

WINNERS

Keep Australia Beautiful's QLD Beach Challenge award winners are:

■ **Caring for our Country Clean Beach:** Yeppoon Main Beach

■ **Environmental Protection:** Belligan Gardens State School for its effort at Rowes Bay, Townsville.

■ **Partnerships:** Palm Cove and Federation Walk

■ **Litter Prevention:** Rollingsstone State School (Belgal Beach)

■ **Resource Recovery:** Green Island

■ **Young Legends:** Emu Park State School and AB Patterson College

■ **Outstanding Individual/Group:** Paddy Delalande, Rockhampton Regional Council

■ **Friendliest Beach:** Whitehaven Beach and Palm Cove



BEAUTIFUL BEACH: Yeppoon lifeguard Ben Waddell keeps watch over Queensland's cleanest beach, Yeppoon Main Beach.

PHOTO: MEGAN LEWIS ML15/1209/7

Cleanest beach in Qld, thanks to our Paddy

By **NIKITA WATTS**

PADDY Delalande can take a lot of credit for Yeppoon Main Beach being crowned Queensland's cleanest beach.

As part of his role as vegetation and rehabilitation officer for Rockhampton Regional Council, Paddy is the "driver" behind many environmental projects around the Capricorn Coast, including Yeppoon Main Beach.

His clean-up and revegetation efforts have contributed to the beach yesterday being the inaugural winner of

the Keep Australia Beautiful's Caring for our Country Clean Beach Award at a Brisbane awards ceremony.

But Paddy hasn't gone without recognition.

For his big contribution to the beach community, Paddy was awarded Outstanding Individual/Group.

Paddy said he worked with about 36 sites around the coast, and organised community groups, schools and volunteer groups to clean, rehabilitate and revegetate these areas.

Paddy also runs a



COAST SAVIOUR: Paddy Delalande.

PHOTO: FILE

weekly program with Emu Park State School called "Beach Reveg" where students spend one day a week planting trees, weeding and picking up litter.

This program saw the school awarded the Young Legends award for demonstrating accomplishment in youth initiated or led activities.

Emu Park School teacher Kerry Picot said Paddy had organised the program so students could visit some of these sites and learn about the environment.

She said Paddy speaks each week to the students about biodiversity and the native plants and animals.

She said Paddy was "so passionate" and has

"a charisma about him" that gets the kids going.

"The students like getting outdoors and they enjoy the learning aspect," she said.

Emu Park State School year 4 student Paige Ernst was at the ceremony to collect the award for her school and said she liked to learn about the environment.

"On National Tree Day we planted a lot of trees, that was my favourite day," she said.

Yeppoon Main Beach is now an entrant in the national Clean Beach competition, held in early 2010.