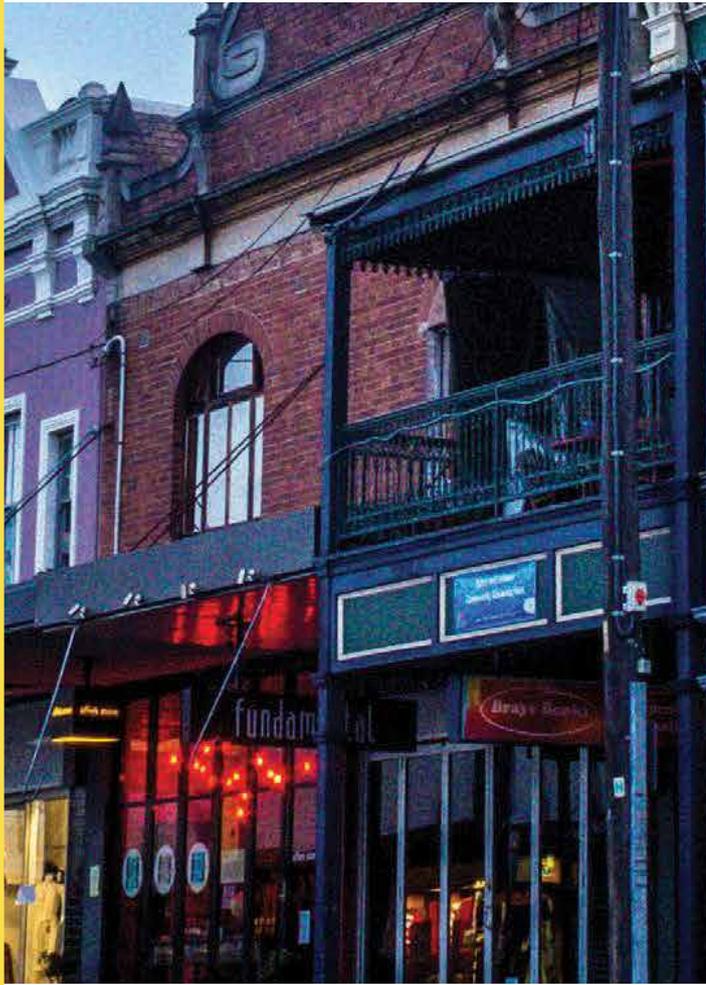


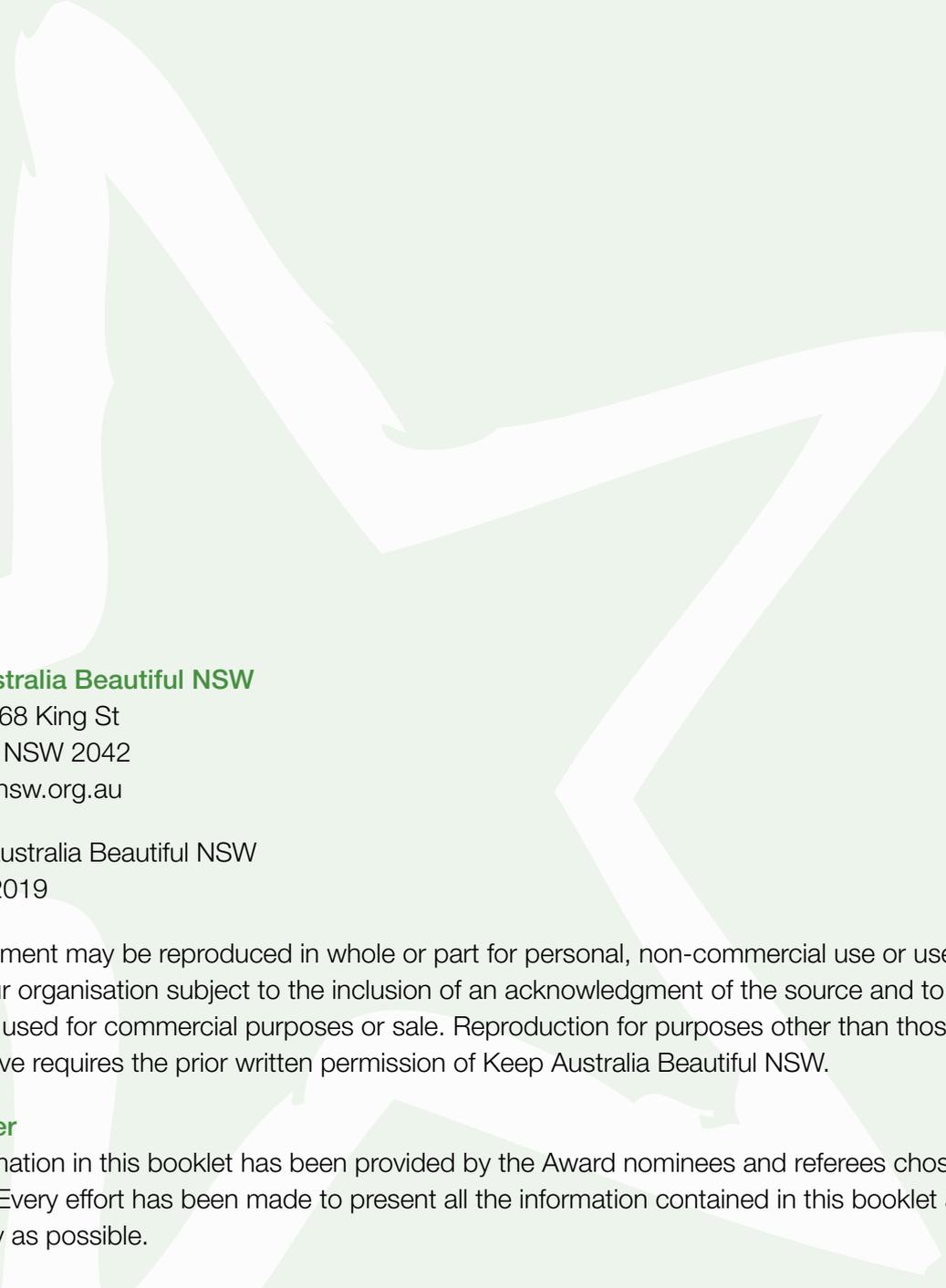


# SUSTAINABLE CITIES AWARDS 2019



Thank you to our awards supporters





## **Keep Australia Beautiful NSW**

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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.

