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Media Release

ACT Sustainable Cities Award Winners Announced for 2005

Wednesday 12 October 2005

The winners of the inaugural ACT Sustainable Cities Awards were announced by the Minister for Urban Services, Mr John Hargreaves MLA, at a presentation lunch in Canberra today.

The Minister, award winners, finalists and other guests attending the Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Awards presentation, helped celebrate the outstanding environmental endeavours and initiatives carried out by residents, community groups, businesses and government agencies in the ACT.

Demonstrating the vital role that even small-scale community groups can play in conserving and enhancing our local environment, a total of 7 schools were recognised for their projects. Hawker Primary and Theodore Primary Schools shared first place in the Resource Efficiency category for their Waste Wise Programs, whilst Gilmore Primary and Farrer Primary School were joint 'Sustainable Schools' winners.

Parks and Places did well, winning first place for their Graffiti Art Workshops in the Community Pride category and for the Yarralumla Creek Community Restoration Project in the Environmental Innovation category. They were also Highly Commended for their ACT Graffiti Management Strategy. Canberra International Airport was acknowledged for its work on the Brindabella Business Park taking home the Sustainable Building award which was presented by the Minister for Planning Mr Simon Corbel MLA.

Whilst there were no outright winners announced in the Water Efficiency, Sustainable Transport or Young Legends categories, judges felt a number of entries were deserving of a Highly Commended award. These included Orana School for their water harvesting project, ACTION buses for their Flexibus transport initiative and the ACT Planning and Land Authority for their Sustainable Transport Plan.

Proving that individuals can also make a significant and valuable contribution to the community, local resident, Vaughn Malano, was Highly Commended in the Young Legends category for his Engineers without Borders ACT initiative. Meanwhile, remaining Highly Commended awards went to the ACT Planning and Land Authority for the Canberra Spatial Plan and The Village Building Company for their New McKellar project.

The Minister for Urban Services, John Hargreaves MLA, who launched the ACT Sustainable Cities Awards program in July, acknowledged the great example set by the entrants of this year's Awards and encouraged everyone to get involved.

"I was happy to launch these awards at the Legislative Assembly in July because Government legislation, policy and actions alone cannot achieve sustainability. It requires community awareness, support and commitment to action," Mr Hargreaves said.

"These awards are an opportunity to recognise our local heroes who are out there in the community making valuable contributions towards sustainability.

I would like to thank all the participants on behalf of the Government and the people of the ACT and encourage everyone to consider undertaking a project that can be entered in next year's awards."

National Chairman of Keep Australia Beautiful, Cr Don Chambers, thanked Mr Hargreaves for the support he has given to the Sustainable Cities Awards and his ongoing commitment to the program.

"I would like to offer my personal thanks to all our community, business and government participants. Special thanks of course to our Principal Sponsor the Beverage Industry Environment Council and to all our category sponsors. Thanks also to the ACT Government representatives who have been so generous with their time in helping us with these awards.

The Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Awards are now offered in Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. Our hope is that the program will be taken up by all states and territories leading to a national Sustainable Cities Awards program. Please spread the word about the ACT Awards. We look forward to an expanded program in 2006 and to the day when an ACT representative wins the Australian Sustainable Cities Awards."

The Keep Australia Beautiful ACT Sustainable Cities Award Recipients 2005 are:

Category	Award	Name	Program/Project	Sponsor
Community Pride	Winner	Department of Urban Services - Parks & Places	Graffiti Art Workshops	Beverage Industry Environment Council
	Highly Commended	Department of Urban	ACT Graffiti Management Strategy	

	Highly Commended	Services - Parks & Places	The Canberra Spatial Plan	
Environmental Innovation	Winner	ACT Planning & Land Authority Department of Urban Services -	Yarralumla Creek Community Restoration Project 2005	Canberra International Airport
	Highly Commended	Parks & Places	The New McKellar	
Water Efficiency	Highly Commended	The Village Building Company Orana School	Water harvesting	
Resource Efficiency	Winner	Hawker Primary School	Waste Wise program	Department of Urban Services
	Winner	Theodore Primary School	Waste Wise program	
Sustainable Transport	Highly Commended	ACTION	Flexibus	ACTNOWaste Best Western
	Highly Commended	ACT Planning & Land Authority	Sustainable Transport Plan	
Sustainable Building	Winner	Canberra International Airport	Brindabella Business Park	ACT Planning & Land Authority The Canberra Times
Sustainable Schools	Winner	Gilmore Primary School	Sustainable Schools	
	Winner	Farrer Primary School	Sustainable Schools	
	Highly Commended	St Claire's College	Sustainable Schools	
	Highly Commended	Kaleen High School	Sustainable Schools	
Young Legends	Highly Commended	Vaughn Melano	Engineers Without Borders ACT	Raine & Horne

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Results of the Keep Australia Beautiful ACT Sustainable Cities Awards 2005 announced 12.10.05

Attended by Guest of Honour John Hargreaves MLA, Minister for Urban Services

1. Community Pride Award

- Effective strategies to maintain and enhance the urban environment
- Litter reduction
- Graffiti reduction
- Reduction in vandalism

Presented by Dwin Tucker, CEO, Beverage Industry Environment Council.

