

Group has fingers crossed

BRUNSWICK River Restoration Action Group members had the opportunity to show off their environmental work along the Brunswick River when SKM sustainability program manager and this year's judge for the Keep Australia Beautiful Council, Sean Rooney, touched down in town.

The small group of landowners, whose properties border the river, had won the Keep Australia Beautiful Council's 2009 Sustainable Cities State Award and are now in the running for a national award to be announced in Canberra in October.

Mr Rooney toured member properties along the upper, middle and lower parts of the Brunswick River and watched video clips from the group's successful fundraising concert last year that helped BRRAG win the Community Action category before being judged overall State winner.

Mr Rooney said he was visiting every winner before compiling a report and making his recommendation to the Keep Australia Beautiful Council.

"I am looking for collaboration, innovation, impact and outcomes and the concert is a good example of innovation," he said.

Members are planning to turn up in numbers at the national award presentation and keep their fingers crossed that their group will put Brunswick in the national spotlight.



Chairman Brian Easton, Harvey Shire president Peter Monagle, Simon Payne, Sean Rooney and Bernard Ridley.

Harvey shire president Peter Monagle, who came to Debbie and Simon Payne's bush property to meet the judge and have a closer look at the environmental restoration carried out, said the Harvey shire council appreciated the group's work along the river.

"It is brilliant for the shire to have a group that takes ownership of the land because they are passionate about the environment and the health of the Brunswick River," he said.



Media Release

National Judge visits Brunswick River, Shire of Harvey

The Australian Sustainable Cities Awards judge, Sean Rooney, will be visiting Brunswick River Restoration Action Group, as part of a national judging tour for Keep Australia Beautiful. The judge will visit on Wednesday August 19 and will evaluate the community using the eight categories of the national awards which include litter reduction and community action. He will be investigating the highlights of the entry including:

- details of the 'Night of Musical Magic' fundraising event held in the Beela Valley
- examples of river restoration work before and after the event
- a range of activities undertaken to save the degraded river

The judge faces the tough task of determining which of the state finalists should be crowned the national winner for 2009 following Frankston VIC's success in 2008.

"The Australian Sustainable Cities Awards are highlighting the efforts of our urban communities in reducing their environmental impact. All the state finalists have demonstrated excellent environmental outcomes with each of their activities and I'm looking forward to visiting them."

Other state finalists include

NT: Palmerston City Council, pop 25,000, 21km SE of Darwin

WA: Brunswick River Restoration Action Group (BRRAG),
Shire of Harvey, pop 21,317, 173km south of Perth

SA: City of Port Adelaide pop 102,929, 13km NW of Adelaide

TAS: Launceston City Council, pop 113,925, 197 KM N of Hobart

VIC: Hobsons Bay City Council, pop 81,000, 10km SW Melbourne

ACT: Oz Harvest, ACT pop 347,000

NSW: City of Canada Bay, pop 61,500, 10km west of the centre of Sydney

QLD: tba 27.8.09

KABWA Chairman Mel Hay said 'Brunswick River has demonstrated its commitment and leadership in engaging the community and working towards creating a sustainable river. We congratulate them on winning the 2009 West Australian Sustainable Cities Award and wish them all the best for the Australian Sustainable Cities Awards.'

The Australian Sustainable Cities Awards will be announced in October.

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EDITOR'S NOTES:

About the Judge - Sean Rooney:

Sean Rooney is a thought and practice leader working at the forefront of the 'cross-sector partnering' and 'sustainability' agendas in Australia. Currently the Sustainability Program Manager at leading international engineering, sciences and project management firm, Sinclair Knight Merz, Sean is also an Adjunct Associate Professor at Griffith Business School (QLD), focusing on sustainability and organisational strategy. Sean's previous roles include Founder and Director of CSIRO's Sustainable Communities Initiative and a faculty member of Cambridge University's World Bank Sustainable Development Leadership Program.

In addition, Sean regularly contributes articles to national publications and is frequently invited to speak at both domestic and international conferences. Sean is also an active participant in several influential bodies supporting debate and action regarding sustainability issues in Australia. In recognition of his expertise and impact in sustainability thought and practice leadership Sean was awarded a 2007 CSIRO Achievement Award and was a recipient in 2006 of a Future Summit Leadership Award for leadership in the sustainable development domain in Australia.

About the Australian Sustainable Cities 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 the Australian Sustainable Communities Awards consisting 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 awards focus on litter reduction and local sustainability.

The Australian Sustainable Cities Awards are sponsored by:

Packaging Stewardship Forum 'Do the Right Thing' program

The Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council provides a vehicle for broader corporate support for Australia's efforts to improve resource recovery and reduce littering of food, beverage and grocery packaging.

Grundfos Pumps

As a world leading pump and pumping systems manufacturer, Grundfos Pumps has joined with Keep Australia Beautiful to help all Australians achieve improvements in water conservation.

Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM)

A leading engineering, sciences and project delivery firm. Its purpose is to deliver a positive and enduring impact on the world. They work in close partnership with key clients in the public and private sectors, providing independent technical, strategic and commercial advice to deliver a wide range of projects in the communities in which they live.