# Table of Contents

About Keep Australia Beautiful NSW	2
Awards Judges	2
Message from the CEO	3
Thank you to our Awards Sponsors	3
About the Sustainable Cities Awards	4
Awards Categories	5
Overall 2019 Award Winner and Finalist	7
<b>Category Award Winners &amp; Entries</b>	
Waste Less, Recycle More Waste Minimisation Award	9
Don't be a Tosser! Litter Action Award	11
Return and Earn Litter Prevention Award	13
Heritage and Culture Award	18
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Award	19
Habitat and Wildlife Conservation Award	20
Coastal and Waterways Protection Award	21
Recycled Organics Award	22
Renewable Energy Award	24
Environmental Communication Award	25
School's Environmental Achievement Award	27
Young Legend's Environmental Award	29
Community Spirit and Inclusion Award	30
Circular Economy Award	32
Response to Climate Change Award	33

# About Keep Australia Beautiful NSW



Keep Australia Beautiful NSW is the premier non-profit organisation leading behaviour change by engaging the community to continually improve our local environment.

Over our 40-year history we have built a state-wide network of dedicated businesses, community groups, councils, schools and individuals assisting our causes.

We deliver many programs throughout the state to promote sustainability and reduce litter:

- Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Awards
- Sustainable Cities Awards
- EnviroMentors®
- Annual Litter Congress

To find out more visit [www.kabnsw.org.au](http://www.kabnsw.org.au)

KAB NSW wishes to  
sincerely thank the  
2019 Sustainable Cities  
Awards Judging Panel

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Nicole Palmer

Heather Ranclaud

Peter Clark

# Message from the CEO



Welcome to the 2019 Keep Australia Beautiful NSW (KAB NSW) Sustainable Cities Awards. The Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities Awards Program is an environmental and community program for local councils and their communities.

Projects that not only enhance the environment but improve the standard of living and well-being of urban communities have been a hallmark of the activities that have been recognised by awards through this program since 1994. The Sustainable Cities Awards inspires councils and their communities to make a genuine and lasting contribution to their area, with partnerships between local authorities, businesses, community groups, schools and individuals.

This booklet profiles the 2019 entries 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 for their commitment to the unenviable task of selecting the winners and congratulates all who are profiled here for their inspirational work.

Val Southam  
Chief Executive Officer  
Keep Australia Beautiful NSW

Thank you to our awards supporters





# About the Sustainable Cities Awards



The Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities Awards Program is a community and environmental awards program for metropolitan Sydney councils and their communities. Projects that not only enhance the environment but improve the standard of living and well-being of urban communities have been a hallmark of the activities that have been recognised by awards through this program since 1994. The Sustainable Cities Awards inspires councils and their communities to make a genuine and lasting contribution to their area, with partnerships between local authorities, businesses, community groups, schools and individuals.

The Sustainable Cities Awards Program incorporates two levels of awards, the individual category awards and the Overall Sustainable Council Award..

These two levels recognise both individual and/or holistic projects and programs. Participants have advised us of numerous social, environmental and economic benefits of entering the program:

- Increased community pride and morale and physical, mental & social well-being;
- Social interaction & co-operation between council, community members, groups and partners;
- Strengthening of current partnerships or initiation of new ones between councils, community members and local groups and businesses. Permanent recognition for winners, creating excitement and motivation and valuable feedback on all award submissions;
- Networking opportunities between industry, state and local government, and environmental leaders and experts;
- Recognition of good governance in local government;
- Opportunities to showcase and celebrate the innovative work, expertise and vision of organisations or projects
- Increased valuable media exposure for the local area and community projects;
- Opportunity for knowledge sharing and exchange of ideas between different local government areas and their communities. .

# Awards Categories

## Overall Award – NSW’s Most Sustainable City for 2019



The Overall Award is awarded to a metropolitan council that has successfully undertaken projects or actions in at least four areas of environmental sustainability and social inclusion. The areas covered are included in the following award categories.

Projects completed by outside organisation’s within the local government area will be considered as part of the four areas.

## Waste Less, Recycle More Waste Minimisation

Sponsored by  
NSW EPA



The Waste Less, Recycle More Award 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.

## Don’t be a Tossler! Litter Action

Sponsored by  
NSW EPA



The Don’t be a Tossler! Litter Action Award 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.

## Return and Earn Litter Prevention

Sponsored by  
Return and Earn



The Return and Earn Litter Prevention Award is for a program or project that provides for and encourages the use of the Return and Earn Scheme in a local area through development and promotion of facilities, community engagement or innovative use of the Scheme to benefit a particular community or group.

## Habitat and Wildlife Conservation



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.

## Heritage and Culture

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.



## Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Award is for community projects that enhance and protect Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in a local area or region, including:



## Young Legend's Environmental



The Young Legend's Environmental 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.

## School's Environmental Achievement



The School's Environmental Achievement Award is for New South Wales schools that can demonstrate outstanding sustainability achievement, sustainable practices, reducing their environmental impact and leading the community by example.

## Environmental Communication



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

## Recycled Organics



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.

## Coastal and Waterways Protection



incorporating Clean Beaches

The Coastal and Waterways Protection Award 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.

## Circular Economy



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.

## Sustainable Projects



The Sustainable Projects Award recognises innovations in, and the application of technology to achieve improved environmental performance, within their spheres of influence.

