

Sound choice for top beach

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CAPEL Sound reserve is in the running to be named Australia's cleanest beach. The national judge of the 2009 Australian Clean Beaches Awards, Chris Tola, inspected Capel Sound last Thursday after the area won the nomination for Victoria's cleanest beach last year.

The 3.75-kilometre reserve and beach between Rosebud West and Tootgarook is up against beaches from all states, including White Haven in Queensland, North Steyne in NSW, Mersey Bluff in Tasmania and Loxton on the River Murray in South Australia.

Capel Sound has been managed by volunteer committees since 1929 and is no secret to locals or visitors, becoming a summer 'home' to thousands of campers through the years. Mr Tola said a clean beach didn't just mean a beach with no litter. "These awards take into account the whole spectrum of local community sustainability initiatives. The committee has worked hard to engage campers and locals alike with its 'let's get involved and get it done' attitude. Their work has extended across revegetation works, building restoration, energy and water initiatives, recycling and mobility upgrades."

The winner will be announced on May 25 in Townsville at the home of last year's No.1 spot, Strand Beach



Sand man: Clean beach award judge Chris Tola digs in at Capel Sound last Thursday. Picture: Yanni