

## **MOE, Victoria**

**Victoria's 2007 Tidiest Town & National finalist 2008**  
**Situated approx 150kms east of Melbourne**

**Population: approx 11 500**

### **1 Intro**

MOE, situated within Victoria's Latrobe Valley, provides visitors and residents with a host of cultural and natural experiences. MOE's well organised 'Make MOE Glow' committee, formed in late 2005, has coordinated and facilitated numerous community projects associated with the Tidy Towns program. The group has achieved outstanding success in a short time and is a result of community partnerships, particularly with Latrobe City Council as well as numerous local residents, business and community groups.

### **2 Heritage Park**

Old Gippsdown, MOE's Heritage Park represents an authentic historic township with over 30 original furnished buildings, some under National Trust classification. Staff and a volunteer network are totally committed to preserving the town's proud heritage. The group is made up of numerous dedicated volunteers who have the foresight to preserve MOE's cultural heritage for the benefit of future generations. The park is home to an extensive and priceless collection of artefacts, information and memorabilia from in and around the district.

### **3 Schools**

Environmental education programs are a key element of education in MOE, particularly Elizabeth Street Primary School together with Baringa Special School's network of students, teachers and parents who are great contributors to numerous school and community activities. Both schools are strongly focused on environmental programs including recycling programs, biodiversity focuses as well as beautifying school grounds. Elizabeth Street was successful in winning Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria's regional Proud Schools award for linking numerous activities to sustainable approaches.

### **4 Stationeers**

An extensive network of community groups are involved with ensuring MOE continues and extends its commitment to being a clean, proud and sustainable town. The town's award-winning Stationeers project involves a range of community groups, V-Line staff as well as Council in beautifying MOE's busy railway station. Numerous totems recognise and celebrate local achievers, contributors and characters that help make MOE so special. Stunning art projects are also a feature in the school's well-maintained grounds.

### **5 Environmental Protection**

Protecting the region's unique environment is important to numerous community members within MOE. In particular, the Ollerton Avenue Bushland Reserve Committee is a well organised volunteer group that works in partnership with Latrobe City Council as well as students from nearby Lowanna College in the active conservation of the unique native vegetation situated within the reserve. Projects include extensive weed control, revegetation of areas damaged by human impact as well as installing signs, fencing and walking tracks.

## **6 Streetscaping**

MOE's beautification projects are strongly linked to an exciting local arts community who work in partnership with Council, V-Line, schools, ethnic groups as well as service clubs. Numerous artworks and sculptures are a welcoming feature throughout the community. In particular, Jim Lawrence's unique metal sculptures are positioned throughout MOE and the Gippsland region.

### ***Further highlights***

Latrobe City Council has a strong commitment to work with residents to develop its assets and foster community spirit. Council staff are active supporters of Tidy Towns objectives both as Council representatives and as local residents.

Keep Australia Beautiful would like to acknowledge the work of the late Steven Barling, who was a long term contributor in keeping MOE free from litter. His numerous hours of voluntary litter collections in and around MOE contributed greatly to Make MOE Glow. His dedicated work will be long remembered.

With MOE under severe water restrictions, Latrobe City Council depot staff initiated a successful water recycling approach which backwash water from local swimming pools recycled and reused to water trees and plantations.

MOE's success in the Victorian Tidy Towns awards is seen as a win for local residents and also one that encourages other communities within Latrobe City Council to get involved in the Tidy Towns program.

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