



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES TIDY TOWNS AWARDS 2019



Thank you to our awards supporters





Keep Australia Beautiful NSW

Level 1, 268 King St
Newtown NSW 2042
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.

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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

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

Layla McNeil

Luciano Mesiti

Syd Smith

Andy Best

Lynda Newnam

Chris Tola

Matthew Taylor

Rob O'Brien

Ana Corpuz

Brian Birkefeld

Tasneem Kanpurwala

Caroline Weller

Heather Ranclaud

Nicole Palmer

Doug McDonald



GOVERNMENT HOUSE
SYDNEY

Message from

Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC
Governor of New South Wales

Keep Australia Beautiful (NSW) has been at the forefront of making our cities, towns, villages and suburbs clean, sustainable and truly beautiful places to live for more than 40 years. The importance of recognising the efforts of regional councils and their communities is an integral part of this community engagement.

The great range of award categories in the Australian Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Awards is evidence of the large number of projects and the amazing work of hundreds of volunteers who commit their time to improving their local communities. Your ongoing efforts are contributing to the reduction of waste, increased recycling, water and energy reduction, improving soils through organics recycling and composting and a reduction in litter.

On behalf of the people of New South Wales, I congratulate all this year's entrants and our winners on their outstanding contributions to building sustainable communities. This year, when so many regional areas are in drought, the Tidy Towns Awards program is, more than ever, a recognition of the wonderful spirit that sustains our communities.

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

Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC
Governor of New South Wales



About the Sustainable Communities – Tidy Towns Awards



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 both large and small 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 14 categories or the Overall Award. There is no fee for entries to the awards.

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 2000
- Population category B: 2001-6000
- Population category C: 6001-12,000
- Population category D: 12,001-20,000
- Population category E: 20,001+

Message from the CEO



Welcome to the 2019 Keep Australia Beautiful NSW (KAB NSW) Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Awards.

Keep Australia Beautiful NSW is proud to carry on a legacy of running successful community programs, since 1981. This annual awards program recognises and celebrates the efforts and achievements of NSW regional towns and councils, community organisations, schools, businesses and individuals towards making regional NSW more sustainable.

Projects that not only enhance the environment but improve the standard of living and well-being of urban communities has been a hallmark of the activities that have been recognised through this program. The Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Awards inspires councils and their communities to make a genuine and lasting contribution to their area. Partnerships between local authorities, businesses, community groups, schools and individuals are paramount to the success of many of these projects.

This booklet profiles the 2019 winners and finalists 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 congratulate all who are profiled here for their inspirational work.

Val Southam
Chief Executive Officer, Keep Australia Beautiful NSW

Thank you to our awards supporters



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 Legends 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 Schools 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 Communities - Tidy Towns Award Winner

Murrurundi Population Category A

Murrurundi have consistently been strong in their environmental and social programs for many years.

The stand-out project this year was **Doing it for the Farmers**, a program to support their drought-stricken area. Our assessor gave special mention to the towns ability to work together during the extreme drought conditions and that much had been achieved with very little.

This year Murrurundi won awards in the Environmental Communication Award with their Hundred Mile Dinner and the Community Spirit and Inclusion Award for Doing it for the Farmers.

A small town that punches above its weight and shows that when everyone works together much can be achieved.



2019 Population Category Finalists and Winners

Bowraville



FINALIST Population Category A

The Bowraville community have long shown their commitment to the environment and sustainability and have consistently made improvements to their area.

The stand-out features this year was their continuing work along the South Arm Creek Rehabilitation and a fresh enthusiasm for programs within their area.

This year they have won awards in the Waste Less, Recycle More Waste Minimisation Award for their Bowraville Community News, The Young Legends Award for Josh Callaway, The Habitat and Wildlife Conservation Award for Native Bees for our Future and the Coastal and Waterways Protection Award for Restoring South Creek.

For a small town they are kicking large goals.

Dungog



WINNER Population Category B

Dungog may be new to our Tidy Towns program but they aren't new to working sustainably and to a high standard.

With many projects working collaboratively to form greater synergies in the area, Dungog is a great example of community inclusion, partnerships and the strength of volunteer support.

Awards won this year by Dungog include the Waste Less Recycle More Waste Minimisation Award for Boomerang Bags- Plastic Free Dungog, the Habitat and Wildlife Conservation Award for Protection and Restoration of 'Hungry Hill' at Dungog Common, the Circular Economy Award for their Soft Plastics Recycling, Coastal and Waterways Protection Award for Weeping Lilly Pilly Riparian Rainforest Restoration and the Community Spirit and Inclusion Award for Sustainability Spotlight on Dungog.

2019 Population Category Finalists and Winners

Tilligery Peninsula



FINALIST Population Category C

Tilligery on Lemon Tree Passage is an idyllic location with strong built and natural heritage. The Tilligery Peninsula Landcare group have been dedicated to their patch for many years and consistently work towards keeping their area clean, healthy and litter free.

This year Tilligery Peninsula won an award for Tanilba House in the Heritage and Culture Award and gain special mention for their continuing hard work, often with little resources or outside help.

Parkes



WINNER Population Category D

Parkes are the quiet achievers and have shown themselves to be an innovative, pioneering town especially in areas of renewable energy, infrastructure restoration and community inclusion.

The stand-out here was their wastewater recycling and their waste management facilities.

Their awards this year include, the Waste Less, Recycle More Waste Minimisation Award for their Waste Management Strategy Implementation, The Environmental Communication Award for Banjo: Our Water Story, the Response to Climate Change Award for the Parkes Recycled Water Scheme and the Community Spirit and Inclusion Award for Shrek The Musical-Junior.

Broken Hill



FINALIST Population Category D

Broken Hill is Australia's first heritage listed town and brings many attributes consistent with ongoing improvement to the table.

Their stand-out was their Smart City Framework which will see them placed for future generations and allows the town to maintain their outstanding environmental and sustainability programs.

This year, Broken Hill won several awards including, the Don't Be a Tosser! Litter Action Award for Smart Thinking, two Heritage and Culture Awards for Johns Bros Joyland and Broken Hill Mosque: The Surviving 'Ghan Town' Mosque in Australia, the Environmental Communication Award for Riddiford Aboretum Conservation Park and the Community Spirit and Inclusion Award for the Broken Hill Heritage Festival 2019.

Orange



WINNER Population Category E

Orange is once again front runner for their population category after a number of overall wins in the last few years. It is no accident that Orange continues to show us how good they are and their consistency of approach over many years shows.

The standouts for the assessor this year were their Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival which won the Heritage and Culture Award and the Orange Hospital Auxiliary Fundraising which produced outstanding results in the Community Spirit and Inclusion Award.