Equal Highly Commended in the Community Pride Award goes to ACT Planning and Land Authority for The Canberra Spatial Plan: The Canberra Spatial Plan outlines a strategic direction to achieve the social, environmental and economic sustainability of Canberra as part of *The Canberra Plan*. Objectives of the Canberra Spatial Plan enables Canberrians to participate in shaping the future of the city, as well as ensuring that policies were coherent and integrated, across issues and between places. Developing a plan with the community has shown that it is possible to produce a long range strategic plan that balances all the community aspirations and concerns and achieves an outcome that is broadly accepted by the whole community.

Equal Highly Commended in the Community Pride Award goes to Department of Urban Services – Parks and places for ACT Graffiti Management Strategy: In response to the prevalence of illegal graffiti in the ACT and the limited effectiveness of earlier graffiti management approaches, the ACT Graffiti Management Strategy was developed. The Strategy seeks a proactive, community wide approach to the management of graffiti that recognises both the significance of graffiti art and the impact of graffiti vandalism as a property crime. The strategy uses diversion, prevention, removal and community awareness as techniques to manage graffiti in the ACT.

Winner in the Community Pride Award goes to:

Department of Urban Services – Parks and places for the Graffiti Art Workshops: As part of the diversionary strategy, the Department of Urban Services in partnership with Arts and Recreation ACT obtained funding under Urban Services Community partnership program to conduct graffiti art workshops. These workshops were targeted at youths engaging in or at risk of engaging in illegal graffiti. This project demonstrated that the prevalence of illegal graffiti 'tagging' was reduced when young people who were at risk of engaging in illegal graffiti were given the opportunity to develop art skills and to engage with the broader community in

a positive light.

2. Environmental Innovation Award

encourages breakthrough creative solutions and innovative products, services, systems or projects which enhance sustainable living.

Presented by Tom Snow, Executive Director, Canberra International Airport.

Highly Commended in the environmental innovation award goes to The Village Building Company for the New McKellar: The Village Building Company's latest Canberra Development is the New McKellar, a subdivision of 120 standard residential lots featuring open spaces and recreational areas. The New McKellar was initially a spoil site for both builders and residential rubbish. The rehabilitation of the site therefore required significant environmental remediation prior to being serviced in the normal way for residential subdivision. The various works and planning have resulted in a high quality housing estate complete with wetlands inhabited by endangered species. The Village Building Company has highlighted their commitment to ecologically sustainable development through this very outstanding environmentally sensitive development.

Winner in the environmental innovation award goes to the Department of Urban Services – Parks and Places for the Yarralumla Creek Community Restoration Project 2005: Yarralumla Creek is an urban stream draining 35 square KM of the Woden Catchment. Yarralumla Creek, has faced many impacts including land clearing and grazing and more recently demanding urbanisation pressures. Due to heavy concreting up stream the water velocity and volume is multiplied causing further impacts. To date hundreds of hours of community service have been spent, activities undertaken include the removal of willows, revegetation for habit and creek bank stabilisation, litter removal, water quality monitoring and fencing of hazardous areas.

3. Water Efficiency Award

promotes, Practical, successful examples that will inspire and promote water saving practices in the ACT.

Presented by Don Chambers, Chairman, Keep Australia Beautiful National Association.

Highly Commended in the Water Efficiency Award goes to Orana School for their waterharvesting program: Orana school has developed a water harvesting program to retain rainwater and minimise surface runoff. The system was installed in January 2005 and students completed the lawn section in term one this year. The project reduces water consumption and recycles wasted grey water in simple, pre-existing and cost effective methods. Primarily a system of subsurface creek beds is used to direct stormwater and grey water irrigation to landscape growing areas, while at the same time filtering and treating water to remove contaminants.

4. Resource Efficiency Award

encourages excellence in either litter reduction, recycling or waste management and is open to open to individuals and community groups only.

Presented by John Hargreaves, Minister for Urban Services.

Equal Winner in the resource efficiency Award goes to Theodore Primary School for their wastewise program: Theodore Primary School is located in the ACT's far south: Theodore PS decided to become involved in the wastewise program as they wanted to focus on environmental education. As part of Theodore PS commitment, they undertook the Magical Garden Project and a recycling program. The Magical Garden project encouraged students to design a wastewise garden in a practical outdoor setting. The recycling program introduced recycling bins and compost bins in each class room and incorporated wastewise principles into the school curriculum.

Equal Winner in the resource efficiency Award goes to Hawker Primary School for their wastewise program also.

Hawker Primary School, situated in the ACT's North, is committed to a whole schools approach for environmental education. During 2004, Hawker Primary School made a commitment to become waste wise school and since then they have halved their amount of waste and increased the amount of materials for recycling. Organic materials have been diverted and used in the schools student garden beds and worm farms. Hawker Primary School were the first government school to be awarded the official wastewise title in the ACT.

