

NSW: Ned's Beach, Lord Howe Island

MEDIA RELEASE

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NED'S BEACH ON LORD HOWE ISLAND IS NEW SOUTH WALES' CLEANEST BEACH!

Ned's Beach, on Lord Howe Island, has won the Keep Australia Beautiful (NSW) 2004 Clean Beach Challenge.

The Hon. Frank Sartor, MP, Minister for Energy and Utilities and The Hon Pam Allan, MP, Chair of Keep Australia Beautiful (NSW), presented the award to Lord Howe Island tourism and community representatives at the awards ceremony at Brighton-le-Sands today.

"The judges tell me there was absolutely no litter on Ned's Beach (or any of Lord Howe Island's beaches, for that matter), all the beach's facilities, from toilets, shelter areas and picnic tables to bike racks and barbeques were unobtrusive, well maintained and free of vandalism.

"The Lord Howe Island Board is aiming to recycle about 85% of rubbish and this is especially noteworthy since rubbish has to be shipped off the island at considerable cost.

"Living in a place of such national and world heritage importance brings with it certain responsibilities and the strong sense of community pride in keeping Ned's Beach, and its beautiful surrounds, in pristine condition is very evident.

"I am gratified to know that the schools, the local environment group (Friends of Lord Howe Island) and the Lord Howe Island Board have all formed strong partnerships to not only keep the beach tidy, but to also maintain and improve the beach environment and encourage the native flora and an astounding variety of fauna, particularly bird species. The sparkling waters of Ned's Beach teem with over 500 species of fish.

"Programs like the Clean Beach Challenge encourage government instrumentalities, local councils, schools, community organisations and dedicated individuals to work together to treasure and conserve our world renowned coastline and beaches.

"All who have the good fortune to visit Lord Howe Island will surely agree that Ned's Beach is a deserved winner of the 2004 Clean Beach Challenge award," Ms Allan said.

The Chief Executive of Keep Australia Beautiful, Matthew Taylor, said, "This pristine piece of paradise on the northern tip of World Heritage Listed Lord Howe Island fought off strong challenges for the award from Newcastle's

Nobbys Beach and the South Coast's Tathra Beach, which were both Highly Commended by the judges.

"Over 160 beaches, from Tweed Heads to Eden, entered this year's Keep Australia Beautiful (NSW) Clean Beach Challenge, and it is this strong community involvement, commitment and care that help keep Australia beautiful.

"Ned's Beach will now go 'head to head' with the yet to be announced Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania Clean Beach Challenges winner in a national battle to be announced in February next year," Matthew Taylor said.

As well as the overall awards there were eight category awards presented to beaches throughout New South Wales.

They all deserve warm congratulations:

" Sydney Water Resource Conservation & Waste Management Award

Winner: Manly Beach (Sydney)

This Award recognises outstanding accomplishment in resource conservation and waste management. Judges look for evidence of community, business and/or local council initiatives in the recovery and reuse of waste materials and the appropriate disposal of non-recyclables.

Highly Commended: Ned's Beach (Lord Howe Island)

" Energy Australia Friendly Beach Award

Winner: Town Beach (Port Macquarie)

This Award recognises the importance of visitor hospitality and safety and instructive, easily understood local information. Judges look for a beach that is truly visitor-friendly.

Highly Commended: Brunswick Heads
Grassy Head (near South West Rocks)

" Alcoa Australia Rolled Products - Litter Prevention Award

Winner: Tuross Beach (Plantation Point - near Moruya)

This Award recognises outstanding accomplishment in litter prevention, management and education. Judges look for evidence of sound and proactive litter management and litter abatement activities.

Highly Commended: Freshwater Beach (Sydney)
Putty Beach (north of Killcare)

" Community Action Award

Winner: Scotts Head (near Nambucca Heads)

This Award recognises outstanding community organisation and pride expressed through civic, cultural and environmental activities. Judges look for evidence of strong partnerships between the local beach community, local business and local councils.

Highly Commended: Lighthouse Beach (Port Macquarie)
Angels Beach (near Ballina)

" Young Legends

Winner: Freshwater Beach (Sydney)

This Award recognises outstanding accomplishment by youth and by a beach/community that encourages and promotes youth activity. Judges look for evidence of strong youth initiatives and involvement in and around the beach.

Highly Commended: Woolli Beach (near Nambucca)
Flynn's Beach (Port Macquarie)

" Country Energy Beach Spirit Award

Winner: Diamond Beach (near Ballina)

This award recognises coastal communities that solve problems by turning them into opportunities. Judges look for evidence of beach community 'hardship' - economic, environmental or elemental - and the community's response.

Highly Commended: Bingie Bingie (near Nowra)
Stockton Beach (Newcastle)
Hastings Point (near Brunswick Heads)
Lady Robinsons Beach (Botany Bay)

" The Partners Local Government Leadership Award

Winner: Seven Mile Beach (near Ballina)

In this Award, judges look for evidence of the local council's proactive influence in and around the beach community.

Highly Commended: Shelley Beach (Port Macquarie)
Horseshoe Beach (South West Rocks)
Lady Robinsons Beach (Botany Bay)

" Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources -
Natural Heritage Award
Winner: Long Reef (Sydney)

This Award recognises the community and/or the council's commitment to the preservation of local fauna and flora. Undertakings such as weed eradication policies and programs undertaken by council and the community that identify, rehabilitate and/or protect local fauna and flora must be evident, as well as an overall commitment to the maintenance and protection of coastal/dune vegetation.

Highly Commended: Black Head Beach (near Taree)
Seven Mile Beach (near Ballina)

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