



MEDIA RELEASE - 24 November 2009

National Clean Beaches Judge visits Balnarring Beach

The Australian Clean Beaches Awards Judge, Dr David Moy, will be visiting Balnarring Beach on the Mornington Peninsula today as part of his national judging tour for the Keep Australia Beautiful, Australian Clean Beaches Awards.

Balnarring Beach will now compete against the other state and territory finalists to become the Australian Clean Beaches Winner in 2010, following the success of Sydney's North Steyne beach in 2009. The winner will be announced in March next year.

During his visit, Dr David Moy, will be evaluating the projects undertaken by the Balnarring community against the national criteria, including litter prevention and waste management, heritage & culture, community and youth engagement and protection of the natural environment.

The Balnarring Foreshore and Parks Committee of Management have implemented many initiatives to improve the local environment and access to Balnarring Beach. The Committee of Management has been resourceful in seeking grants to aid these developments and it has had the strong support of locals, including the Green Corps, Naranga Special School and other community groups, in helping to protect the environment, achieve energy savings, provide visitor entertainment and much more.

Recent improvements that will be assessed as part of the judging tour include the upgrading of ageing infrastructure, additional energy and water saving devices in amenity blocks, providing a new waste management program and revegetation programs.

According to the Australian Clean Beaches Judge, Dr David Moy, "There is no doubt that now, more than ever, coastal communities are facing unprecedented and very real environmental threats that need to be addressed at both a local and national level."

"As rising sea levels, pollution, overfishing and other environmental threats impact on Australia's coastline, the Australian Clean Beaches Awards recognise and promote the work that local communities, including Balnarring, are undertaking to protect their beaches and coastline. The Awards recognise that the 'beach' is the local interface between the land, sea and air. Keeping our beach 'clean' helps us focus on the protection and sustainable use of our coastal resources for the benefit of all."

"Projects undertaken in one area can provide other coastal regions with case studies to build on while show casing local community achievements. It is this kind of information sharing that will be pivotal in ensuring that not only our more pristine areas remain, but other fragile coastal areas subject to heavy population pressures, survive into the future," Dr Moy said.

Balnarring is now competing against other state finalists including West Beach in TAS; Shady Beach (Yirrkala) in NT and Southport Noarlunga in SA. The remaining finalists will be announced throughout November and December 2009.

The Australian Clean Beaches Awards are proudly sponsored by Mount Franklin, Remondis and Coastal Watch.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: TUESDAY NOVEMBER 24TH

Who: National Judge, Dr David Moy with Balnarring Foreshore Representatives
Where: Balnarring Rangers Station, Balnarring Beach
Time: 10am – 10:30am

For further information about the judge's visit, or photo opportunities, please contact:

KAB PR: Lara Shannon on 0415 076 015 or laras@kab.org.au
National Judge: Dr David Moy on 0411 871 460 or davidmoy@optusnet.com.au
KAB VIC: Joanna Meyer on 0407 863 853; Joanna.Meyer@sustainability.vic.gov.au
Shire PR: Kat Hodgins on 0428 142 592 or kat.hodgins@mornpen.vic.gov.au

EDITOR'S NOTES:

About the Australian Clean Beaches Judge – Dr David Moy:

Dr David Moy is the Director of TechSearch Waste and Environment Services and also holds an Honorary Professorial appointment with Central Queensland University where he lectures in the post-graduate Environmental Management Program.

He has previously acted as judge for the Queensland Government's former Green Hospitals Award; Brisbane City Council's Waste Saver Awards and more recently, WMAA's National Landfill Division's Landfill Excellence Awards in 2007 and 2009.

With an extensive knowledge and understanding of environmental issues, David has a proven ability to identify relevant strengths and weaknesses in environmental and social performance. Having an affinity for beach communities, David works well with community groups and specialises in community engagement.

About the Australian Clean Beaches Awards

Keep Australia Beautiful seeks to lead, challenge and inspire all Australians to strive for a sustainable and litter free environment. It does this through research, communications programs and awards programs.

Its national awards are known as the Australian Sustainable Communities Awards which consist of the Tidy Towns, Sustainable Cities and Clean Beaches Awards. Each awards program commences with state and territory awards and culminates in a national grand final.

The Clean Beaches Awards are open to coastal and inland waterway communities working to protect and preserve Australian beaches and coastlines. Over 75% of the Australian population live within 50km of the coast. (2006 census)

The Australian Clean Beaches Awards are sponsored by:

Mount Franklin

Coca-Cola Amatil is a long term supporter of Keep Australia Beautiful. Its Mount Franklin premium spring water brand promotes positive actions. This makes it an ideal fit with the Clean Beaches awards which celebrate the environmental achievements of individuals and local communities.

Coastalwatch

Coastalwatch is a website with cameras at beaches all around Australia. Coastalwatch is committed to bringing the coast to a broad cross section of Australians and overseas visitors. Its goal is to make a significant contribution to more timely and safer coastal use, and more efficient and cost effective coastal management.

Remondis

Operating for more than 25 years in Australia, Remondis Waste Solutions provides professional waste management and environment solutions for customers, with particular focus on resource recovery outcomes, minimising diversion to landfill. Their support of the Clean Beaches awards recognises community achievement in resource recovery.