



MEDIA RELEASE
Embargoed till Noon -Tuesday 2nd September 2008

**TravelSmart wins the Keep Australia Beautiful
ACT Sustainable Cities Award for 2008**

The winners of the 2008 ACT Sustainable Cities Awards were announced today by the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Mr John Hargreaves MLA, at a presentation in Canberra.

The overall winner was the Territory and Municipal Services' 'TravelSmart Belconnen' program which supported 4700 households to make healthier and more sustainable travel choices. This included developing and implementing personalised public transport travel plans; providing access to alternative travel modes including cycling and walking school bus; encouraging participation in related community events and providing on-going support and information. The program was delivered for TAMS by Steer, Davis Gleave.

Independent evaluation of the project by IMIS has revealed a very positive outcome. Householders in the target area reduced their car travel by 12.7%, whilst estimated reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the 2006/07 period was approximately 9,700 tonnes of CO₂.

"These awards continue to celebrate the achievements of the ACT's local environmental heroes. I congratulate the efforts of the 4700 'green' householders in Belconnen who have worked with Territory and Municipal Services to improve their sustainable transport choices. The project has been an excellent example of the ACT Government working with the community to achieve a positive outcome for our environment. I am sure the project will be a strong contender in the Australian Sustainable Cities Awards," said Mr Hargreaves.

The ACT Sustainable Cities Awards recognise efforts by residents, community groups, businesses and government agencies to enhance their local environment. The awards are sponsored by the 'Do the Right Thing' program of the Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council, a Canberra based organisation dedicated to prevention of litter and responsible disposal of packaging. Other awards highlights include:

- Corinbank Festival which won both the Packaging Recycling and the Resource Conservation categories for the inaugural Corinbank Music, Arts and Sustainability Festival 2008. The event theme of '*Leaves no Trace*' resulted in an estimated 80% reduction in waste to landfill.
- TAMS Park Care which won both the Community Pride and the Habitat Conservation categories. The project involved community volunteer groups caring for local nature reserves. Work carried out by the groups included native seed collection; raising seedlings for bush regeneration in local areas; weed control; water quality monitoring; maintaining heritage sites and values; maintenance of walking tracks and assessment of the values and issues of their reserves with rangers.

The overall winner is now the ACT finalist in the Keep Australia Beautiful, Australian Sustainable Cities Awards, sponsored by the Hungry Jack's 'Bag it and Bin it' program. The national winner will be announced on October 9th at the International Cities, Town Centres & Communities Society conference being held at Sydney Olympic Park.

For further information or interviews please contact:

- Keep Australia Beautiful ACT: Rolfe Hartley, Chair of Judging Committee on 0418 285 634
- KABNA: Scott Lyall, Executive Officer on 0419 016 401 or Lara Shannon on 0415 076 015
- Packaging Stewardship Forum: Jenny Pickles on 0418 558 311

Only contact the winners below after noon on Tuesday 2nd September 2008

- TravelSmart Belconnen: Celia Craig on 02 6207 9262
- Corinbank Festival: Nic Welbourn on 0422 783 763
- TAMS Park Care: Jane Easthope on 02 6207 5570 or 0419 266121

**Keep Australia Beautiful ACT Sustainable Cities
Award Recipients 2008**

Category	Award	Organisation	Project	Sponsor
Overall Winner		TAMS Belconnen	TravelSmart Belconnen	'Do the Right Thing' Program, Packaging Stewardship Forum
Community Pride	Winner	TAMS	The Park Care Program	The Canberra Times
Packaging Recycling	Winner	Corinbank Festival	CorinbankNoWaste	'Do the Right Thing' Program, Packaging Stewardship Forum
Energy Conservation	Winner	Rosary Primary School	Switch To	
Water Conservation	Winner	Australian National University	Environmental management Plan : Water	Grundfos Pumps
Resource Conservation	Winner	Corinbank Festival	CorinbankNoWaste	Cartridge World
Habitat Conservation/ Protection of the Environment	Winner	TAMS	The Park Care Program	The Village Building Company
Sustainable Buildings and Gardens (Domestic)	Winner	Pichelmann Construction	Green Living Project	Bunnings Warehouse
	Highly Commended	Village Building Company	West Macgregor	Bunnings Warehouse
Sustainable Buildings and Gardens (Commercial/Govt)	Winner	Iqon Pty Ltd	Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve	Master Builders Association
Sustainable Transport	Winner	TAMS Belconnen	TravelSmart Belconnen	WIN TV
Sustainable Schools	Winner	St Francis of Assisi	Waste Wise	

