

## **WALPOLE, Western Australia**

**Western Australia's 2007 Tidiest Town & National finalist 2008**

**Situated approx 420kms south of Perth**

**Population: approx 500**

### **1 Welcome**

WALPOLE is surrounded by the unique wilderness and natural beauty of the Walpole-Nornalup National Park. The town is situated on the shallow Walpole Inlet, which is no deeper than one metre. WALPOLE's Tidy Towns committee plays an important role in preserving and enhancing the local environment through a range of projects and developed partnerships for a sustainable future. Various beautification and environmental protection projects are a welcoming feature of WALPOLE's presentation.

### **2 Primary School**

Extensive environmental education programs are a feature within WALPOLE Primary School. Highlights include recycling and resource recovery initiatives, weed removal, environmental protection and nature conservation activities, as well as numerous beautification projects undertaken within the school as well as in the local community. The school community are active participants in the innovative UR WALPOLE Eco-education program with students learning about as well as benefiting from innovative ways to lessen their impact on the environment.

### **3 Partnerships**

Numerous partnerships are the key to the success of the WALPOLE community's commitment to a sustainable future. Notable examples include the community alliances with Department of Environment and Conservation in providing well designed facilities to meet the growing demand of visitors and tourists. Facilities also interpret the natural features of the Walpole-Nornalup National Park and more importantly, the need to protect this sensitive and unique environment.

### **4 Waste trail**

The school community leads the way in sustainable resource recovery practices with students taking home ways to lessen impact on the environment. Recycling systems are well managed for the overall benefit of the community. The involvement in the waste recycling trial at the local transfer station is a credit to the community with bottles and cans, together with oil, steel, concrete and green organics separated onsite. The unique sea container collection system trial is to be commended.

### **5 Water reuse**

The WALPOLE Tidy Towns committee continues to foster well developed community alliances which aims at ensuring the town has a sustainable future. There are numerous examples of the community working in partnership, particularly with the Water Corporation as well as input into the Wastewater Reference Group. Outstanding example is the successful wastewater reuse scheme which has nurtured extensive woodlot plantations in and around WALPOLE for future use.

## **6 Features**

The Tidy Towns committee, the Shire of Manjimup, its representative, Dave Tapley and the general community continue to work together to ensuring the appeal of WALPOLE's unique identity and charm is retained, protected and enhanced. Ongoing improvement and rehabilitation works demonstrate a tremendous commitment to conserving and improving the natural heritage in and around WALPOLE.

### ***Further highlights***

Michael Filby, John Kolo and their network of helpers are to be commended for their personal commitment to keeping WALPOLE free from litter.

A unique WALPOLE Tidy Towns partnership sees local work camp prisoners work closely with committee members in being jointly responsible for cleaning up and maintaining extensive areas around the town.

The community of WALPOLE has an excellent understanding of the need to conserve water. The number of waterwise gardens in the town reflects residents' commitment to ensuring that the issue of water conservation is high on everyone's agenda.

WALPOLE's successful Op Shop project aims at supporting the community by not only reducing materials sent to landfill but also assisting the needy to find all types of household goods, clothing, etc. It then reinvests profits in the community by providing grants to non-profit organisations within the town. Kate O'Brien and her network of volunteers are to be congratulated on their wonderful commitment.

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