Other award wins this year include, the Habitat and Wildlife Conservation Award for Ploughman's Wetlands, a second Heritage and Culture Award for The Carrington.

2019 Population Category Finalists and Winners

Singleton



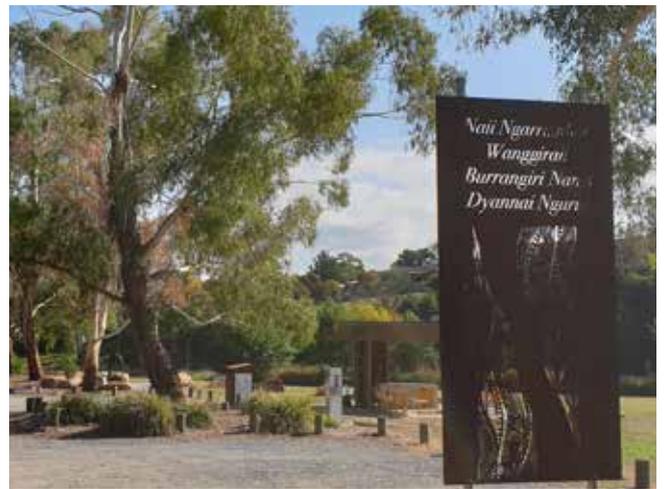
FINALIST Population Category E

Singleton continues to show its overall commitment to its community and the environment after many years of consistently showing us how it's done. This year is no exception and even though Singleton has suffered its fair share of tragedy this year with many personal losses, the resilience of a community that supports each other is evident.

The stand-out for our assessor this year was the Singleton Heights Pre School who won an award in the School's Environmental Achievement Award.

A worthy contender, Singleton deserves special mention for entering the awards this year against the odds.

Queanbeyan-Palerang



FINALIST Population Category E

Queanbeyan Palerang has been recognised by our assessor as a region with excellent strategic planning that guides its activities around sustainability, environment and social inclusion.

With a diverse and growing community, the Council has managed to provide a range of programs that have responded to community needs.

The stand-out was their Don't be a Tosser! Litter Action Award program- 'Good Running Water'. Ongoing progress on their Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council Climate Change Action Plan has also been recognised in our Response to Climate Change Award.

They have been recognised in the Renewable Energy Award for their QPRC Renewables and Energy Efficiency Program and the Community Spirit and Inclusion Award for Queanbeyan Parkrun.

Maitland



FINALIST Population Category E

Maitland continue to show that their community is engaged in their programs and that the environment and sustainability are important to the overall ethos of the local area.

With numerous local schools involved in the Tidy Towns Awards this year it is clear why Maitland continue to thrive in relation to environmental education and projects.

The stand-out for the assessor was the Walka Water Works Rehabilitation and Adaptive Re-use.

Newcastle



FINALIST Population Category E

Newcastle is flourishing in areas least expected, with the Port of Newcastle taking the lead for two years in a row for litter prevention programs within its area.

With a strong history as an industrial port town, Newcastle shows enormous potential to showcase its programs.

This year the Port of Newcastle won the Don't be a Tosser! Litter Action Award for the Port Wide Litter Pick, with other projects such as the Redevelopment of the Shortland Golf Waters Club and the Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group 'War on Waste' providing great opportunities for community involvement.

Waste Less Recycle More

WINNER

Population Category A Get Wasted at Majors, Majors Creek

Majors Creek Music Festival attracts a large crowd of around 1700 across 3 days over a weekend in November. The festival has always been focused on providing an event that is sustainable in all of its operations. The bar and coffee vendors introduced a discount to reuse the bar- issued plastic cup to get 50c off the next drink which was very successful. An Ugly Mug stand of mugs (all shapes and varieties) was donated to the event where people would go up and choose their favourite reusable mug. Additionally, Return and Earn stations were set up with 4000 containers collected; 1 tonne of recycling was separated



out and sent for recycling; 500kg of organics, cardboard and food packaging went to local farms; waste from the composting toilets was processed and recycled and 1.5 tonnes of waste diverted from landfill.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category A Bowraville Community News, Bowraville

The Bowraville Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, Bowraville Technology Centre and Landcare are using their monthly Community News for on-going education for all community members around recycling, reuse and correct disposal, keeping the topics simple and fresh in everyone's minds. It is a simple and effective way of promoting recycling and reuse without wielding a big stick. Bowraville Community News has resulted in getting the waste streams sorted and in the appropriate container, as well as supporting other positive initiatives such as, composting, material reuse and solar power.

WINNER

Population Category B Boomerang Bags - Plastic Free Dungog, Dungog

Boomerang Bags Dungog has had great success with helping the community to transition away from single use plastic bags by providing and encouraging alternatives: reusable bags, produce bags, cutlery tote bags and BeeRapt's, bees wax wraps. Dungog Shire Council and the local IGA has supported Boomerang Bags since its launch in 2016. The Dungog community has overwhelmingly supported going plastic bag free. Dungog IGA and it's 3 other stores in Gloucester, Clarence Town and Hawk's Nest have stopped using single use plastic bags. Boomerang Bags has to date made well over 4000 bags (as well as



other products) for the community to use instead of plastic bags. Their message is always first and foremost to Reduce Waste, Choose Reusables, Recycle/Upcycle and compost.

WINNER

Population Category D Waste Management Strategy Implementation, Parkes

Parkes Shire Council is delivering major improvement works at the Parkes Waste Facility identified in the Parkes Waste Management Strategy 2015. These major improvements, which include user pay charges, have been implemented in conjunction with the introduction of a full organics kerbside collection service to complement the existing recycling and residual waste collections in the town of Parkes and the larger villages in the Shire.

Council have constructed a weighbridge to monitor and control the flow of waste into the facility as well as a small vehicle transfer station. to improve safety at the tipping face and maximise



the resource recovery of recoverable materials from the self-haul waste stream. Separate drop off facilities now exist for Domestic comingled recycling; Engine oil; Cardboard; Mattresses; Metals; Green waste; Tyres; Gas bottles, and batteries.

Waste Less Recycle More

WINNER

Population Category E

Tuncurry Waste Management Centre, Tuncurry

The Tuncurry Waste Management Redevelopment Project involved the construction of a new Community Recycling Centre and Waste Transfer Station; construction of a new dual weighbridge system to support net weight measurement of waste; installation of site utilities, roads, pavements and a hardstand to support the new infrastructure. The creation of a new “Community Precinct”, the construction of a new Men’s Shed, inclusion of an automated CDS depot and creation of a new and innovative branding campaign centred around “Re-imagine Waste” are all part of the project. The project was financed from four major EPA grants with the balance of funding being provided by Council to integrate the entire site holistically. The facility upgrade has allowed Midcoast Council to waive all waste levy payments through their gate, which is a wonderful win for their community and the environment.



