and Project Management teams, with the support and involvement of the local community. Rusten House has now been restored and operates as an Arts centre, celebrating local visual artists in exhibitions and with permanent recognition of the history and the heritage of this beautiful building.

# Recycled Organics



## WINNER

Population Category C



### **Kurri Kurri Community Educational Garden**

Kurri Kurri Community Services

The Kurri Kurri Community Garden was designed and constructed as a native and food producing garden. The Garden was designed to be multi-functional, accessible, and inclusive legacy asset for the whole community.

Over 150 unemployed people contributed to the project since 2016 with many feeling a sense of personal ownership, showing pride and commitment to project outcomes. Vegetables grown by volunteers are also being supplied to the Centre's Food Shack, to support vulnerable residents.

Local primary schools and a range of community groups have shown great interest in utilising the site for their programs and educational activities. A place built by the Kurri Kurri Community for the Community, the Garden is a legacy asset of which all the stakeholders and the town can be rightly proud of.



# Celebrate your community's achievements by entering the 2023 Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards

Awards Launch

**13 MAR  
2023**

Entries Open

**27 MAR  
2023**

Entries Close

**14 JUL  
2023**

Judging

**AUG - SEP  
2023**

Winners  
Announced

**NOV  
2023**

Details at <https://www.kabnsw.org.au/sustainable-communities-tidy-towns/>

# Waterways & Marine Protection

## WINNER

Population Category A



### **Bowraville Connections - Stage 3**

Nambucca Valley Landcare

Bowraville Connections is a collaborative project focused on enhancing habitat for fish and other species around the freshwater – saltwater interface at Bowraville, by protecting against bed level lowering and bank erosion, reducing weed cover, increasing native vegetation and improving the amenity of the area helping to create connection between community and river.

Bowraville Connections Stage 3 has recently been completed and consisted of works that involved stream bed and riverbank protection, introduction of control structures and the use of woody debris to help reduce erosion. Weed control along the bank has removed a large number of woody weeds clearing space for riparian plantings. Many rainforest trees were planted on the riverbank as part of this project thanks to the help of local volunteers.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category A



### **Dirty Dusty Paddocks to Water Wonderland**

Belltrees Public School

From an agricultural viewpoint, Belltrees Public School's paddocks were experiencing soil degradation, nutrient-rich deficiencies, soil run off and lack of soil moisture, and had just gone through a devastating drought. It was evident that a change in water management practices was required, and regenerative agriculture was identified as the answer.

Water management is key in the bush as animals need to drink, plants need to be watered and creatures need habitat. After extensive upskilling through excursions and incursion the school community created a water wonderland, where the paddocks were terraformed with contour banks, wetlands, and leaky weirs.

Run-off was directed into a new orchard and *Lomandra longifolia* was planted to filter water to prevent silt entering the local Hunter River. From a dirty dusty paddock, Belltrees Public School has created a leaky water wonderland.



## WINNER

Population Category E



### **Tuggerah Lakes Changemakers' Course**

Central Coast Council

Tuggerah Lakes has a massive 790km<sup>2</sup> catchment (larger than the country of Singapore!) and is facing increasing pressures from urban development, threatening habitat of the endangered White's Seahorse, Spotted-Tailed Quoll, Little Tern and the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater.

The Changemakers' Course empowers community-led, nature-positive initiatives that protect and restore Tuggerah Lakes. Passionate community members participated in a series of workshops and excursions to develop expertise in areas that upskill them to confidently design and implement their own waterway protection project from start to finish.

A team of mentors and expert trainers were engaged from the Local Aboriginal Land Council, Take3, Clean4Shore, Landcare, Waterwatch and the Community Environment Network. Council awarded promising projects with grants of up to \$5,000, with funding assistance from the Australian Government.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E



### **Surfrider 'Ocean Friendly' Drain Buddies**

Surfrider Foundation South Coast

Surfrider Ocean Friendly Drain Buddies are designed to capture rubbish before it hits the beaches and harbour. They are a heavy-duty basket which fits into the stormwater pits around key pedestrian areas of Wollongong to catch litter, organic debris and sediment while letting water pass through. Drain Buddies are proudly 'proactive' rather than 'reactive'. Beach cleans should be the last solution after clever methods have been applied to collect waste.

The litter caught by the Drain Buddies is collected, sorted, analysed and recorded in the Australian Marine Debris Initiative database. This helps to understand what people are throwing away, and where they are littering. This information can now be used to shape education programs and more importantly, design campaigns and strategies to reduce litter at its source.



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