## Renewable Energy



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

## Community Spirit and Inclusion



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'.

## Response to Climate Change



The Response to Climate Change Award recognises actions taken by communities to tackle climate change through practical, long-term solutions and educating the public about the causes and effects of climate change and what individuals can do to take action.

# Overall Sustainable Cities Award Winner 2019

## Cumberland Council

The Cumberland community is served by a newly amalgamated Council from parts of Parramatta and the former Holroyd and Auburn City Councils.

They have shown they are clear leaders with a very diverse range of programs and activities focused on the environment, community inclusion, integration and connection. The community has a vast range of opportunities and options to contribute to the environment and community wellbeing through these programs.

Programs such as Discover Cumberland and Refugee in my Neighbourhood, show an active commitment to the diverse Cumberland community and a desire to integrate understanding, resilience and empathy into all Council does.

Cumberland has an impressive connection with schools, youth, ethnic groups, refugee and senior's community groups.

There are sustainable and lasting partnerships within Cumberland that allow greater synergies and an increased flow on, from all they set out to do. Beehives, community gardens, organics management and biodiversity volunteers to name a few.

Council is very active in this space. 300 volunteers in 2018 and growing, at 30,000 hours plus the in-kind cost of \$1, 056,298, makes the volunteer contribution in this Council area exceedingly valuable.



# 2019 Overall Finalist

## Bayside Council

Bayside Council have shown consistency in their approach to their community and has a comprehensive range of programs that are well planned and developed, considered and executed.

It's litter programs and community waste events focus on accessibility and ease of use whilst maintaining viable, long term solutions.

Bayside Council has strong partnerships with their community to conduct clean ups, tree planting, rehabilitation and bush regeneration

programs and a range of other diverse community focused programs. An example is their bushland regeneration which in 2018/19 Council undertook in 18 priority natural areas. In comparison to last financial year, registered BushCare volunteers increased from 86 to 138 and approximately 600 in-kind to 1709 hours annually.

Bayside Council continues to think outside the box and develop creative and innovative solutions to litter, waste and community issues.



# Waste Less Recycle More Waste Minimisation

## WINNER

### Thinning the Bins, Auburn Hospital



Thinning the Bins is an ongoing program managed and supported by a group of dedicated staff who go above and beyond their normal duties to ensure Auburn Hospital recycles everything that it can.

Instead of believing 'the problem is too big, the group have made, 'Think Globally, Act Locally' their mantra and have determined to make a difference.

This project started from humble beginnings, its momentum continuing to seek better outcomes for end of life hospital equipment, through MedEarth who take a large proportion of disused furniture and hospital equipment, Featherdale Wildlife Park and Sydney Zoo who take disused bandages and many other organisations.

The message is now spreading to other hospitals who are seeing the business sense in re-use rather than disposal.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

### Reducing Contamination, Increasing Recycling MUD'S Program- Cumberland Council



The 'Reducing Contamination Increasing Recycling MUD'S Program' aims to target high occurrences of recycling contamination in multi- unit dwellings. The need to educate a largely transient and diverse community was identified through the increasing occurrences of illegal dumping high-level recycling bin contamination. Over 10,000 households and 941 properties were engaged in the program which resulted in a 43% improvement in recycling bin contamination. Auditing, community events and high-level partnerships with numerous housing providers and strata management agencies strengthen Cumberland Council's success.

# Entries: Waste Less Recycle More Waste Minimisation Award

## Reduce Reuse Recycle Oxley Park Public School

Oxley Park Public School have made every effort to Reduce their footprint, Reuse materials wherever they can and Recycle. A Litter Legends Grant of \$500 has enable them to conduct ongoing waste audits and send 29kgs of plastic waste to be recycled. As an Eco School they have been able to demonstrate their commitment to the environment in many ways.

## Inner West Tool Library Inner West Tool Library, Sydney

The Inner West Tool Library is a not for profit, 100% volunteer run community organisation setup to allow residents to access hundreds of tools and items you only use once or twice a year. The library brings with it environmental, social and economic benefits such as providing a second life for many items that would otherwise end up in landfill; being a space for people to come together, helping relieve social, upskilling the community and allowing locals affordable access to hundreds of items.

## Contamination Reduction Program Targeting Incorrect Sharps Disposal Bayside Council

Bayside Council encourages pharmacies in the local government area to participate in a program funded by Council and the NSW EPA, whereby residents can bring in their medical sharps to pharmacies to be disposed of correctly. Council currently has 20 pharmacies participating in this program across 14 of Council's 29 suburbs. In 17/18 the contractor collected 99 x 47L sharps containers from participating pharmacies and 8 x 23L sharps containers from participating pharmacies.

## Feels Good to FOGO Penrith City Council

Penrith City Council recognised the need to continue 'value for money' services into the future for their residents and with a new waste collection contract were able to increase the roll out of FOGO services to rural areas, increasing the collection of FOGO to at least 26,000 tonnes per annum. This huge saving for residents is in addition to a more effective bulky household clean up service where increased recycling options have been provided.

## Changes to Clean up to Prevent Illegal Dumping City of Ryde

The City of Ryde implemented a change from a scheduled Bulky Household Clean Up service to a pre booked service in order to combat high incidences of illegal dumping and to manage customer complaints about dumping in the area. The introduction of the service with a comprehensive education campaign, the employment of a Clean-up Officer and an illegal dumping surveillance trailer used in dumping hotspots, has seen a dramatic reduction in illegal dumping. Customer satisfaction has increased and resident awareness about their waste has also increased.