Don't be a Tosser!

Litter Action

WINNER

Population Category C

We CARE, Batemans Bay

The 'We CARE Eurobodalla' program aims to prevent waste and litter from being generated in the first place by supporting local businesses to minimise single-use plastic items. The program encourages businesses and customers to C.A.R.E: Carry your own reusable cup or cutlery, Avoid creating more waste, Reuse and Encourage others to do the same. Local businesses were provided with advice on minimising plastics in their business while local suppliers were engaged to stock up on compostable products including cutlery, plates/bowls, coffee cups, bags and straws and businesses received subsidies for their first order of these products. Council also worked with a broad range of community groups, businesses and individuals to engage in marine debris clean ups and litter prevention activities, provided training on recording the data from clean ups on the Australian Marine Debris Database.



Don't be a Tosser! Litter Action

WINNER

Population Category D

Smart Thinking, Broken Hill

Broken Hill City Council has taken a holistic approach to sustainability and adopted a new Sustainability Strategy in 2019. The branding #SustainableBH is used in media, on smart community initiatives and on environmental products to keep sustainable actions and behaviours at the forefront of the minds of community and the Council team. nurturing values that influence behavioural Council has introduced Smart Bins in the Central Business District to reduce the environmental impact of litter; Recycle bins throughout the workplace and for events ; #Sustainable Broken Hill reusable shopping



bags ; #Sustainable Broken Hill Keep Cups and; and removed polystyrene and plastic cups from Council work spaces and venues.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category D

Nude-Foods, Banora Point

The project 'Nude Foods' encourages students to bring food without throw-away-wrapping to school. It started in 2018 for stage 2 students to reduce the problem mess made by ibises and crows on the playground. Each day at lunch, environmental leaders from each class counted how many people in their class have nude foods for lunch, that is, the entire contents of their lunchbox has no l wrapping. The class with the most nude-foods wins the Nude Food trophy. In 2019, stage 3 students adopted the initiative as well and it has had a far reaching and positive impact on the environment, school yard and student health.

WINNER

Population Category E Yeddum Munni Nadyun, Ngunnawal for “good running water”, Queanbeyan

Queanbeyan worked with the NSW EPA to focus on the effects of littering near the Queanbeyan River. The title, Yeddum Munni Nadyun, Ngunnawal for ‘good running water,’ means good quality, clean and litter free. This project worked with, and used, local Indigenous stakeholders and local takeaway restaurants in the target area. The number of cigarette butts counted before the program was 756 down to 114 afterwards and the number of bottle tops reduced from 101 to just 4. A 76% reduction in volume. One of the actions was to create a repurposed beautiful, and



transportable caddy for the bottle tops and butts caddy (made out of an old empty paint can). The focus on building capacity around community responsibility has provided a better understanding about litter.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E Port Wide Litter Pick, Newcastle

The Port Wide Litter Pick project encourages and supports Port users to protect their land and waters by reducing the local region litter footprint. The Litter Pick spreads awareness of getting together as an industrial working community and tidying up individual areas and has strengthened relationships with tenants on the Port and encourages behavioural change. This is the second year the Port Wide Litter Pick has been successfully completed and has been greatly received with increasing participation. Over the two years 2 tonnes of litter have been removed from around the Port.

Return and Earn Litter Prevention

WINNER - SCHOOLS

Population Category A
Return and Earn 2019,
Chevalier College, Burradoo

In the last 2 years, Chevalier College has been handing in bottles to Return and Earn and have earned over \$4000 dollars. This money from returning bottles is put towards paying for food, supplies and equipment for the school animals. This money also goes toward paying for entrance into shows and accommodation for the animals and students as well as purchasing new farm equipment.



HIGHLY COMMENDED - SCHOOLS

Population Category A
Feed our Chooks, Drake Public School

In 2019, Drake Public School started a Return and Earn project where returnable items are collected at the school in a designated bin and transported to a local Return and Earn station. The resulting funds are held by the school and used to fund the maintenance of the school gardens. Items such as organic fertiliser, chicken food, mulch, seeds, seedlings and potted plants have been purchased from collected funds.

WINNER - INDIVIDUAL

Population Category A
Jonathan English, Fernhill

At 3.5 years old, Jonathon English adores the beach. Jonathan's first Return was \$6.40, majority coming from our local beaches & walkways. Once the excitement of seeing the Reverse Vending Machine and a photo of "Wombat" he was determined to get more & learn all about it. With the backing of his community, including the postman, Jonathon has earned more than \$300 and continues to clean up his local beach.





WINNER - SCHOOLS

Population Category B

Beverages for Benefits, Scone Public School

Scone Public School P&C “Beverages for Benefits’ project supplies bins to local businesses to collect their bottles and cans. The bins are labelled especially for the project and are collected by members of the P&C who place the containers in the Reverse Vending Machine at Scone. The project has included working with the students at Scone Public School and has raised just over \$1000 since the project commenced in October 2018.



WINNER - NOT FOR PROFIT

Population Category B

Return and Give, Wildlife Rescue, Woolgoolga

Wildlife Rescue Australia applied and were accepted to become a major donation partner with TOMRA for Return and Earn. For 3 months from 27 May 2019 to 25 August 2019 Wildlife Rescue Australia was featured as a donation partner on the Reverse Vending Machines throughout all of New South Wales and they initially targeted the recycling of 50,000 bottles and cans during the partnership. This was exceeded in the first four weeks to 23rd June with 85,299 bottles and cans recycled.



Return and Earn Litter Prevention

WINNER - NOT FOR PROFIT

Population Category C

Rotary Return and Earn,
Cowra Rotary Club

Cowra Rotary members collect from elderly residents and others who have difficulty in getting to the Return and Earn centre, as well as collecting from several business houses, such as the Cowra Japanese Garden Café and Cowra Rugby Club. People can also deliver straight to the Rotary collection point every Saturday - a much more relaxed and quicker experience. As of March 2019, they have raised over \$2000 for charity. The scheme has been so successful, that Rotary now has, in addition to their own personal collections, a company which collects from their shed once a month and delivers the materials for processing.



WINNER - SCHOOLS

Population Category D

Return and Earn, Centaur
Public School, Banora Point

The Environment Leaders at Banora Point were keen to keep a newly established Return and Earn program going and extended it to the community by encouraging students to bring returnable items to school to be recycled. This program is purely student-run with students designing and labelling collection bins, advertising the program to the school, sorting and collating the items each day and keeping a tally of the amount earned. This program has been so popular that Stage 2 students have now decided to join in with the program.





