



Media Release

12 August 2009

National Judge visits Hobsons Bay

The Australian Sustainable Cities Awards judge, Sean Rooney, will be visiting Hobsons Bay City Council, as part of a national judging tour for Keep Australia Beautiful. The judge will visit on Wednesday August 12 to 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:

The Summer Litter Blitz Program where Hobsons Bay City Council addressed the problem of cigarette butt litter and other litter issues in the area.

'The Substation'. One of Melbourne's oldest substations which has been restored for use as a community arts facility

Seaworks maritime village. A place for visitors to explore Williamstown's rich maritime history.

The judge faces the tough task of determining which of the state finalists should be crowned the national winner for 2009, following Frankston'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" commented Sean Rooney, National Judge.

Other state finalists include:

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

SA: City of Port Adelaide pop 102,929

TAS: Launceston pop 113,925

ACT: Oz Harvest, ACT pop 347,000

(NT, NSW, QLD to be announced shortly)

Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Chairman, Max Spedding said, "Hobsons Bay City Council has demonstrated its commitment and leadership in engaging the community and working towards creating a sustainable city. We congratulate them on winning the 2009 Victorian Sustainable Cities Award and wish them all the best for the National Sustainable Cities Awards."

The Australian Sustainable Cities Awards will be announced in October.

Media Alert:

Photo Opportunity with National Judge, Hobsons Bay Mayor, and elected representatives.

Time: 9.45am, Wednesday 12 August

Location: Altona Pier, Esplanade, Altona - Melway reference: 54 H12.

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

KAB: Jodie Mills, 0402 305 231 or jodiem@kab.org.au; or Lara Shannon on 0415 076 015 or laras@kab.org.au
Hobsons Bay City Council: Debbie Wilson, 03 9932 1144

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.

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