

TOOWOOMBA, Queensland

Queensland's 2007 Tidiest Town & National finalist 2008

Situated approx 125kms east of Brisbane

Population: approx 97 000

1. Billboard

Situated atop of the Great Dividing Range, TOOWOOMBA is recognised as the 'Garden City'. The city has numerous welcoming garden displays at major entries into the city with colourful treatments and signs. TOOWOOMBA has a rich and varied history and the community is friendly, enthusiastic and dedicated to caring for their unique environment.

2. Empire theatre

Numerous volunteers are a key to the successful management of various public facilities with notable examples being the Empire Theatre as well as the city's successful Visitor Information Centre. TOOWOOMBA is fortunate to have an extensive network of community groups including environmental, historical, sporting as well as community care networks, all cooperatively working away with Council to ensure a sustainable and happy lifestyle for residents and visitors.

3. Landcare group

Numerous voluntary environmental community groups work in partnership with the City Council and effectively contribute to TOOWOOMBA's well managed environment. Extensive rehabilitation of the city's bushland parks are being carried out by numerous 'Friends' groups and supported by Council's Bushcare officers. One such group is the 'Friends of Escarpment Parks' who work in partnership with Council on bush restoration as well as coordinating innovative environmental education activities for schools and the general community. Some programs include Bushcapades, waste tours as well as the unique 'Backyards, Birds and Binoculars' activities.

4. Sign

TOOWOOMBA's Sustainable Home project is an ideal example of partnerships between local and state government, business and industry to achieve a positive environmental outcome. The dwelling is a unique display home which provides practical examples to meet the triple bottom line concept of environmental, economic and social sustainability. It demonstrates to the many thousands of visitors that sustainable housing is made up of many energy and water saving features and environmental benefits.

5. Recycle shop

TOOWOOMBA's recycling and resource recovery initiatives divert extensive tonnes of waste from landfill. Separate collection areas at TOOWOOMBA's Waste Transfer Station allow the deposit of additional recycleable materials. The site also recycles an extensive array of waste materials. The site's Smart Tip Shop also generates a funding source for LifeLine's community care programs. The waste education centre provides an ongoing service to students and the community to recycle effectively. TOOWOOMBA has an extensive network of public recycling facilities located in high traffic areas to maximise usage.

6. Cinemas

TOOWOOMBA is made up of a broad range of architectural approaches however the stylish Art Deco form is a notable feature, particularly throughout the city's Central Business District. The city's proud heritage is further highlighted at the well designed Cobb & Co Museum which interprets the community's rich culture. Traditional heritage trades and skills are an important part of history and the Cobb & Co Museum is dedicated to keeping the spirit of Australia's heritage alive by ensuring pioneering skills are preserved. Skills such as blacksmithing, leatherwork, etc are taught to ensure those skills are not lost.

Further highlights

TOOWOOMBA's water education programs are broad and extensive given the fact that the city is in the grip of a drought and under severe water restrictions. The innovative 'Turn of a Tap' educational resources are of national standard and provide a great teaching resource for the city's education system.

Numerous heritage and historical society groups ensure that TOOWOOMBA's rich culture and history is maintained for all to share. Well designed brochures as well as numerous celebrations and activities enable the general community to be proud of the city's heritage. An unusual interpretative activity is TOOWOOMBA's 'Tombstone Trails Tours'.

TOOWOOMBA's Towards 2050 Community Plan is a partnership between Council and the local community in outlining a vision for the city in numerous key themes. The plan is a strategic approach to planning for a sustainable future.

TOOWOOMBA's Environmental Excellence Awards increase community awareness of environmental management practices as well as encourages the community to be innovative in environmental protection. It provides an opportunity to recognise and reward effort in environmental care and commitment.

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