OVERALL CATEGORY WINNER & WINNER - NOT FOR PROFIT

Population Category E

Dockets for Lent, United Against Homelessness, Cessnock

The United Against Homelessness group collected eligible containers from homes, community and sporting events and from around the town during the six-week period of Lent. The project showed many in the community how easy and beneficial recycling in the Return and Earn scheme is and the benefits of fundraising to assist the socially disadvantaged. Soupz On and Hunter Hands of Hope each received a cheque for \$280 at Easter.



HIGHLY COMMENDED - NOT FOR PROFIT

Population Category E

Project 2020, Great Lakes Women's Shelter Inc Forster/Tuncurry

The Great Lake's Women's Shelter engaged in the Return and Earn scheme to raise funds to assist the shelter in meeting its ongoing day-to-day operating costs and with the construction of a purpose-built shelter. The shelter now receives donations through the scheme which enables them to receive a steady income. Tapping into local caravan parks and other short-term accommodation, the shelter has made the most of living in a high tourist destination while helping to keep the area free from litter.



The Hundred Thousand Million Project, Rotary Clubs of Port Macquarie Sunrise & West

The Hundred Thousand Million Project has a goal to collect 1 million refundable containers over 4 years with a fundraising target of \$100,000. The environmental goal is to reduce the quantity of recyclable containers littering public space or finding their way to landfill because of incorrect disposal. In the 12 months the collection project has been operating, a total of 291,000 eligible containers have been collected, 16% above the 250,000-annual target.

Heritage and Culture

WINNER

Population Category A Gooloogong Log Cabin Major Restoration, Gooloogong

The restoration of the Gooloogong Log Cabin has not only preserved a unique piece of architecture and the town's community hall but also revitalised a community. This is a hall that the community fundraised to purchase and has been operating and maintaining since 1970 by way of fundraising and small grants. The restoration project has delivered complete repainting, rewiring and insulation as well as a new roof, the replacement of the ceiling and walls in keeping with the 1930s ceiling architectural features; new toilets with key 1930s fit out features. Windows have been



replaced with original style glass; the projector room was fully restored as well as new and expanded dressing rooms a new commercial kitchen and provision of disabled access.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category A Rydal Railway Station, Rydal

The Rydal Village Association has secured the lease for the Station Master Residence of the still active Rydal Railway Station. The station has been unmanned since 1989 and the accommodation had become neglected. The Railway Station built in 1869 has been an integral part of the village for the past 150 years. The Association can create a source of income for Rydal from this acquisition and it will bring new life to the Station as it is the only active Railway Station in New South Wales with accommodation. Railways have been such an important part of the early development of the state and for a time Rydal was the terminus of the western line.

WINNER

Population Category B St Mark's Pioneer Cemetery Audio Tour, Picton

After the floods of June 2016 ravaged Picton, including the St Mark's Anglican Church and Pioneer Cemetery, the church set out to restore their Church and cemetery. As they did so they contacted families and did some research on those buried in the cemetery. A local historian, Betty Villey wrote up a dozen stories of people buried in the Pioneer cemetery. These were recorded as audio and uploaded to a website accessible by QR code. The Audio Tour can be listened to by anyone wandering through the



cemetery with a smartphone or other internet-enabled device. This tour makes history and culture accessible to everyone in a modern way.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category C Tanilba House, Tilligery Peninsula

Convicts built Tanilba House with rockwork by Henry Halloran from the 1920s and illuminates the town of Tanilba. Tanilba House is no longer open to the public, so the community's access is during public events, such as open gardens, Tilligery Christmas Party, a Tanilba House video and a book called the Tanilba House History and Heritage. Tanilba House would have been demolished in 1980s if it wasn't purchased by the Oberland Family. There is enough preserved by Tanilba to keep alive the footprint of this early settlement and farm.

Heritage and Culture

WINNER

Population Category D

Broken Hill Mosque: The Surviving 'Ghan Town' Mosque in Australia, Broken Hill

Broken Hill Mosque is the only surviving 'Ghan town' mosque in Australia. Constructed in 1887, the Mosque site comprises the first mosque built in NSW belonging to Cameleers living in the 'north camp' of Broken Hill plus and a smaller mosque relocated from a second camp in the west of the city. Approaches by Afghan descendants to Council ensured that the project was highlighted as one of National significance. Conservation works included structural repairs to internal walls, timber framing, installation of new perimeter drainage, internal painting and cleaning, replacing rotten flooring and landscaping to name a few. Secondly, interpretation works were carried out.



This included remedial and preventive conservation work on the Mosque Museum Collections, new display cases, interpretive text, the recording of video testimonies from a disappearing generation who remember the hardship, friendships and daily life of the Cameleers, and a sustainable program of community engagement.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category D

Johns Bros Joyland, Broken Hill

The Johns Bros Joyland project is an example of a collaborative community effort to bring to life a permanent exhibition of cultural significance to the Broken Hill community. Hidden away for many years in a basement, the project included the construction and fit-out of a 10m by 15m colourbond shed to house a valuable 1920-40s fun fair collection and the restoration of a number of significant items to make up the significant collection of Broken Hill's social and recreational history. The collection includes a merry-go-round, clowns, mini greyhound track, enamel signs and more.

WINNER

Population Category E

The Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival, Orange

The Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival delivers 10 days of events through which visitors and locals can showcase their talents in Australian bush poetry. It is a celebration of Orange's heritage connection with the birth of Banjo Paterson and the life of his parents and grandparents in the district. It also brings to life the art of storytelling about the Australian way of life and culture through entertainment. The 2019 Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival was a particularly highly successful event involving an Australian Champion Performance by bush poet Marco Gliori. Talented



poets competed for prize money; over 900 school students learning and reciting poetry; family markets and walk-up poetry events in parks, pubs and wineries.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E

The Carrington, Orange

The Carrington Hotel was one of the most renowned pubs in Orange. Over time the pub became a well-known watering hole for the local community but as the pub scene changed so did the number of people visiting the Carrington. In 2016 the last beers were pulled at the Carrington Hotel after almost 145 years of trading. The new owners had grand plans to refurbish the old pub rather than demolish it. The old building was gutted on the inside to make way for bigger rooms to be used primarily as offices. The outside was given a makeover with a new verandah added after a violent storm in 1963 damaged the original one. The project has resulted in a transformation of the old pub to a magnificent building complete with new verandah which sits proudly on the corner of Byng Street and Lords Place, Orange

Habitat and Wildlife Conservation

WINNER

Population Category A Native Bees for our Future, Bowraville

Little Star Bee Sanctuary near Bowraville has created the “100 Hives in 100 Schools” program which commenced in August/ September 2019. The program began locally with schools in the Bowraville area. The 100 Hives in 100 Schools project aims to raise the profile of Native Bees for future generations and highlight their value in terms of strategies for diversifying beekeeping in the agricultural and food industry, as well as increasing the numbers of Native Bees as a whole. This program has allowed the Sanctuary to solidify a connection in our community and promote conservation and biodiversity practices.