# Don't be a Tosser!

## Litter Action

### WINNER

Unwrapping our Future: Keeping Bondi Beautiful, Waverley Council



Unwrapping Waverley, a program aimed at a long-lasting reduction in single use plastics entering the Waverley community from the point of sale, revolved around a community group, Plastic Free Bondi. This program which used many engagement and communications strategies to encourage its outcomes with local businesses was strengthened by the fact that community was leading the way in every aspect of the program. Litter reduction alone was recorded as 84% reduction in litter by items; 88% reduction in takeaway packaging items and 98% reduction in takeaway packaging by volume.

### HIGHLY COMMENDED

Hurstville Public School Litter Program, Georges River Council



Georges River Council's Litter Program has successfully developed linkages between a local school and its local community. The comprehensive education strategy centred around a School Litter Audit, School Art Competition, a Public Road Litter Audit (Forest Road) and strong links with Hurstville Public School. The engagement of over 100 children has enabled them to make direct links between litter and their environment and to understand the importance of putting litter in the bin. Further replication of the program to other schools, strengthens these linkages in the local area. Cumberland Council's success.

# Entries: Don't be a Tosser! Litter Action Award

## Eastwood Litter Campaign

City of Ryde Council

The Eastwood litter prevention campaign focused on reducing litter in and around Eastwood Shopping precinct and the Canal. An initial litter count was conducted, a mural painted with the anti-littering message "Litter You Know It's Wrong", followed by litter guards being installed along the canal fence to prevent litter blowing into the canal and waterway. Cigarette butt bins, water refill stations and a bin station for commercial businesses including upgrades to all street litter bins has seen a reduction of 68% in the litter found in the area post project.

## Litter Prevention Program Bayside Council

Bayside Council identified areas of major litter concern and implemented sustainable solutions to overcome these issues, introducing an additional 12,280L of permanent and convenient community bin capacity. Funded partly by Waste Less Recycle More, priority areas identified beach litter, Mascot Train Station and Town Centre, Botany Town Centre and Rosebery Town Centre. Early results have shown a 200% decrease in beach litter and an increase of 30% bin use in streets, coinciding with a reduction in litter.

## Reducing cigarette butt litter in shopping strips

Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils

Tackling cigarette butt litter became a priority for Western Sydney councils who combined forces for maximum impact. Using best practice, Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC) working with eight participating councils (Blacktown, Cumberland, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, The Hills, Liverpool, Parramatta and Penrith) developed a regional approach to tackle cigarette butt litter in CBD hotspots. Using purpose-built cigarette butt litter bins, NSW EPA 'Don't Be a Tosser' campaign materials, face to face street theatre and enforcement, a reduction of 46% was seen in regional cigarette butt litter. The program resulted in an increase by 88% of positive disposal behaviours across the region and 86% of the hotspots achieving improvement in smoker satisfaction within the area.



# Return and Earn Litter Prevention

## OVERALL CATEGORY WINNER The Bottle Kids, Prestons



The Bottle Kids are four primary school aged siblings who offer a FREE collection service in their home suburb of Prestons NSW. Colette their mum, plus the four budding entrepreneurs saw an opportunity and went out to make it happen. 'The Bottle Kids' have found businesses, such as cafes and bottle shops were looking for an easy way to recycle and were happy to partner with the kids as a Bottle Buddy. Also collecting from family and parties, the Bottle Kids do more than just collecting bottles and containers. They actively promote the Return and Earn program in their area and have donated some of their earnings to causes important to them, such as Liverpool Hospital Emergency Department.

## WINNER - INDIVIDUAL Cans for Kids, Alexander Roberts, Auburn



Influencer and leader, Alex Roberts, has been recycling cans since he was six years old and has always had the support of his community in his recycling efforts. With the introduction of Return and Earn, he added bottles and other recyclable containers to the collection bins with the mantra, '20 cans or bottles will vaccinate a child for life'. Supported by the cleaners in Auburn Hospital, when NSW Health decided to introduce bottled water to hospitals, the staff were horrified at the environmental damage this would cause, pressuring Healthshare to put barcodes on their bottles so they could be recycled through 'Return and Earn', with the recycling effort at Auburn Hospital now showing 99.9% of recyclable containers being recycled.



# Return and Earn Litter Prevention

## WINNER - SCHOOLS

Waste Warriors,  
Mosman Public  
School



Through fundraising efforts, Mosman Public School has recently purchased specialty recycling bins to collect bottles and cans that can be taken to their local Return and Earn at Taronga Zoo. The schools Sustainability Club, involving a group of Year 5 and 6 students and a Sustainability Committee made up of parents and teachers run the initiative. This project will be ongoing and is embedded in the school's sustainability goals, including supporting an environmental charity with monies raised, such as Take 3 by the Sea.

## WINNER -

## NOT FOR PROFIT

Recycling for a Great  
Cause, Macarthur  
Centre for Sustainable  
Living, Camden



The MCSL is a community hub providing educational workshops about the environment and opportunities for local Macarthur residents to be involved in a range of activities on site. A newly developed program which assists unemployed youth the learn barista skills has used monies raised by Return and Earn to provide tea, coffee, milk and other supplies for the training. In addition to using the Return and Earn collections for this purpose, the collection of containers has enthused the community who use the centre, bringing people from diverse groups to a central cause of recycling and litter prevention. A well organised and socially advantageous program.

# Entries: Return and Earn Litter Prevention Award



## **Eco Crusaders Waste Management** Caddie Creek Public School

Caddie Creek Public School have over the past two years introduced a range of waste streams into their school waste program. The Return and Earn program raises funds to be used to cover costs of further sustainability initiatives and a portion is donated to a charity in Cambodia that rehabilitates children addicted to drugs. This project has introduced an income stream for school programs and has been very successful in creating awareness around the need to manage all waste sustainably.

## **Eco Warriors Return & Earn** Oran Park Public School

Oran Park Public School commenced the Return and Earn Initiative in 2019. As a school of nearly 1500 students, they identified an opportunity to not only raise funds for the school but an opportunity for teachers to include recycling and sustainability in the students' everyday lives. Officially starting in Term Two, they exceeded their initial target of 500 bottles by collecting over three times that amount! Their first collection totalled \$183.00. The flow on has resulted in a significant growth in participation numbers at the school's lunchtime 'Eco/Enviro Club'.

