



MEDIA RELEASE – Friday 12th August 2011

Tasmania gets ready to impress as the Australian Sustainable Cities Awards judge visits this week

The City of Burnie representatives are eagerly anticipating the arrival of the Keep Australia Beautiful national Sustainable Cities judge, Dick Olesinski, this week as it vies to become the 2011 winner of the Australian Sustainable Cities Awards.

As part of his judging tour, Mr Olesinski will visit a number of the key environmental projects and initiatives in Burnie on Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th August that earned the city the Tasmanian state winner's title for 2010/2011.

Specific projects Mr Olesinski will visit include a tour of the award winning Makers' Workshop and Visitor Information Centre that overlooks Burnie's beautiful waterfront, a stroll through the internationally known Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden, a look into Burnie's history at the Pioneer Village Museum and an insight into the strong arts culture in Burnie, with a tour of the Burnie Regional Art Gallery.

Mr Olesinski will also have the opportunity to speak with youth members from the Burnie community regarding new and exciting youth projects being developed. He will also speak to local students from the newly built Romaine Park Primary School and Burnie High School about their work on their school farm.

Community members from the Penguin Visitor Centre, Burnie Community House and Produce to the People will discuss their vital roles to the community and the positive change they have seen in Burnie through their efforts.

Mr Olesinski will evaluate the initiative against the national awards criteria which encompasses environmental innovation and protection, resource recovery and waste management, water conservation and energy innovation, community action and partnerships, litter prevention, sustainable buildings and gardens, the protection of heritage and culture and a young legends category.

The City of Burnie's efforts are typical of the finalists in the Sustainable Cities Awards, who all provide outstanding examples of how cities around the nation are implementing practical projects that help local communities achieve an efficient and sustainable future.

According to Mr Olesinski the City of Burnie's holistic approach details a sustainable future plan for other council's to strive towards.

"I am very much looking forward to hearing more about this exciting program which has obviously taken a very collaborative approach to implementing sustainable initiatives which involve a wide range of people across the community that will provide long term education and participation," he said.

Following his national tour to each of the state and territory finalists, Mr Olesinski will then face the tough task of deciding who will be crowned the national winner, taking over the title from The City of Stirling in WA. This will be announced at the 2011 Sustainable Cities Awards Ceremony, to be held in Perth on the 21st of November.

Other finalists already announced include the City of Subiaco in WA, Yarra City Council in VIC, City of Charles Sturt in SA, the CIT Sustainable Skills Training Hub in Bruce ACT and the Kogarah City Council in NSW.

The Keep Australia Beautiful Australian Sustainable Cities Awards are sponsored by Toys R Us, Replas Recycled Plastic Products and Tennant.

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PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

What: National Judge visit on site with City of Burnie representatives
When: 2:30pm – Monday 15th August 2011
Where: Pioneer Village Museum, Little Alexandra Street, Burnie, TAS

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

Burnie Media Contact: Libby Jowett on 0448 568 728 or ljowett@burnie.net
National Judge: Dick Olesinski on 0413 750 681 or ecomarketing@senet.com.au
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EDITOR'S NOTES:

About the Australian Sustainable Communities 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 event.

The Sustainable Cities Awards are open to metropolitan communities. Cities contribute up to 80% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

About the judge – Richard (Dick) Olesinski

With 17 years under his belt as the Australian Tidy Towns Judge, it's fair to say that this man is a seriously passionate and committed individual. In 2011, Dick will add the role of national judge for the Australian Sustainable Cities Awards to his repertoire as well.

Dick conducts an environmental management support consultancy in South Australia for business, industry, community groups and government agencies. He also consults to the retail industry to initiate environment improvement policies, as well as to KESAB (Keep South Australia Beautiful) and Natural Resource Management boards in Adelaide.

His projects include implementing environmental initiatives for the construction industry together with coordinating business, industry and community environmental education programs.

Dick is the Keep Australia Beautiful National Association's longest serving Awards Judge.