WINNER

Population Category B Protection and Restoration of 'Hungry Hill' at Dungog Common, Dungog

The Dungog Common Recreation Reserve is a 263-ha reserve on the western side of the small rural township of Dungog. It holds significant remnant vegetation communities and habitat areas in a section known as 'Hungry Hill'. The area is habitat to a variety of fauna including green tree snakes, diamond pythons, brush-tailed phascogales, red necked wallabies and koalas. This project addressed lantana infestations at Hungry Hill as well as specific fencing to limit



stock access. Actions to reduce lantana (and other woody weeds) plus the fencing have been important to the success of the project.

WINNER

Population Category E

Enhanced Sustainability at Mrs York's Garden, Port Macquarie

Friends of Mrs York's Garden committed to restore the biological values of the iconic headland area in an area where Port Macquarie Hastings Council have been unable to commit resources. The importance of the site as a steppingstone in the coastal corridor links had long been recognised. Removal of weeds & rubbish, preparation of sites and planting over 4,000 endemic littoral rainforest and coastal headland plants in an area of approximately 5 acres has significantly regenerated a critically endangered ecosystem and created a connecting corridor for birds. Education in the community of the value of the native species has been achieved through the plantings in the Garden, numerous information signs, plant ID signage, school activities & Tree Day activities, media reports, events at the Garden and constant community contact through Facebook sites.



Habitat and Wildlife Conservation



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E

Koala Watch Project, Lismore

Koala Watch is a community led Koala recovery project in the Northern Rivers region of NSW. The project is coordinated by the Friends of the Koala (FOK), a volunteer organisation based in Lismore providing koala rescue services and care as its core business. Over the past year workshops in each of the 6 Local Government areas in the Region in specific local communities with koala habitat were held. Information was provided to local landowners and residents on maintaining koala populations, becoming a koala watcher, learning to identify distressed, injured or sick koalas, understanding and managing koala habitat, fire planning and management to minimise impacts and stress on koalas, and developing and implementing wild dog control in the local area.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E

Ploughman's Wetlands, Orange

The Ploughman's Wetlands Care Group has identified issues and devised outcomes to improve the amenity and community use of their local wetlands. Two letterbox drops of over 450 homes helped develop a data base of local residents to keep in touch. They have organised two community planting days when over 200 trees and shrubs were planted, followed by a community sausage sizzle. They celebrated World Wetlands Day with a birdwalk and then a flora walk followed by a free community barbecue in the wetlands with over 40 participants. The committee has mapped the wetlands to more easily identify areas of interest or concern, such as weed infestations.

Coastal and Waterways Protection

WINNER

Population Category A

Restoring South Creek, Bowraville

The rehabilitation of South Arm Creek is a project done in conjunction with Nambucca Council and Landcare and the local community committee 'Live Better Bowraville', with farmers being proactive and fencing off the river so stock don't destabilise the riverbanks. A two kilometre stretch of the South Arm River has been planted with 3400 local native trees and four bed rock controls also installed which has deepened water pools and helped to stabilise the banks of the river. The tree planting and installation of weed matting will provide competition for invasive non-native species helping to revegetate the area for local indigenous flora and fauna. The integrated projects upgrading



the area will encourage use of the whole area and the revegetation will attract local people to use the area and also provide an attraction for tourists to visit the town.

WINNER

Population Category B

Weeping Lilly Pilly Riparian Rainforest Restoration, Dungog

The Williams River and its tributaries play a key role in maintaining the biodiversity of The Dungog region. Frank Robinson Park sits along the Williams River where an endangered riparian rainforest vegetation community exists. The Weeping Lilly Pilly Project aims to rehabilitate this area, clearing debris and introduced plants, and planting species endemic to the area. The Sustaining the Williams Valley Incorporated group organised some initial workshops to field ideas for the project and commissioned a plan, They planted over 50 different species including 1200



tube stock sourced from local growers. A number of working bees of planting, monitoring and weed control was the focus initially which are planned to continue on a regular basis to maintain the site.

Coastal and Waterways Protection

WINNER

Population Category E

OzFish Wagga, Wagga Wagga

The OZFish Wagga Chapter successfully completed two clean ups along the Murrumbidgee River with the main priority being the revegetation and stabilisation of a kilometre of creek bank. The first clean up in December 2018 within the Brick Kiln East/Eunony Reserve East cleaned up 1.5 tonnes of rubbish from the river and reserve with rubbish consisting of 11 car tyres, car parts, 8 mattresses, building waste, fishing and camping equipment and takeaway containers. The second clean up collected 4 tonnes of rubbish consisting of 3 whole burnt out cars, 10 car tyres, car parts, 6 mattresses, building waste, shopping trolleys, a carload of bags of dirty nappies and pregnancy tests, fishing and camping gear, takeaway containers.



Recycled Organics

WINNER

Population Category A Majors Creek Festival, Waste Recovery with a Focus on Food, Majors Creek

The Majors Creek Festival has implemented a program of waste recovery and recycling focused on the recovery of organic waste and inert recyclables. The Festival implemented strategies to minimise the use of non-compostable/non-recyclable materials whilst also encouraging attendees to keep organic waste separated from inert recyclables to maximise recovery of both streams. All organic material, including toilet waste from composting toilets, was converted into compost for use on a Landcare soil biodiversity project on a local property.



WINNER

Population Category C Food Waste to High Protein Feed, Bungendore, Braidwood & Captains Flat

Food organics waste from Queanbeyan Palerang's Food Organics & Garden organics bins is separated and sent to a local business, Goterra rather than going to landfill as there was no other composting site available. Goterra uses Black Soldier Flies to process the food waste, creating high protein insect meal and valuable nutritious soil conditioner. This closed loop system harvests the larvae to turn them into valuable agricultural products. A small amount of the larvae is also used for human consumption which is another market side of the Goterra business.