## **Return and Earn** Sutherland North Public School

Sutherland North Public School started the Return and Earn initiative by asking students to bring in empty containers. To encourage participation, an incentive was offered, with the class with the most containers after five weeks rewarded with 15 minutes extra play after lunch. This project helped raise awareness in the school community about the importance of reducing litter and that students can contribute to this change.

## **Keep KRB green by making Vaucluse clean** Kincoppal Rose Bay Junior School

As part on an SRC initiative, the students of Kincoppal Rose Bay (KRB) have been working hard to help save marine life and the planet by recycling plastic bottles. By gaining 10c for every bottle collected, they donate these funds to some of the poorest children in Chang Rai, Thailand. The children have been scouring the beaches around the harbour foreshore, combing over local parks and streets and encouraging their wider family and friends to get involved. They also send the bottle caps to Envision who turn them into recycled plastic hands (prosthesis) and donates them to under serviced countries.

## **Return & Learn** John Brotchie Nursery School

The John Brotchie Nursery School, Bottles for Brotchie has raised over \$430 in 2019, equating to 4,300 bottles and containers that have been kept out of landfill. By having a collection centre on site community members can drop off bottles on the weekend as well as when they bring their children to school. Local cafe and businesses have also got on board the Bottles for Brotchie, by using the preschools bins to place their used containers.

## **Return and Earn - From Leumeah to Jamboree!** 1st Leumeah Scout Group

The 1st Leumeah Scout Group were 'early adopters' of the NSW Return and Earn program, using the money raised to boost their fundraising goals and aid members of the group to participate in local, state and National Scout programs and activities. Youth members and their families were encouraged to collect eligible containers, which were processed through a local bulk Return and Earn centre at Nepean Distributors. Their first goal subsidised the costs of seven Scout members to attend the 25th Australian Scout Jamboree in Tailem Bend, South Australia in January 2019.

# Entries: Return and Earn Litter Prevention Award



## Scouts Learning from Returning and Earning Hume Region Scouts

Scouts and Leaders from Hume Region Scouts organised and participated in Return and Earn fundraisers at two major Camden events, the Camden TASTE Food, Wine and Music Festival in September 2018 and the annual Camden Show in April 2019. With assistance from Nepean Distributors and Camden Council both collections saw great results with a total of 3208 containers at the Camden TASTE Food, Wine and Music Festival and 6190 containers collected at the Camden Show.

## Recycle Michael Bringelly Public School

The Bringelly Public School project was the introduction of recycling cans and bottles in a unique way to encourage students, teachers and eventually the wider community to return their cans and bottles to the school via "Recycle Michael!". "Recycle Michael!" was a bin created in the image of a robot with a slot for putting in your cans. The children loved the idea of feeding Recycle Michael with cans and this increased the daily recycling up to 90%.

## Holsworthy Community Garden SCRAP Ltd

SCRAP Ltd has partnered with Holsworthy High School for several years to work with disengaged youth in their Table to Table: Organic Living Course at the school's community garden. At the outset SCRAP partnered with the school in approaching Tomra to establish a Return and Earn machine within the garden to emphasise the need for resource recovery and recycling. This machine was established - the first (and still the only) school to achieve this outcome. The school has increased its recycling of bottles and cans and deposits 0.25m<sup>3</sup> weekly with funds supporting a variety of school initiatives including the garden. Many students and locals use the Return and Earn machine for pocket money and the decrease in litter is noticeable in the area.

## Marine Rescue Terrey Hills Unit Return and Earn Marine Rescue Terrey Hills Unit

Marine Rescue – Terrey Hills (MRTH) Return & Earn Project commenced with their acceptance as a Donation Partner on selected Tomra operated RVMs. As a volunteer-based Emergency Services operation, MRTH performs fund raising initiatives to fund necessary infrastructure in communication equipment to keep the boating community safe on the water and wanted to promote the preservation of the waterways. Promoting awareness of Return & Earn to their volunteers and community they aimed to develop conscious behavioural change that becomes habitual through collection of eligible containers for recycling. Once launched the containers collected increased every month, with a total of 8292 since inception.

# Entries: Return and Earn Litter Prevention Award



## And the Recycling Continues

### Jasper Road Public School

A whole of school program that has been funded by Woolworths and Junior Landcare Grants, Jasper Road Public School has managed to set up a successful system for Return and Earn within the school, encouraging the children and parents to make best use of the service. Student Arbors led the program by educating other students and by assisting with the day to day operation of the system. Apart from the fundraising which assists with environmental education, litter awareness is now a whole school issue with all students being educated as to how and why to recycle rather than litter or waste resources.

## Protecting Nature for our Future

### Oatlands Public School

Oatlands Public School's "Return and Earn" program has been running since August 2018, in partnership with Oatlands "Kids Parliament: which includes students from their Student Representative Council and Environment Club. Since May 2019 students and families had collected 6653 bottles. Running awareness campaigns for families, including collection bags throughout the school playground, collecting bottles at all events, families and other members of the community can return their recyclable containers to the school every fortnight for collection and return them to the "Return and Earn" program.

## Charopy

### Eastwood Public School

Eastwood Public School P&C recently implemented the Charopy recycling program to their school in Term 2 of 2019. Charopy is a smart phone payment application (App.), similar to Qkr developed by Mastercard for Australian schools, where each child is able to bring up to 5 recyclable containers to school in the morning and recess to earn 10 cents per eligible bottle. During this process, each child learns what type of bottles can be recycled including how to read and locate the 10 cents eligibility. The school has run a class challenge where the class that recycles the most is awarded a class lunch. With an increase in the collection of containers they are also seeing less containers on the school grounds as a result of this program.

