



Media Release

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Celebrating 40 years of Tidy Towns

The national finalists in the Keep Australia Beautiful, Australian Tidy Towns Awards have been announced and will now compete to become Australia's Tidiest Town 2009.

The iconic Tidy Towns program commenced in 1969 in WA with Bunbury the first ever winner. The awards identify, acknowledge and promote Australia's best examples of sustainable communities in regional and rural areas across Australia.

In 2009 the national Tidy Towns finalists are:

- **NT:** Atitjere (Harts Range), 250km north east of Alice Springs, pop 220
- **WA:** Kambalda, 620km east of Perth, birth of Nickel mining in Australia, pop 4,200
- **SA:** Stansbury, 210km from Adelaide on the Yorke Peninsula, pop 450
- **TAS:** Oatlands, 80km north of Hobart, features Georgian architecture, pop 800
- **VIC:** Horsham, Western Victoria, Wimmera Region, pop 13,500
- **NSW:** Tamworth, 400km north west of Sydney, Country Music Capital, pop 36,000
- **QLD:** Caloundra, Sunshine Coast, seaside escape, pop 41,000

The national awards presentation will take place on Friday 8 May, hosted by the Governor General at Government House, Yarralumla in Canberra. Register by 15 April. The program is sponsored by the Packaging Stewardship Forum 'Do the Right Thing' program, Grundfos Pumps 'Water Conservation' program and Hungry Jack's 'Bag it and Bin it' program.

Each year, tens of thousands of volunteers donate their time and effort to undertake practical local initiatives with projects ranging from litter prevention and promotion of recycling to water and energy conservation to bush regeneration, endangered species and habitat protection and the preservation of local culture and heritage.

Keep Australia Beautiful will also be fundraising in the lead up to the 40th anniversary celebrations. There is a chance to win a weekend away and a Navman to help you find your way there, an online auction of memorabilia and sales of Australian made organic cotton T-shirts.

Keep Australia Beautiful National Chairman, Don Chambers, said:

"Since its inception forty years ago, the flagship Tidy Towns program has played an important role in highlighting grass roots, community environmental initiatives. Over time, the program has widened its focus from litter and civic pride, and now encompasses the full spectrum of local sustainability issues.

The recent response to the Victoria bushfires has underlined the importance of community volunteering. We have seen many examples that show how a local community has banded together to help their town in the face of hardship. It is this resilient community spirit that is seen throughout the 40 years of Tidy Towns' achievements."

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 since 1969. Through its Sustainable Communities Awards consisting of the Tidy Towns, Sustainable Cities and Clean Beaches awards local communities are recognised for their achievements. Keep Australia Beautiful Week is a national program to raise awareness of environmental issues and participation in Keep Australia Beautiful activities, whilst the Keep Australia Beautiful National Litter Index is the only national, quantitative measure of litter that takes place annually. These are just some of the activities that involve up to 3 million Australians each year. Visit www.kab.org.au for further information.

Tidy Towns Partners

Packaging Stewardship Forum 'Do the Right Thing' program

The PSF provides a vehicle for broader corporate support for Australia's efforts to improve resource recovery and reduce littering of food, beverage and grocery packaging. In addition, it also assists in the delivery of national projects for the National Packaging Covenant and provides an opportunity for progressive businesses to re-engage with their stakeholders and partners in packaging stewardship. PSF manages the 'Do the Right Thing' program.

Grundfos Pumps 'Water Conservation' Program

As a world leading pump and pumping systems manufacturer, Grundfos Pumps has joined with Keep Australia Beautiful to help all Australians achieve improvements in water conservation. The partnership is based on sponsorship of the Water Conservation category of both the Tidy Towns and Sustainable Cities Awards at a national and state/territory level. These awards identify, acknowledge and promote examples of excellence in local environmental initiatives. Finalists and winners of the awards will help provide best practice case studies and benchmarks that other local communities across Australia can utilise to address water shortages and restrictions.

HUNGRY JACK'S® 'Bag it and Bin it' program

Hungry Jack's is doing its bit to help keep Australia beautiful:

- a 'Bag it and Bin it' anti litter message is being added to packaging;
- painted or printed Fries containers have been discontinued in favour of natural board containers
- some Queensland stores are trialling compacting units for both food waste and cardboard recycling;
- a grease guardian is being trialled at Flemington in Victoria which removes grease and oil from waste water.

For further information or to attend the Australian Tidy Towns Award presentation visit www.kab.org.au/tidytowns

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