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Representatives of Franklin City Council receive their finalist certificate for the Australian Clean Beaches Awards



MEDIA RELEASE

## Outer suburbs clean up

Two Melbourne outer suburbs – **Melton and Frankston** – have taken out Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria's (KABV) major environmental Awards.

The **Sustainable Cities Awards**, open to metropolitan Councils and groups, and the statewide **Clean Beach Challenge Awards** were presented last night at Citiclub on Queen (Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May).

The overall **Sustainable Cities Award** winner was the **Shire of Melton**, in Melbourne's west. It also took out the **Zero Waste Award** and the **Heritage and Culture Award**.

The Melton Shire Council has put an enormous amount of time, personnel and financial backing into many projects, which are designed to encourage its 83,000 residents to participate in a wide array of activities.

The Council has put the emphasis on environmental issues through its own work or in supporting the many 'friends' groups in the Shire. They have also invested in community markets, cultural diversity forums, community leadership training, youth activities, lifestyle programs and leisure, as well as open space strategies

The Melton Regional Park development, the acquisition of Mount Cottrell, maintenance of Bush's Paddock and the very effective Environment Enhancement Policy are all a part of the Council's efforts to preserve and enhance the natural surroundings of Melton.

**Frankston** was named as the State's overall cleanest and friendliest beach, piping last year's winner Balnarring by a small margin.

This beach showed that it has all that a beachgoer would need - a safe clean environment, large clean grass areas for visitors and a new information centre.

**Frankton City Council**, working with **Natural Reserves** and the 100 member strong **Frankston Beach Association**, has made this an inviting natural beach area with many indigenous plant species.

Frankton's has two dedicated and helpful ambassadors who walk along the beach to assist the public during the summer months.

"The Awards are important in recognising not only the work of Councils but the unsung heroes that volunteer their time to improve their local environment and build stronger communities," said KABV's Chief Executive, Wendy Jones.

**Ends**

Winners listed below

Keep Australia Beautiful Council (Vic) Inc ABN: 96 835 319 495  
616 High St, Thornbury Victoria 3071  
Tel: 03 9484 2399 Fax: 03 9484 5699 Email: [info@kabv.org.au](mailto:info@kabv.org.au)  
Website [www.keepaustraliabeautiful.org.au](http://www.keepaustraliabeautiful.org.au)