# Heritage and Culture

## WINNER

Peace Comes to Liverpool, Moorebank Heritage Group, Liverpool City Council



Peace Comes to Liverpool in the centenary year of the signing of the 1918 Armistice commemorates those soldiers who passed through the camp gates at Holsworthy to be remembered with our honour, utmost respect and pride for the sacrifices they made. This major exhibition partnered with Moorebank Heritage Group, funded by the LCC Matching Grant Program and Dept. of Veterans Affairs and was part of Liverpool Remembers. The program included 7 Public Programs which included interstate guest speakers, 2 book launches, a Heritage Bus Tour which included a visit to Holsworthy Army Base - the site of the former WW1 internment camp – and included children’s workshops.

## HIGHLY

## COMMENDED

Refresh Concord West, City of Canada Bay Council



The focus area of Refresh Concord West is Concord Road, Concord West. Created in the 1920’s from a subdivision of the Yaralla Park Estate the project captures mainly inter-war streetscapes and is currently a heritage conservation area. The Yaralla Estate was originally the home of Dame Edith Walker and her father Thomas. Components of the refurbishment included, a painted wall of colourful fairy wrens perched and ready for flight through the roses and lavender of the Yaralla Estate; old bins replaced and wrapped with artwork; local businesses provided window decals and welcome mats; banner poles were recycled from another area using artwork to articulate the history of the area and new benches were provided for peoples comfort.

# Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

## WINNER

Pride of Place, Liverpool City Council



Pride of Place is a permanent exhibition and interpretation display at the Carnes Hill Library which conserves and promotes the local Aboriginal cultural heritage and its associated stories and traditions. The purpose of the project was to ensure that the exhibition was designed and developed by the community, and the story that was told was theirs and not drawn from a textbook or scientific document, the final result being a cumulative result of consultation between the aboriginal community, Council and Heritage experts.

# Habitat and Wildlife Conservation

## WINNER

Keepin-a-hive Native Beehive Community  
Program, Cumberland Council



The 'Keepin-A-Hive' program promotes biodiversity throughout Cumberland by encouraging residents to host a native beehive in their backyard and plant native flowering plants for bees to forage on. The initiative relies upon the expertise of beekeepers at Sydney Stingless Bees, the craftsmanship of participants at Auburn Men's Shed, the support of a network of residents, local community gardens and Council. It has strengthened relationships across the community while establishing a network of hives across the Local Government Area.

# Coastal and Waterways Protection

## WINNER

Bayside Beach Litter Prevention Program,  
Bayside Council



After an initial injection of new bin infrastructure at Lady Robinson Beach, Bayside Council saw the need to improve future access and use of bins within the beach areas. Fifty custom made bins were designed and manufactured with a partnering steel maker which provide increased convenience to residents and visitors, encourage beach users' sense of responsibility for disposal of their own waste, and to reduce beach littering. Don't be a Tosser! signage was used to encourage behaviour change around littering and since the implementation of the beach bins approximately 3,815kg of waste was responsibly disposed of by beach goers in these 50 bins alone. A great result in a short timeframe.

# Recycled Organics

## WINNER

Community Composting and Worm Farming,  
Bayside Council



Bayside's Composting and Worm Farming education has taken on a new level of commitment. In addition to its ongoing education programs, Council has installed dog poo worm farms in ten (10) off-leash dog parks for the community to responsibly discard dog poo in the Bayside local government area. These bins are designed for use by dog owners in conjunction with compostable biodegradable bags, which will also be made available to Bayside residents and visitors in dog parks free to charge. A leader in an innovative use of public space recycling, Council is fostering critical thinking around waste avoidance and recycling.

## HIGHLY

## COMMENDED

Greenwaste Recycling  
Project, Chifley  
College, Bidwill  
Campus



Chifley College at Bidwill is set on 2 hectares and boasts large areas of productive land and natural bushland. Years of production and use by cattle had degraded the land, and through consistent efforts to turn green waste back into soil they have created around 12 cubic meters of finished compost from their compost bin each year which is used directly in the vegetable production and, in addition, have created an additional depth of 200 mm of high-quality soil to the farm paddocks. Managed by volunteers, work experience students and an agriculture teacher, the benefits to the community and the school make this a quintessential sustainable project.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

### Composters of the Inner West, Inner West Council



The Composters of the Inner West campaign was developed to promote home composting as an effective and important strategy in achieving zero waste. The social media campaign was promoted prior and during International Compost Awareness Week to increase reach and culminated in a hands-on composting and worm farming workshop on Saturday 11 May 2019. The social media campaign profiled four Inner West households home composting methods as means of normalising composting behaviours and addressing common barriers to composting. Households who took part reported a reduction of household waste to one bag a week.

## ENTRY

### Greening Cumberland - One Bin at a Time! Cumberland Council

The Greening Cumberland - One Bin at a Time, project was to coordinate and deliver a new garden organics waste service and an opportunity for residents to reduce waste sent to landfill. The service was an extension of existing services in the former Auburn and Parramatta council areas pre- amalgamation. It was extended to an additional 23,000 residents. The project has resulted in a redirection of 6.8% of organics from landfill, in the first 12 months.