Results of the Keep Australia Beautiful ACT Sustainable Cities Awards 2008 announced on 2nd September 2008

Community Pride

Winner—TAMS (Park Care)

The winner of the Community Pride category is awarded to Territory and Municipal Services for their Park Care project. This project involves community volunteer groups working with ACT Government staff to care for local nature reserves in Canberra Nature Park, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, Murrumbidgee River Corridor and Namadgi National Park. There are currently fifteen Park Care Groups working in areas across the ACT. Work carried out by the groups includes native seed collection; raising seedlings for bush regeneration in local areas; weed control; water quality monitoring; maintaining heritage sites and values; maintenance of walking tracks and assessment of the values and issues of their reserves with rangers.

Packaging Recycling

Winner—Corinbank Festival (CorinbankNoWaste)

The inaugural Corinbank Music, Arts and Sustainability Festival 2008 event was based on a theme of '*Leaves no Trace*'. Event management's dedication to the theme of '*Leaves no Trace*' not only targeted packaging recycling through an on-site resource recovery centre but also through a comprehensive education program for event attendees.

The combination of reducing packaging at point of sale, the use of biodegradable plates, cups and cutlery, education on sustainability to event patrons, to the on-site resource recovery centre delivered an estimated 80% reduction in waste to landfill. For an event of this type and size this is an enviable result.

Energy Conservation

Winner—Rosary Primary School of Watson (Switch To)

Educating the next generation about sustainability, climate change and the environment is a positive investment in a healthier future. Rosary Primary School is rising to the challenges presented by a changing climate and demonstrating its commitment to reducing its carbon footprint through reducing the usage of energy and natural resources in a meaningful and positive way. The school's "Switch Off" program and its management energy to reduce electricity consumption have resulted in a twenty eight percent saving. This is commendable action by the students and teachers and the outcomes are extended across the wider Canberra community. The school is taking advantage of other government initiatives and has applied to be the first school to become accredited in the energy component of the Sustainable Schools Initiative and it is launching the Waste Wise program to introduce mixed recycling. I commend the school for its holistic approach, its thoughtful efforts and the traction it is demonstrating on this vexed issue.

Water Conservation

Winner— The Australian National University (Environmental Management Plan: Water)

The Water Conservation category winner was awarded to the **ANU for their *Environmental Management Plan for Water***. The plan targeted a 10 % reduction of water use at the ANU based on 2002 levels. While the population of ANU has grown by 22% and the floor area by 29% the target has been achieved resulting in a 147megalitre water use reduction. These reductions were brought about by installing rainwater/stormwater tanks and a grey water treatment plant to provide water for flush toilets and irrigation. ANU is not only reducing its water use, but it has also undertaken the water quality monitoring of Sullivan's Creek which flows through the university.

Resource Conservation

Winner— Corinbank Festival (CorinbankNoWaste)

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The combination of reducing packaging at point of sale, the use of biodegradable plates, cups and cutlery, education on sustainability to event patrons, to the on-site resource recovery centre delivered an estimated 80% reduction in waste to landfill. For an event of this type and size this is an enviable result.

Habitat Conservation/Protection of the Environment

Winner—TAMS (Park Care)

The TAMS Park Care Program has successfully created a partnership between Government, NGOs and 15 community groups to develop and implement a comprehensive care program for nature reserves in Canberra Nature Park, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, Namadgi National Park and the Murrumbidgee River Corridor. The program has provided a way for people to become actively involved in the management of their local environment, learning new skills while making a direct contribution to sustainability.

This comprehensive program has improved the management and care of local nature reserves at minimum cost, while at the same time raising awareness and building capacity within the Canberra community.

