

1 December 2010

## TALLEBUDGERA CLAIMS STATE'S "CLEANEST BEACH" TITLE 2010

Tallebudgera Beach on the Gold Coast has won the Keep Australia Beautiful "cleanest beach" award in Queensland for 2010.

The beautiful setting where Tallebudgera Creek reaches the ocean, with a combination of surf, sand and estuary eco-systems, was the outstanding entry among scores of applications along the Queensland coastline.

Making the announcement today, the CEO of Keep Australia Beautiful Queensland, Rick Burnett, said Tallebudgera was a unique and inspiring entry that demonstrated how people who care about their environment can really make a difference.

"Apart from being a magnificent natural coastal feature - where river meets surf - the people look after this valuable landscape," Burnett said.

"The features include the creek bordered by the Burleigh Mountain National Park, and the pristine ocean and sandy shores of Northern Palm Beach.

"The Tallebudgera Beach Outdoor Education School is situated right on the foreshore, and provides an educational tool for thousands of visiting students to learn about sustainability, and the sensitive balance of coastal environments.

"The school motto tells the story: 'Let the outdoors be yours', teaching personal accountability for the environment.

"The Beach School has 8000 students a year visiting this location to learn about the environment and how to protect it, with lessons on bio-diversity, ecology, litter prevention and recycling of waste, resource recovery, alternative energy and climate change.

"The creek offers protected recreational waters for sailing, canoeing, swimming and fishing for a safe family environment, while the open beach has the surf and all a big beach has to offer.

"Behind the scenes are many groups of people keeping it clean and using the natural asset to teach the next generations about stopping litter and protecting their environment through positive behaviour.

"There are also partnerships with the local surf life savers, small business and local volunteers to create a great sense of pride about the whole Tallebudgera experience."

The KABQ Clean Beaches awards also recognised specific categories with prizes going to Tallebudgera for its work on "resource recovery"; the Beach Care group for "community action"; Burleigh Heads for "litter prevention"; Kirra for "environmental innovation"; Palm Cove in Far North Queensland for "water conservation"; Southport Broadwater for "energy innovation"; Kings Beach at Caloundra for "heritage and culture"; and Bowen in the Whitsundays for "young legends".

### **Highlights in the awards:**

BEACH CARE - BeachCare is a community engagement program facilitated by Griffith Centre for Coastal Management with support from Gold Coast City Council. The program's focus is on the significance and importance of our coastal zone and its sustainable management. It encourages valuable community interaction in the management of our beaches, foreshores, waterways and coastal areas through establishing self-sufficient dune care groups.

BURLEIGH HEADS – cigarette butt-litter campaign.

KIRRA – sand management and local involvement in the issues.

PALM COVE – water management, drainage and garden mulching.

SOUTHPORT BROADWATER – solar lighting, gas BBQs – demonstrating energy sustainability.

KINGS BEACH – maintaining WW2 heritage and pride in their environment.

BOWEN – Bowen State School students reef care and commitment to the environment.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** ABOUT TALLEBUDGERA BEACH and its care -

**PLEASE VISIT** – Tallebudgera Beach Outdoor Education School website

<http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/environment/outdoor/tallebudgera.html>

Contact – Allan Rafton or Dale Mills on 5520 9300

Beach Care – contact Naomi Edwards 5552 8823

<http://www.griffith.edu.au/environment-planning-architecture/griffith-centre-coastal-management/community-programs/beachcare>

**ENDS**

**Interviews** | Rick Burnett

CEO

0419 460 782