Recycled Organics

WINNER

Population Category E

Ocean2Earth Australia Fish Waste -
Compost not Landfill,
Bermagui, Tathra, Pambula & Eden

Ocean2earth is a niche company dedicated to transforming discarded fish offal and aquaculture waste products into a clean, green organic compost which can be recycled back into the gardens and landscapes of Australia. They partnered with Bega Valley Shire Council to deliver an Australian first fish waste collection and composting service, whereby fish waste that was previously taken to landfill, thrown back in the water or dumped, could be transformed into premium organic compost. The provision of specially marked fish waste bins at boat ramps, a



regular collection / bin cleaning service and taking the waste back to Merimbula Waste and Recycling Depot where it is hot composted is all part of the service.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E

Our Organics Bin, Garden Blitz, Cessnock

Cessnock, Maitland and Singleton councils introduced a Garden Organics collection for residents in March 2017. Garden Organics Blitz 2018 was developed to showcase the products generated from the kerbside material collected and encourage uptake of the products by the community. The project focused on the positive aspects of the service and how the actions of residents had a direct impact on the quality of the final product and what could be achieved when residents used their garden organics bin correctly. A local landscape designer was engaged to work with one resident in each LGA to design a garden project, The Garden Blitz team then came to each site, providing labour, soil and plants, garden bed construction, seating and simple paving up. Replas furniture made from recycled plastic bags was also provided.

Renewable Energy

WINNER

Population Category B

Nambucca Renewable Energy Action Plan & EV Charging Stations, Macksville

Nambucca Shire Council has a commitment to transition Council owned and operated assets to renewable energy but needed a plan as to how to achieve maximum results for the community. They formulated the Renewable Energy Action Plan with short, medium- and long-term actions, anticipated financial benefits and emissions reductions. They have also committed to a financing plan and budget to ensure these actions are implemented and achieve maximum economic and environmental benefits. In addition, Council



has installed two electric vehicle charging stations - one in Nambucca Heads and the other at Macksville enabling visitors to enjoy the beauty and hospitality of these two major towns.

WINNER

Population Category E

QPRC Renewables and Energy Efficiency Program, Queanbeyan

At Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council they are committed to growing their services but not their carbon emissions. Since 2012 Council has installed renewable energy on a number of Council assets to reduce GHG emissions and rely less on the electricity grid. To date Council has installed 14 photovoltaic systems, each system is designed to be export limiting to ensure solar electricity generation is used onsite with minimal energy exported to the electricity grid. Council's largest photovoltaic systems are 60kW located on the Queanbeyan Works Depot and Performing Arts Centre.



Environmental Communication

WINNER

Population Category A

The 100 Mile Dinner, Murrurundi

The 100 Mile Dinner was held in Murrurundi on 6 March 2019 to celebrate International Women's Day and the Senior's Festival. The theme of 100 Miles, was used to promote locally produced food, promote reducing food miles, and to enjoy an affordable and delicious selection of locally produced items. The majority of items on the menu, as well as the guest speaker, and entertainment, were sourced from within 100 Miles of Murrurundi. The event provided a good opportunity to promote local food suppliers, as well as local businesses including the cafe which hosted the event. A local producer of fresh vegetables, who supplied the cafe for the 100 Mile Dinner, has been encouraged to grow her local business.



WINNER

Population Category D

Riddiford Arboretum Conservation Park, Broken Hill

The Riddiford Arboretum in Broken Hill showcases the trees and shrubs of the Broken Hill complex bioregion and demonstrates the value of local native plants, drip irrigation, mulching, etc in maintaining a green environment in the face of a semi-arid and lead contaminated dusty environment. There are over 50 species of plants found growing in the regeneration area that surrounds Broken Hill. The Arboretum is a popular site for groups such as Local Land Services and Landcare who use the space for plant identification workshops.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category D

Banjo: Our Water Story, Parkes

Parkes Shire Council recruited a new mascot, Banjo the frog, to enhance Council's community engagement around local water issues. Parkes Shire Council recently embarked on a complete overhaul of the urban water network, including the implementation of a new Recycled Water Scheme with reclaimed water being used for municipal irrigation around sporting fields and public open spaces. To achieve public acceptance of the new scheme the Giant Banjo Frog was chosen to be the flagship species for Parkes water education program. This species is endemic to the area and spends most of its life underground, only emerging from its burrow after rain. Banjo made his debut at the 2018 Parkes Show, and has since appeared at educational initiatives, local events and launches.

Environmental Communication

WINNER

Population Category E

Cool Connections for our Rural Community, Upper Hunter LGA

Cool Connections for our Rural Community is a grass roots sustainability training forum for the community to inspire sustainability action and to enable individuals and groups to make connections with other like-minded individuals and groups. A series of workshops were delivered across the Upper Hunter with topics including; No Dig Gardening, Water Saving Gardening, Keeping Happy and Healthy Sheep, Goats and Pigs, Upcycled Christmas Gifts, Kicking the Plastic Habit, Keeping Backyard Chickens, Worm Farming, Composting, Fast Fashion, Creek Care, Organic Gardening and Solar Energy. Indirect education regarding environmental and



sustainability issues including waste management, resource separation, Plastic Free July, Wood Smoke Reduction and heat waves were also provided via social and paid media, as well advocated by our Mayor and Councillors in radio interviews and in the Shire.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E

The Hastings Family, Port Macquarie

The Hastings family was created to deliver waste messages to the Port Macquarie community with the launch of the initial campaign 'Which Bin?' targeted households who have a 3-bin domestic waste system. A broad ranging but simple communications and marketing plan allowed the Council to use the Hastings to communicate their messages in a relevant and fun way. Harry, Lucy, Hannah, Joey and Timmy, are your regular family doing their best managing their household waste. Harry (Dad) is your average knock about bloke, Lucy is a yoga loving mum and their kids Hannah, the too cool for school teenage daughter; Joey the not so engaged teenage son and Timmy the younger sibling who is our (slightly annoying) waste warrior, using pester power to teach the rest of us.

School's Environmental Achievement

WINNER

Population Category A

Rosellas-Carroll College, Broulee

Carroll College's environmental group, the Rosellas, is a group of 20 students dedicated to reducing the college's impact on the environment. Since the group's foundation, they have implemented several projects such as separate recycling bins to introducing a filtered water station for refilling bottles, implementing Return and Earn and being involved in community initiatives such as Landcare. The Rosella's are leading the way to increasing awareness and actively cleaning up their local environment.