# Renewable Energy

## WINNER

Solar My School, Waverley, Randwick and Woollahra Councils



Solar my School is a free Council-run project founded by Randwick, Woollahra and Waverley Councils, helping primary and secondary schools 'go solar' and access the financial, environmental and educational benefits of clean, locally produced renewable energy. The program is designed to overcome three key barriers for schools to install solar power - trust, time and knowledge – by making the process simple with independent and expert support from start to finish. So far, systems have been installed on 17 schools (845 kW solar), with a further 26 systems (1219 kW) in coming months. The program is responsible for the largest solar power systems in the eastern suburbs, outside of the UNSW. This total achieved in 2.5 years represents 13% of all solar ever installed in the region.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Transitioning to zero emissions and 100% renewable, Randwick Council



In March 2018, Randwick Council adopted a new aspirational target and called for a roadmap to go beyond its previous 20% reduction targets for energy and water and establish pathways to be zero greenhouse emissions by 2030. This roadmap incorporated requirements to achieve 100% renewables by 2030, a transition to zero greenhouse emissions from Council's vehicle fleet, a 50% replacement of all potable water used from non-potable water sources and a 50% increase in urban canopy from a 2018 baseline. To date, Council has concentrated on initiatives to commence implementation of this roadmap to zero carbon emissions and 100% renewable.

# Environmental Communication

## WINNER

Love Your Place, City of Canada Bay Council



'Love Your Place' is a community clean-up program aiming to reduce litter in public spaces through responsible citizenship and creating a sense of increased community pride and ownership. This initiative promoted community litter clean-ups through an organised volunteer program where residents nominate a park or street and volunteers working together to remove litter, report illegal dumping, graffiti, damaged facilities and anti-social behaviour at the nominated site. The program is designed to be an ongoing cooperative activity that encourages the local community and businesses to take pride and care of their local spaces, providing an opportunity for socialising and cross-cultural learning between clean-up participants and increase a sense of community belonging.

## HIGHLY

## COMMENDED

Eco Living Expo, promoting innovative green living in a fun, family-friendly way. Randwick City Council



Randwick City's Eco Living Expo showcases new ideas on sustainable living and learnings on how simple lifestyle changes can lead to a safer climate and how we can all be part of that change. The focus for 2018 was a technology and lifestyle event that brought to the forefront the urgency of climate change and highlighted solutions and positive actions the community can take. It was dedicated to delivering in-depth, practical solutions, innovations and emerging technologies to save on energy and water, support active transport, reduce and recover waste material, and consider sustainability furnishings and solutions around the home and garden.

# Entries: Environmental Communication Award

## **Lane Cove's Guiding Stars** Lane Cove Council

Lane Cove Council knew that e-waste was an important local issue through e-waste collection data and the fact that the Community Recycling Centre in Artarmon (sponsored by NSROC councils) had collected 46.81 tonnes of e-waste since May 2017. Lane Cove's Guiding Stars offers a unique opportunity to creatively communicate the issue of e-waste to the community, with the installation of six large scale stars, created mostly from e-waste displayed in the Lane Cove Village in December 2018-January 2019. Lane Cove's Guiding Stars demonstrates leadership and innovation as it is the only Local Government-led Public Art project in Australia communicating a message about e-waste in this way.

## **Plastic Free July Campaign** Blacktown City Council

Blacktown Council recognised the importance of reducing single use plastics as they are at the top of the Parramatta River catchment. In the last 12 months, their gross pollutant traps captured around 1,100 tonnes of litter from stormwater. The Plastic Free July Blacktown campaign aimed to reduce single use plastics in Blacktown City. The campaign included an information leaflet, community competition, plastic free craft at Kids Early Learning centres, workshops for adults and children, digital engagement, screenings of the documentary 'Blue' and staff engagement through an information stall and pledge boards in several staff buildings.

## **The Willoughby Wildlife Storybook Project** Willoughby City Council

The Wildlife Storybook Project is part of Willoughby City Council's wider Bushland Interpretive Program and helps to facilitate 'kids to teach kids' about amazing local wildlife in the Willoughby area. Year 5 students at each primary school take part in the program, write a story and create pictures that support what they have learnt. An initial talk series allows Council staff to discuss local environmental issues with the students, especially highlighting the importance of biodiversity, habitat creation and preservation. Students get a sense of where they live in each catchment area and how wildlife corridors can be improved around their school and homes.

# School's Environmental Achievement

## WINNER

Growing Together for our Future, Oatlands Public School, Oatlands North



Oatlands Public School has a strong track record in sustainable practice and promoting environmental stewardship in their young people. The partnership between the school and P&C is strong and works to bring sustainable practices into daily school life. Embedded school activities include the Environment Club, Nature Play, Habitat Stepping Stones, a garden called the Aboriginal Seasons Food Walk and the collection of containers for Return and Earn. The environmental initiatives at Oatlands flow on from the shared vision held by the school and the P&C to “grow together for our future” and is strengthened by many partnerships within the local and broader community.

## HIGHLY

## COMMENDED

Environmental Education, Jasper Road Public School, Baulkham Hills



Jasper Road Public School supports over 850 students from both mainstream and a support unit for students with disabilities. Featuring many native and floral gardens, astro-turf, a worm farm area, vegetable patches, compost bins, water tanks, newly laid turf, a solar power system and, K-6 vegetable garden beds, Jasper Road is a greener place to be. All classes take environmental education seriously and teach it through all Key Learning Areas in all 42 classrooms, library and technology. Not only do students learn about sustainability but parent and community members also learn through their fortnightly newsletter and their community events.

# Entries: School's Environmental Achievement Award

## **Outback Book Drive** Yarrowarra Public School

Yarrowarra Public School launched an Outback Book Drive in 2018 requesting donations of preloved children's books which would be sent to families living on remote stations in the Broken Hill (2018) and Lightning Ridge (2019) areas. All classes were shown videos on remote station life including School of the Air education with the focal point being the absence of access to books through libraries or book shops. Comparing this lack of access with their own excess consolidated the project as being the way to re-use preloved children's books to support others. The total collected in two years is 520kg's of books.

## **Recycling Bins** Bellevue Hill Public School

A need for change at Bellevue Hill Public School was seen with rubbish bins overflowing, birds feasting on leftover food scraps, and a sense of ownership and responsibility severely lacking. In 2018 the school bought bins for recycling, landfill and paper rubbish for all 24 classrooms. With the introduction of the bins, came presentations and interactive sessions on what belongs in which bin. The Green Team came into fruition and the introduction of new initiatives started, such as Waste-Free Wednesday. Overall the awareness raised within the school community has improved by making one change at a time.