Sustainable Buildings and Gardens (Domestic)

Highly Commended—Village Building Company (West Macgregor)

Brindabella at Macgregor has been designed as an estate for all ages and income brackets with a predominant focus within the estate on affordable housing and sustainability.

Rather than having to pay for the latest sustainable initiatives, we have maintained low cost housing with a large focus on reducing harmful emissions and our footprint on the environment and reusing and recycling our construction materials.

The company's objectives for this project were:

- to achieve 6-star Energy Efficiency Ratings in all new dwellings
- to make housing design more efficient in the way materials are used
- to re-duce the costs of recycling of waste by making full use of materials on site
- to implement landscaping initiatives that don't rely heavily on the use of water
- to increase the use of solar power

Winner— Pichelmann Construction (Green Living Project)

This home incorporates a meticulous solar orientation, which includes varying roof pitches, high light windows, massive eave widths and a beautiful enclosed garden to sit and contemplate in. A state of the art solar hot water storage system services the in slab hydronic heating and domestic hot water requirements. Gray water is recycled throughout the community purification system and reused on the gardens. The house has Schuster thermally broken double-glazing throughout and the external cladding is Hebel Power panel backed up with insulated walls, ceilings and suspended slabs. Lastly, two automatic heat vents are installed in the cathedral ceilings to assist in maintaining a cool environment in summer.

A perimeter fire sprinkler system backed up by a designated pump and back up generator plus stainless steel narrow window screens and the Hebel exterior add a level of country living security and peace of mind.

Sustainable Buildings and Gardens (Commercial/Government)

Winner—Iqon Pty Ltd (Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve)

Following the devastating bushfires of January 2003, the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve (TNR) emerged deeply impacted with much of the habitat and wildlife destroyed. With the express aim of reinstating and enhancing the previous functions of TNR, the ACT Government agreed to implement a Nature Discovery Centre within the Nature Discovery Zone centred on the existing wetlands. The Centre is a unique blend of Civil, Building and Landscaping works.

This project included the design documentation, construction and post construction services for the new Nature Discovery Centre. The project was concentrated around the existing Wetlands Precinct and needed to be developed with due considerations to effective outcomes in:

- Water quality, particularly the Tidbinbilla River
- Animal habitats including the development of
- Animal observation areas
- Visitor experience
- Discovery trails
- Free range wildlife
- Hiking

Sustainable Transport

Winner—TAMS (TravelSmart Belconnen)

The TravelSmart Belconnen project showcases how multiple benefits can be achieved through households, community groups and governments working together to address sustainability issues.

The project supported some 4,700 households in the Belconnen area to make healthier and more sustainable travel choices. This included developing and implementing personalised public transport travel plans; providing access to alternative travel modes including cycling and walking school bus; encouraging participation in related community events; and providing on-going support and information through a range of mediums.

Independent evaluation of the project has revealed a very positive outcome. Householders in the target area reduced their car travel by 12.7%. Estimated GHG emissions reduction of the period 2006/07 was about 9,700 tonnes of CO₂. As a result of participating in the TravelSmart project residents also reported the following personal gains:

- Money savings – 42%
- Health – 40%
- Environment – 11%
- Other (km reduction) – 4%
- Time savings – 3%

Overall this project provides a model that demonstrates a practical approach to changing travel patterns and behaviours. The participatory nature of the approach contributes outcomes beyond CO₂ emissions reduction, and potentially offers a model that is applicable and scaleable for other communities.

Sustainable Schools

Winner—St Francis of Assisi Primary School (Waste Wise)

St Francis of Assisi School—Waste generation and disposal is one of the most pressing environmental problems facing Canberra, and the school is to be commended for taking an active, innovative approach in tackling it.

Reducing waste to landfill is a key step in cutting greenhouse emissions and shrinking the Dr Martens size of the city's ecological footprint. Particularly impressive is the school's hands-on, get-involved approach to environmental issues and the broad scope of their activities. Going global and linking up with a school in Indonesia also shows a welcome interest in how environmental issues affect developing countries.