

Saturday, 19 June, 2010 **Embargoed till 12.01am 19 June**

BELLS BEACH AND MELTON SHIRE CLEAN UP THE COMPETITION IN THE 2010 KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL VICTORIA AWARDS

The Melton Shire Council and the iconic Bells Beach were the big winners at this year's Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Sustainable Cities and Clean Beaches Awards.

Environment and Climate Change Minister Gavin Jennings last night congratulated Melton Shire Council for winning the Sustainable City of the Year Award and Bells Beach for picking up the Clean Beach of the Year Award.

"Melton is one of Australia's fastest growing shires and this year is setting the example on how to manage growth with sustainability while Bell's Beach in Torquay, the site of Australia's most famous surfing competition, has continued to show how local residents respect the environment," Mr Jennings said.

"The Brumby Labor Government is proud to back the Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Sustainable Cities and Clean Beaches Awards because we understand how important it is to work with the community to ensure our future is clean and sustainable.

"These two communities have led the way in demonstrating how Victorians can improve, maintain and sustain their local environments."

Mr Jennings said the awards ceremony, held last night at Docklands, is a celebration and recognition of the actions made by all councils, community groups, schools and individuals.

"All the participants in this year's awards should be proud of the commitment they have made to their communities and the environment," he said.

"This year's award winners have introduced a range of innovative, sustainable and community-based actions to make their local environments a better place to live, work and play in.

"I would personally like to thank every community which entered the 2010 Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Sustainable Cities and Clean Beaches Awards because their efforts demonstrate that everyday actions can make a difference to our environment."

Another highlight of the night was the awarding of the prestigious Dame Phyllis Frost Award to Daryl Akers from Melton Shire Council and Don McTaggart from Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Group for their outstanding commitment to the environment in their communities.

"Mr Akers and Mr McTaggart have both been long term devotees to their communities," Mr Jennings said.

"Melton Shire Council and Warrnambool's Stingray Bay Beach have unquestionably benefited from their active preservation of the environment over a number of years."

Entries for the 2011 Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Awards will open in January 2011. For more information about the 2010 Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Sustainable Cities and Clean Beaches winners visit www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/kabv

Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Sustainable Cities and Clean Beaches 2010 Winners

Sustainable Cities	
Category	Winner
Overall	Melton Shire Council
Community Action	Damper Creek Co-operative - Sustainable Local Organic Produce
Cultural Heritage	Monash City Council - Oakleigh Cemetery Conservation and Sesquicentennial Celebration - Winner Melton Shire Council - Houdini – 100 Year Celebrations – Special Commendation
Pam Keating Environmental Innovation	Banyule City Council - Eenee 100% Compostable Nappy
Towards Zero Waste	Frankston City Council - Halving Residents' Waste by Composting – “If you don't eat it, your garden will!”
Protection of the Environment	Melton Shire Council - The White-Bellied Sea Eagle has Landed
Community Government Partnerships	Moonee Valley City Council - Green Precinct Project
Water Conservation	Frankston City Council - Recycled Water Flows to Frankston City
Efficient Energy	Greater Geelong City Council - EcoChallenge Program
Young Legends	Hobsons Bay City Council - Shaun Taliana
Active Schools	Whittlesea City Council - Epping Views Primary School
Dame Phyllis Frost	Daryl Akers – Melton Shire Council

Clean Beaches	
Category	Winners
Overall	Bells Beach – Surf Coast Shire Council
Community Action	Surf Coast Shire Council - Bells Beach Advisory Committee – Bells Beach
Cultural Heritage	City of Greater Geelong - Restoration of Eastern Beach Art Deco Swimming Complex – Eastern Beach
Pam Keating Environmental Innovation	Surf Coast Shire Council - Bells Beach Coastal Management and Interpretive Plans – Bells Beach
Towards Zero Waste	Surf Coast Shire Council - Waste Wise Bells – Bells Beach
Protection of the Environment	Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Group - Harris on Merri Revegetation Project
Community Government Partnerships	Corangamite Catchment Management Authority - EstuaryWatch
Young Legends	Hobsons Bay City Council - Williamstown High School Wetlands – Williamstown Beach
Friendly Beach	Barwon Coast Committee of Management - Ocean Grove Beach
Dame Phyllis Frost	Don McTaggart – Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Group