## **Eco Crusaders** Caddies Creek Public School

Caddies Creek Public School has separated their waste to include commingled recycling, worm farms, soft plastic recycling and Return and Earn. The embedded sustainability focus in the curriculum through project-based learning and leadership opportunities through their sustainability club has refined their practices and gives a framework that includes waste, environmentally friendly gardens, creation of wildlife corridors and ecological biodiversity of plants and environmental education.

# Young Legend's Environment

## WINNER

Alexander Roberts, Auburn



Alex has always been a quiet humble achiever with a steely determination to make a difference to the planet. He started a frog sanctuary in his front yard at the age of eight. He started his can recycling at the age of six and formalized it into a community project 'Cans for Kids' by 2006, when he was just 11 years old. His projects at Auburn Hospital, 'Think before you Bin It' and 'Thinning the Bins' have both made a wonderful impact and difference to the hospital, the staff and the environment. Alex's thinks his greatest achievement to date is inspiring others to be environmentally aware and not to believe that the problem is too great and nothing they do will make a difference. One of his teachers said once said, 'Alex would rather light a candle than complain about the dark.'

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Ariana Goana



In 2015 Ariana's Ark was born to raise awareness on sharks and the troubles they face, highlighting many environmental issues along the way. Ariana's Ark was created by a local Blacktown girl Ariana and is all about educating people about wildlife, especially marine animals and sharks and the importance of healthy oceans. It also educates people about plastic pollution and how harmful plastics can be not only to our oceans but also to our planet in general. Ariana's messaging is done mainly through the 'Ariana's Ark' facebook page where people from all over the globe have been able to support her efforts to spread the word about marine life pressures and plastics pollution.

# Community Spirit and Inclusion

## WINNER

Refugee Camp in my Neighbourhood,  
Cumberland Council



Refugee Camp in My Neighbourhood is a collaborative Cumberland community project that began to help people learn about refugee experiences by taking them along an interactive, simulated refugee journey under the care and guidance of Tour Guides who have themselves all come from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds. Using a community development and human rights approach the project has directly involved people from current and former refugee communities along with more than 30 project partner organisations to inform every stage of its design and implementation. After the most recent set of tours in 2018 visitors described a desire to take various actions such as, volunteer in the community; educate others; learn more about refugee camps and refugee experiences and advocate for the rights of refugees.

## HIGHLY

## COMMENDED

5 Senses Garden -  
Rhodes Park, City of  
Canada Bay Council



This project has community and inclusion at its heart: The ageing traditional playground in Rhodes Park was transformed into the 5 Senses Garden via an inspiring partnership between City of Canada Bay and Inner West Neighbour Aid (IWNA). The project demonstrates an innovative reworking of the space into a visually appealing and inclusive park whose functions serve a wide range of the community, including: Nature play areas, an accessible food-growing area, an undercover workshop area incorporating an outdoor kitchen, bush tucker and sensory plantings all linked together by beautiful indigenous art path.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED Community Building Through Sharing, Inner West Tool Library



The Inner West Tool Library launched in January 2019, is a not for profit, 100% volunteer run community organisation set up to allow residents to access hundreds of tools and useful things you only use once or twice a year. The ethos of the IWTL is bringing together the idea of sharing to reduce waste, save people money and space, and to help build a more connected and resilient community. The IWTL is an inclusive space, allowing all people in the community to participate and feel valued. Encouraging anyone to use the space, the library allows residents who may be disadvantaged to gain access to much needed tools to fix or renovate. Whatever is needed.

## ENTRY Discover Cumberland Program Cumberland Council

The Discover Cumberland Program which integrates digital media, a 30-page new residents' booklet, the development of new workshop modules, the recruitment and training of bilingual community educators and the creation of a bus tour itinerary to create a dynamic and interactive 'welcome pack' for new residents. The results have been transformative, with 80 per cent of participants claiming a 'high level of understanding' of Council services, up from 30 per cent at the start of the program.

# Circular Economy

## WINNER

Community Recycling Drop Off Events,  
Bayside Council



Bayside Council has implemented a successful community recycling drop off events program. The program allows Bayside residents to recycle some common problem wastes without the significantly higher cost associated with a permanent Community Recycling Centre. During Feb-Apr 2019, it is estimated that Council received approximately 44 tonnes at the drop off events, with approximately 39 tonnes of this being recovered, equating to 90%. Additionally, the drop off area at the Bexley Depot has been resurfaced with Reconophalt, a new asphalt product that incorporates recycled materials like soft plastics, glass, toner from used cartridges and reclaimed asphalt. This allows Bayside Council to increase serviceability to residents, whilst showcasing innovative recycling solutions.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Clean Oceans  
Clean Communities,  
Surfrider Foundation  
Manly



The establishment of a Plastic Waste Recovery Hub on the Northern Beaches will be the first of its kind for Sydney and the state of NSW. Its purpose is to establish an educational facility about plastics in the circular economy, develop solutions & stimulate innovation for recycling plastic pollution retrieved from the ocean and general plastic waste destined for landfill for conversion into reusable resources. .

# Response to Climate Change

## WINNER

Harvest Collective, North Sydney Council



The Harvest Collective North Sydney project is a community sustainable food project that provides North Sydney residents with the opportunity to gain the skills and knowledge required to set up their own apartment food gardens and increase their understanding of sustainable food. Through a combination of facilitated hands-on learning and capacity building, the program increases participants knowledge and understanding of the food growing process, leading to greater capacity to grow and eat their own organic vegetables. A comprehensive program of knowledge, the Harvest Collective encourages eating fresh, organic food, choosing to grow and eat seasonal vegies and the impact all our choices have on climate change.



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