5. Sustainable Transport Award this award encourages practical, successful examples that will inspire others, examples include - Car pooling, public transport use, etc.

Presented by Kristen Shapely, Marketing Manager for Best Western Australia.

Equal Highly Commended in the Sustainable Transport Award goes to ACTION for the Flexibus service: Evening bus travel in Canberra has always been a challenge to deliver effectively. Introduced in April 2005, the new flexibus on demand services operate in most areas of Canberra in the evenings, as well as a trial of an evening door to door service in Gungahlin and Kambah. Flexibus is tailored to where customers want to go. From the bus interchange, the driver plans the best route to get everyone as close to home as possible. Now fewer buses are travelling the streets empty resulting in less traffic and unnecessary vehicle emissions.

Equal Highly Commended in the Sustainable Transport Award goes to ACT Planning and Land Authority for the Sustainable Transport Plan: The Sustainable Transport Plan released by ACT Planning and Land Authority sets the direction and policy framework to achieve a more sustainable transport system for the ACT over the next 25 years. The Sustainable Transport Plan aims at implementing the following initiatives. Bus ways and

bus priority measures, real time passenger information, improved public transport interchanges, improved walking cycling facilities and Travel Demand management.

6. Sustainable Building Award

recognises practical, successful examples that will inspire others eg. Passive building designs, ecologically responsible building materials, sustainable construction methods etc.

Presented by Mr Simon Corbell, Minister for Planning, for the ACT Planning & Land Authority

Winner in the Sustainable Building Award goes to Canberra International Airport for Brindabella Business Park: Brindabella Business Park is situated with in the Airport Precinct and is an integrated, environmentally conscious, commercial development. From concept Brindabella Business Park embraced the green vision and set out to become a leader in its field. 8 Brindabella Circuit has achieved its environmental objectives of minimising the environmental footprint left by modern day development by creating a building comprised of recycled and innovative environmental systems used to reduce waste and find alternative means of energy efficiency, water conservation, lighting and avoidance of volatile organic compounds.

7. Sustainable Schools Award

in this category a school must demonstrate some of or all of the following;

- Practical, successful examples that will inspire
- others
- environmental education in the classroom
- school ground environment works and
- integration of schools with the wider community

Presented by Ken Nichols, Business Manager, The Canberra Times

Equal Highly Commended in the Sustainable Schools Award goes to Kaleen High School: Kaleen High School is situated in Canberra's north. Kaleen High School addressed a highly degraded street frontage which made the school look unattractive, appear unsafe and presented a bushfire hazard. The project was an opportunity to create a special landscape within the schools environs of native grasses and wildflowers indigenous to the Canberra Region. The school has also used this opportunity to develop people's knowledge of the endangered local grasslands and grassy woodland ecosystems.

Equal Highly Commended in the Sustainable Schools Award goes to St Claire's College: St Clare's College Student Representative Council has a social justice and environment committee who make a difference to both the college community and the wider community. In the environment committee students developed strategies for how they could address identified issues, these issues included awareness, sustainability and Reaching out. Strategies utilised to combat these issues included reuse and recycling schemes, continuing the adopt a road project on Sturt Avenue and by encouraging other students to use these environmental outcomes at home.

Equal Winner in the Sustainable Schools Award goes to Farrer Primary School: Farrer Primary School is situated in southern ACT. The judges were particularly impressed with the schools environment centre which provides student from K to 6 with hands on learning in environmental education. The environment centre carries out worm farming, keeps chickens and grows flowers and vegetables. The various programs undertaken at Farrer Primary School are now extending into the local community with the students encouraging their parents to recycle and compost green waste at home.

Equal Winner in the Sustainable Schools Award goes to Gilmore Primary School: Gilmore Primary School in association with menslink has conducted a mentoring program known as the GIFT program (Gilmore improvement friendship teams). Each week 4 groups of 4 boys work with mentors from menslink on a variety of gardening projects within and for the school environment. These projects have included, establishing a greenhouse, building and planting a fern garden and native garden, Building compost bins, establishing and maintaining a wormfarm and building garden beds for each class to grow their own vegetables and flowers.

8. Young Legends Award

recognises;

- Environmental achievement through youth initiative or leadership by a community, which encourages and promotes sustainable youth initiatives and environmental education.

Presented by Anthony Matthews, Raine & Horne

Highly Commended in the Young Legends Award goes to Vaughn Melano for Engineers Without Borders ACT: Vaughn Melano teamed up with two Ugandan Science Students and submitted a proposal to the Mondialogo Engineering Awards (a joint initiative with UNESCO and Daimler Chrysler) for an affordable village level water purification system. They won almost \$15000 Euro to implement the project and now Vaughn is establishing an Engineers Without Borders chapter in the ACT to help with the implementation of the project. The ACT Engineers Without Borders chapter aims at contributing to the water purification project which is currently being implemented in Uganda and in the future build into a network of students and engineers dedicated to providing sustainable development options to developing countries.

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