

## **MOUNT GAMBIER, South Australia**

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

**Location: South East region**

**Population: 24 000 approx**

### **1 Welcome**

MOUNT GAMBIER's long tradition continues in the state and national Tidy Towns program with the community coordinating numerous tasks associated with ensuring the city's sustainability. MOUNT GAMBIER's entry statements are strong and welcoming and provide a broad range of information to the many thousands of visitors and tourists who pass through and stay within the city. Residents keenly maintain their gardens that demonstrate pride in their city and its surroundings.

### **2 Heritage**

Protecting and restoring MOUNT GAMBIER's heritage is high on the community's list of priorities. Numerous examples of projects are evident throughout the city, in particular AUSPINE's great restoration of the Convent building and surrounding grounds typifies commitment to historic preservation. Council financially assists homeowners in conserving historic assets through a grant program that encourages conserving heritage buildings. Active historical societies and a Heritage Committee of Council work in partnership with the National Trust and others in preserving the community's proud past.

### **3 Signs & sculptures**

MOUNT GAMBIER's stunning art projects are featured throughout the city. The annual Limestone Symposium provides a wonderful opportunity for creative sculptures to eventually be placed in and around the city. An innovative and modern approach to signs and fencing also complements the city's wonderful ambience and commitment to beautification. The new historic bollard walk also creatively identifies numerous heritage and significant sites throughout the community.

### **4 Partnerships**

An extensive number of community partnerships are evident and celebrate numerous projects that help make MOUNT GAMBIER so special. Notable examples include the Rotary Clubs of Mount Gambier's Potters Point lookout partnership with Council, the creative Community Garden project which saw numerous community, business, service and government organisations forming alliances providing a wonderful asset together with various restored heritage fence projects throughout the city.

### **5 Waste Management**

Resource recovery initiatives are the key to MOUNT GAMBIER's commitment to reducing impact on their local environment, in particular landfill facilities. Recycling programs are a priority with well organised community and school recycling systems in place. Numerous collection and diversion systems are available to enable the community to maximise the numerous facilities to recover resources. Innovative swales are positioned throughout the city to manage stormwater which directs this resource to recharge the city's underground aquifer.

## **6 School commitment**

Environmental education programs are a key element of education in all of MOUNT GAMBIER. In particular MOUNT GAMBIER High School and Mulga Primary School have a major focus with the school network of students, teachers and parents being great contributors to numerous community activities. Schools are strongly focused on environmental programs with innovative approaches to education and developed community partnerships for positive environmental outcomes. Leith Robson is to be commended for his leadership in the High School's recycling and waste reduction programs.

### ***Further highlights***

MOUNT GAMBIER's Youth Advisory Committee continues to work in partnership with Council to address broad local as well as regional issues that affect young citizens of the south east.

The City of MOUNT GAMBIER citizen awards enable the recognition and encouragement of a range of individual contributions to the community in volunteering, innovation, citizenship and youth initiative.

As stormwater discharges into the city's underground aquifer that feeds into the community's water source, the city's water education initiatives are in place to raise community awareness of the need to protect the quality of this essential resource.

The innovative Butt Free MOUNT GAMBIER Blue Lake Watercare project successfully educates smokers in reducing the number of cigarette butts polluting local waterways.

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