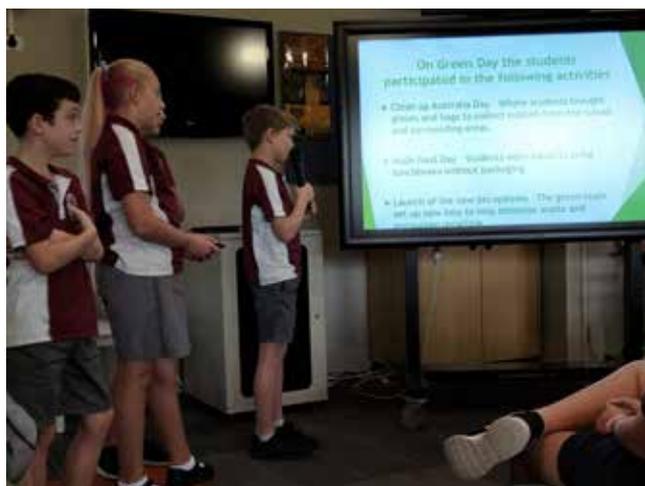


WINNER

Population Category B

Grahamstown Green Team- Grahamstown Public School, Raymond Terrace

Fourteen students at Grahamstown identified that the school had a waste problem. They started to address this by implementing two waste recycling stations for soft plastics, a Return and Earn collection point and compostable waste collection. Representatives from the group presented at a Sustainability workshop at the Shortland Wetlands outlining their initiatives, which also includes Waste Free Wednesdays, and a whole of school "Green Day". The Green Team works in the school vegetable garden, providing fresh ingredients to the canteen and running a stall selling produce to parents.



School's Environmental Achievement

WINNER

Population Category C Eco Playgrounds- St Raphael's School, Cowra

This multi-strand ecological project was initiated in 2015 by the P & F Association and engages the entire school community - relatives, teachers and students. Their projects include transforming under-utilised concrete and dirt playground areas into natural eco-systems, raised vegetable gardens, a chicken house, worm farm and composting. Produce is eaten fresh at school, taken home by students or used in Food Tech classes. Some are converted to bottled products and sold. Worm farms, chickens and composts



also feature in the school's playground. In addition, in 2018 "Waste-free Wednesday" was launched, aiming for zero waste left from lunchboxes.

WINNER

Population Category D Dapto High School 2019, Dapto

Dapto High School employs an entrepreneurial approach to its engagement with sustainability and nurture a 'sustainability sensibility' amongst students and teachers alike. All projects are designed to build awareness of the importance of sustainability and actions to change behaviour towards achieving a more sustainable future. The range of activities includes encouraging walking, cycling and scooting to school; planting trees; installing solar film on windows; installing solar panels and water tanks; collecting organic waste for chickens, worm farms or compost; saving energy and money with movement sensor light switches; recycling programs; bushcare; energy research and WaterSave to name a few.



WINNER

Population Category E

Singleton Heights Pre School, Singleton

Singleton Heights Pre-School is a community-based pre-school currently catering for 60 three to six-year-old children per day that is committed to promoting and practicing environmentally sound practices. Every room has a paper recycling bin, a soft plastics container and compost bin. The pre-school accepts donations of used materials such as old steering wheels, corks, wood off cuts, and packaging which are utilised to stimulate creative play within the program. The children are also encouraged to keep the pre-school environment litter free and pick up litter on outings.



Young Legend's Environment

WINNER

Population Category A

Josh Callaway, Bowraville

Josh Callaway is a young man born with Cerebral Palsy who has great aspirations to be part of the land and farming and in particular show cattle at the top level. He is very aware of his environment and the effect farming practices have on it. Josh chose to join the Cattle Club and has demonstrated great focus, never giving in and having the determination to succeed. He is supported by the school and agricultural teacher Lori Wilson but achieves in his own right.



WINNER

Population Category E

Plants for Health Project-Honey Tree Preschool, Cessnock

The educators at the Honey Tree Preschool take pride in the physical environment the students are exposed to. While wiping the architraves and windowsills as part of routine cleaning, a significant amount of dust and black silt was observed so the pre-school obtained a grant of \$500 from Cessnock Council to purchase plants known for their air purification qualities. The Peace Lily, Bamboo plant, Dracaena, Goldilocks, Rubber plant, Mother In-laws Tongue and Boston Fern were the selected. Throughout the process, the children were engaged to encourage their curiosity about the plants and to consider how they can help keep the air clean.



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OUR TEAM

Our Sustainability Educators are fully qualified primary and secondary education teachers with a depth of experience in lesson planning and class management.

Community Spirit and Inclusion

WINNER

Population Category A

Doing it for our Farmers, Murrurundi

Murrurundi has been severely affected by the drought with many farmers having no income for more than 2 years. The Murrurundi Doing it for our Farmers volunteers opened a “pop up pantry” utilising donations of money and grocery items to help them support farmers through tough times. With at least 8 volunteers the pantry opens each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday supplying goods for farming families as well as farm workers, many of whom have had their hours reduced. The volunteers also held a successful event in November to bring people together, get them off their farms for the day, enjoy a meal and a game of cricket. The event attracted more than 200 people. In 2019, in partnership with



the Local Health Committee and Upper Hunter Shire Council the Doing it for our Farmers group applied to the Primary Health Network for funding to run workshops and hold an event to bring people together through the Empowering our Communities program.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category A

Bugger the Drought, Merriwa

‘Bugger the Drought’ is a quirky community response to something you can’t change - the weather - with the desire to change something you can - community spirits. It’s about a town that decided to throw a huge party, raise the proverbial finger to the drought and served up more than a thousand (locally grown!) snags with a healthy dose of optimism and hope. The Merriwa Tourist Welcoming Centre & Men’s Shed had a brain wave. Throw a party! Bugger the drought... The idea wasn’t easy initially. No one really felt in the partying mood, but something fabulous started to happen as momentum started to build. People wanted to be a part of it. With over 72% of Merriwa attending, the event forged relationships between farmers and townies, creating an economy for locally grown and produced food and also gave the community reprieve from their realities of surviving the longest recorded drought on record in the area.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category A

Country Kids Reaching Out, Trundle

In 2018, Trundle Central School made the decision to become a community welfare hub for drought relief as it became evident that the effects of drought were impacting the mental health of the students. The initiative formed long lasting partnerships with other schools, raised much needed funds, provided showers and washing machines for community members, Christmas gifts for children and parents, donated 140 food hampers to the community as well as clothes, shoes, pamper packs for mums. Gifts were taken home by students and given to parents. This empowered students to not feel like a burden on families but that they were contributing to the home. This was identified as the single most important factor in maintaining positive mental health.

