

Greg Hunt MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS

Media Release

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BALNARRING BEACH WINS AUSTRALIAN CLEAN BEACH CHALLENGE

Balnarring Beach has been named Australia's Cleanest Beach 2006, after winning Keep Australia Beautiful's prestigious Australian Clean Beach Challenge competition.

Federal Member for Flinders, Greg Hunt, will present the trophy to the Balnarring Foreshore Committee in a ceremony on 28 October.

"This is a wonderful achievement and something the whole community can take great pride in," Mr Hunt said.

"Balnarring Beach is a model for other communities. A whole range of fantastic environmental projects are underway around the beach, including tree planting to encourage koalas to return to the area, clearing of weeds and the development of a forest sidewalk.

"The area is regularly cleaned and well-maintained, and a great deal of effort has been put into ensuring the beach facilities are energy efficient. Social activities run by the local yacht club involve youth and volunteer police in water-based training and beach conservation."

"The whole community has been involved in this fantastic work, and the Balnarring Foreshore Committee in particular has made an outstanding contribution to the environment around Balnarring Beach," Mr Hunt said.

President of the Balnarring Foreshore Committee, Terry Mulcahy, said he was delighted that Balnarring Beach had won such an important award.

"It is terrific that the beach has received nationwide recognition for something Balnarring locals have known for years – that this is the country's cleanest, best maintained beach," Mr Mulcahy said.

"I think Balnarring is the best beach in Australia."

Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Chief Executive Officer Andrew McLorinan said Balnarring, which has previously won the State title for two years running, set a shining example for other beach communities.

"Our judges agreed Balnarring had it all, meeting or exceeding all of the Clean Beach Challenge awards criteria.

"Visitor friendliness, litter prevention, community-local government partnerships, resource conservation and waste management, youth involvement and community action – there's no shortage of enthusiasm or commitment at Balnarring Beach," Mr McLorinan said.

The award presentation will take place at 2pm on Saturday 28 October at the rotunda on Balnarring Beach. Keep Australia Beautiful's Australian Clean Beach Challenge is made possible by the Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council as part of their 'DO THE RIGHT THING' campaign.

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