



Media Release

Strict Embargo until 11pm Saturday 19 April 2008

Toowoomba (Qld) named Australia's Tidiest Town for 2008

The Queensland town of Toowoomba has been announced Australia's Tidiest Town for 2008 at the annual Keep Australia Beautiful Tidy Towns Awards held in Hobart last night.

Situated above the Great Dividing Range, 125kms west of Brisbane, Toowoomba has a rich and varied history and is recognised as the 'Garden City' with its welcoming garden displays at major entries into the city.

Toowoomba's water education programs also earned them the national Water Conservation Award, sponsored by Grundfos Pumps. Broad and extensive, these programs have helped the city address drought and severe water restrictions, whilst innovative 'Turn of a Tap' educational resources set national standards and provide a teaching resource for the city's education system.

Numerous voluntary environmental community groups also work in partnership with the City Council to contribute to Toowoomba's well managed environment. The local Sustainable Home project is an ideal example of partnerships between local and state government, business and industry to achieve a positive environmental outcome. This also earned Toowoomba the national Environmental Innovation Award.

Acknowledging Toowoomba's efforts, Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, said:

"I would like to congratulate the town of Toowoomba for winning the 2008 Australia's Tidiest Town award. This is a big achievement and I understand that there were over 800 towns in every State and Territory in the running for this award. It is testament to the people of Toowoomba to be chosen above such a huge field."

Queensland Premier Anna Bligh said visiting Toowoomba is always up-lifting:

"There's no sweeter moment than to stroll through the State's Garden City in Spring. The beautiful aromas and visual delight of its many private and public gardens coming into bloom is always most memorable. The vivid warm colours match the city's welcome. Well done to all Toowoomba residents. You and your combined efforts, especially given ongoing drought, have done your magnificent city, and indeed this State, proud."

Also congratulating the city on its prestigious win, Toowoomba-born Australian film star, Geoffrey Rush, added:

"My childhood memories of my hometown are sweetly dominated by images of gorgeous gardens, lots of trees and beautiful parklands. Recent visits confirm that this ecological spirit is an unshakeable part of the community's quiet unselfconscious uncompromising sense of itself. Congratulations Toowoomba on winning the Keep Australia Beautiful Tidy Towns Award."

Sponsored by online business directory Truelocal.com.au, part of the News Digital Media, the 2008 Australian Tidy Towns achievement award winners are:

Category	Winner	Sponsor
Australia's Tidiest Town	Toowoomba - QLD	Truelocal.com.au
Community Action Award	Moe – VIC	Truelocal.com.au
Heritage and Culture	Ross – TAS	TakeABreak.com.au
Environmental Innovation	Toowoomba - QLD	
Water Conservation	Toowoomba - QLD	Grundfos
Litter Prevention	Naiyu Nambiyu (Daly River) - NT	Hungry Jack's Bag it & Bin it
Resource Recovery	Mount Gambier - SA	Packaging Stewardship Forum
Community Partnership	Mount Gambier - SA	Mount Franklin
Protection of the Environment	Walpole – WA	
Young Legends	Dorrigo – NSW	
Dame Phyllis Frost - Group	Naiyu Nambiyu (Daly River) - NT CDEP Group	
Dame Phyllis Frost - Individual	Michael Filby – Walpole - WA	

Further information & project details can be found at www.keeppaustraliabeautiful.org.au

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For media interviews and enquiries please contact:

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- 2) Mayor of Toowoomba Regional Council, Peter Taylor on 0408 716 770.
- 3) CEO of Toowoomba Regional Council, Philip Spencer on 0408 748 384.
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EDITOR'S NOTES:

About Keep Australia Beautiful

The Keep Australia Beautiful Network has been encouraging people all around Australia to care for their local environment for over 30 years. Through its *Sustainable Communities Awards*, consisting of Tidy Towns, Sustainable Cities and Clean Beaches, local communities and individuals are recognised for their achievements in helping create sustainable communities.

The Keep Australia Beautiful National Litter Index is the only national, quantitative measure of litter that takes place annually whilst Keep Australia Beautiful Week is the annual national publicity campaign, held in the last week of August, which calls for public action to help reduce their ecological footprint. These are just some of the activities that involve up to 3 million Australians each year. Visit www.keeppaustraliabeautiful.org.au for further information.

Tidy Towns Sponsors

Many thanks to our Principal Supporter, Truelocal.com.au, part of the News Digital Media Network and Category Sponsors including HUNGRY JACK's ® Bag It & Bin It program, Grundfos Pumps, Mount Franklin, the Packaging Stewardship Forum and TakeABreak.com.au. Any mention of the Tidy Towns Sponsors is much appreciated.