WINNER

Population Category B

Wollombi School Education Trust, Wollombi

The Wollombi School Community Education Trust was formed by local concerned citizens with the mission to preserve and maintain the Wollombi School site as a not-for-profit educational resource for all the community. The Trust negotiated a month by month lease of the site during the period that the Department was preparing for the school's sale. The use of the school as a traditional 'School of Arts' in a country town has now become a major community facility with up to 20 different users running events at the community facility. From "Sit around" – Indigenous Cultural Events, Morningside Stitcher's, art groups, choir



gatherings, library services, Theology in the Pub, prayer meetings and a pre-school meeting place. the community space is well and truly made use of. Over 550 events were held in the 2018/19 financial year that's 11.5 per week!

Community Spirit and Inclusion



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category B

Sustainability Spotlight on Dungog, Dungog

'Sustainability Spotlight on Dungog Shire' was a FREE community event held on Sunday May 26, 2019 at The James Theatre designed to showcase sustainability practice in Dungog. Wanting to celebrate the many businesses and community groups in the Shire who have sustainability as a core component of what they do the event was comprised of a series of short, fast and punchy 5 minute 'Pecha Kucha' style talks: which is less verbal communication and using images to tell the story. There were 18 talks in total followed by a 2nd half of 'behind the big screen' set up of stalls and displays. This event followed the Single Use Plastic Free Dungog launch in the July and was a way to show and share with the community the great efforts already underway for environmentally friendly practices.

WINNER

Population Category D

Shrek The Musical-Junior, Parkes

Shrek the Musical Jnr was a theatre production specifically for junior cast members aged 7 to 19 to develop performance skills in singing, dancing and acting. The cast were from diverse cultural backgrounds and included children on the Autism spectrum. Junior musicals are put on to foster inclusion, teach children to work together as a team to achieve end goals and provide a cultural experience for the cast and people in our communities. There were 38 cast members involved with the average age being 11 years. 23 of the cast had never participated in a theatre production before. One of the shows was an Autism friendly relaxed performance. This type of performance has never been attempted by a



regional theatre company before, and certainly never by a junior cast. With increased education, tolerance and acceptance of people on the Autism spectrum the event was an amazing experience for patrons, many with Autism, epilepsy or other sensory disorder or a disability.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category D

Broken Hill Heritage Festival 2019, Broken Hill

The 2019 Broken Hill Heritage Festival is the second festival to be held to celebrate and promote the reasons why Broken Hill was declared Australia's First Heritage City in 2015. The theme for the 10-day festival 'Mining Our Own Business' focused on the intrinsic link between mining and unionism, and the impact both have had in shaping this famous city. The Festival's opening event "Our Heritage Perfectly Highlighted" launched the City's second lighting and story-telling project lighting up the walls of the Town Hall Façade (1890) for three evenings with projected images of Broken Hill's union and mining history. It attracted over 1,200 visitors. With many other activities also part of the festival it ensured the success of the Festival.

WINNER

Population Category E

We Live Here, Upper Hunter LGA

The "We Live Here" project is a community initiative to provide Shire wide economic stimulus during the drought crisis and into the future. The project used "We Live Here" cards, that work like an eftpos gift card that once loaded can be spent in the region. The project included individually inviting local businesses and services including doctors, lawyers and dentists, across the Shire to be a partner and enable the use of the card. The project also enabled charity groups to provide donated funding to the local community in a safe manner, providing support to purchase what is needed by more vulnerable community members. The project was kicked off in early October 2018 and by Christmas 2018, 128 businesses



and services were recruited in the Shire and the Muswellbrook region. The project was delivered over three months due to urgency of the situation. To date it is the fastest growing and largest scale project of its kind in the state.

Community Spirit and Inclusion



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E

The Orange Hospital Auxiliary, Orange

A record breaking \$416,000 was raised by the Orange Hospital Auxiliary last financial year. This figure was the highest net amount by a country hospital auxiliary and the most money raised in the auxiliary's 95year history. The 64 volunteers gave 22,450 hours of their time to operate the hospital canteen and run raffles. The auxiliary members are some of the most dedicated and hardworking volunteers one could ever find. Their efforts will enable the hospital to buy equipment to improve health services which will in turn provide better specialist services meaning people no longer have to travel to Sydney to obtain these services.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E

Queanbeyan Parkrun, Queanbeyan

The first parkrun for the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council local Government area was started out of a need for a local parkrun within Queanbeyan. Queanbeyan parkrun is now organised by an event team of four and every week 10 volunteers put their hands up to help run the event. The Queanbeyan YMCA decided to fund the set-up costs for the event, as they saw it as a wonderful inclusive community event to bring to Queanbeyan. The run has 1165 registered Queanbeyan parkrunners and an average of 80 participants each week, with 143 clubs or organisations represented. Queanbeyan parkrun volunteer roster is full 5 weeks in advance with 10 or more volunteers. The organisers site the event being successful due to the commitment of the community in supporting this local free and healthy activity.



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Circular Economy

WINNER

Population Category B

Soft Plastics Recycling, Dungog

Dungog Shire Council, in partnership with Plastics Police, has been diverting soft plastics from the waste stream for up-cycling into products which are then procured by Council in a circular economy-based process. Sparked by a community driven initiative, Boomerang Bags, Council has provided a soft plastics collection system and education program aimed at behavioural change and increasing the diversion of soft plastics from landfill. Plastics Police has provided support by sourcing a processor and markets for the collected materials. Since commencement around 13 tonnes of soft plastic has been aggregated, baled and forwarded to processors to up-cycle the material into items such as street furniture and asphalts for road construction.



Response to Climate Change

WINNER

Population Category D

Parkes Recycled Water Scheme, Parkes

The Parkes Recycled Water Scheme offers substantial benefits to this regional, water-constrained community - delivering infrastructure to drought-proof Parkes' public greenspaces. Locally situated and climate resilient, the Recycled Water Scheme reduces the need to use precious drinking water to water grass, servicing selected public greenspaces, such as sporting fields and public parks. It also services the Parkes Jockey Club and the Parkes Golf Club. It allows significant reuse of effluent, which reduces both environmental discharges and raw water consumption, and ensures that Parkes Shire Council receives two uses from the same water.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council Climate Change Action Plan, Queanbeyan

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council recognises that climate change is a serious and significant issue and is committed to supporting the community in addressing it through a local operational response. Council is currently developing a Climate Change Action Plan for the Municipality. This Action Plan will form the framework for Council and the community to work together to address climate change issues in the region. The Action Plan focuses on community actions combined with Council operation actions, focusing on climate change mitigation and adjustments in relation to transport, energy, water, waste, natural environment and adaptation.



Level 1, 268 King Street
Newtown, NSW 2042
T 02 8594 4000
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