

Australian Tidy Towns 2010 Program Report

Town/Community: LOCKHART NSW ...**Date judged:** 30 Nov & 1 December 2009

Population: approx 830

Organisers: LOCKHART Tidy Towns Committee (LTTC) in partnership with LOCKHART Shire Council

Contact Names: Max Day President LTTC Phone: (02) 6920 5526
Email: franday@bigpond.com

COMMUNITY ACTION/PARTNERSHIPS

LOCKHART's Progress Association is highly involved with LOCKHART Shire Council, Service clubs, community groups and residents. The Progress Assn has facilitated community participation in decision making on a broad range of issues that impact the township. This has fostered greater networking and communication with Council and community members.

LOCKHART's Tidy Towns Committee, a sub-committee of the Progress Assn, is a well established group that has gained a high profile due to the dedication and hard work of its members.

The Tidy Towns Committee plays a cooperative role in preserving and enhancing the environment for the benefit of residents and visitors.

LOCKHART Shire Council is supportive of all activities undertaken by the Tidy Towns Committee and other community organisations.

Council works in partnership with the community providing financial assistance, education and encourages residents to take ownership of initiatives throughout the town.

Council partnered with the community as well as Federal Government for the successful funding of the completion of the town's Effluent Reuse scheme.

LOCKHART is becoming the Farm Sculpture capital of Australia with the Spirit of the Land National Farm Art award. Creative sculptures and artscapes, made from recycled and new farm materials, are positioned throughout the township and provide a friendly and welcoming approach particularly for visitors to the region. The Arts Festival, held each year, attracts not only sculptures from the local farming community but from across Australia.

LITTER PREVENTION

LOCKHART Shire Council plays an important role in the promotion of achieving a litter free environment.

Signs are displayed throughout the community promoting waste and litter reduction initiatives together with numerous litter bins situated throughout the community.

Anti-litter education programs are important aspects of Council's waste and litter education presentations to local schools. Dedicated waste services staff provide educational talks to schools on litter reduction as part of regional waste strategies.

ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION & PROTECTION

Combined with the appealing nature of the town, LOCKHART has a unique charm that is more than welcoming. The town's community work in numerous partnerships to achieve a secure future, agriculturally, commercially, environmentally and sustainably.

Council's State of the Environment report covers all aspects of the local environment including land, water, air, aboriginal and non aboriginal history. Extensive community input was gained with contributing feedback from the active Brookong Landcare group.

Farmers are encouraged to be proactive and farm sustainably with a commitment to quality and a holistic view to caring for the land.

LOCKHART & District Progress Association encouraged the implementation of a 'City to Soil' approach which provides farmers with a range of benefits including increased yields, improved crop quality, improved water efficiency and improved soil structure.

WATER CONSERVATION & ENERGY INNOVATION

LOCKHART's Effluent Re-use Scheme is a Brookong Landcare Initiative and partnership with Council and a great example of cooperation to achieve positive environmental outcomes.

Extension of the project included the construction of a 10 megalitre storage dam, standpipe & reticulation pipeline for overall benefit of the community,

LOCKHART Shire Council provides cheaper alternative in recycled water from the Effluent Re-use scheme for sporting fields, parks, gardens, LOCKHART Central School and Caravan Park.

Council actively participates and promotes water conservation practices and encourages residents to participate in rebate programs and grants for rainwater tanks.

Partnering with the Tidy Towns Committee, Council and the Progress Assn have undertaken a successful joint program to save Greenhouse Gas emissions with Murray Energy through the 'Ban the Bulb' initiative.

RESOURCE RECOVERY & WASTE MANAGEMENT

Resource recovery and recycling initiatives are a feature of LOCKHART's commitment to effective waste reduction.

A broad range of waste management initiatives are in place and accepted by the community with the outcome being a reduction of waste to landfill.

LOCKHART Shire Council provides financial assistance to community groups to recycle and reduce waste. Council encourages community ownership, education and participation in resource recovery approaches,

Recent waste management initiatives include the introduction of a used oil collection facility, a household hazardous waste collection system, and a plastic bag exchange program.

Council and regional waste forums provide knowledge on recycling and waste minimisation strategies and are promoted and encouraged throughout the community.

Projects are implemented at local schools to encourage students to recycle and reuse. Keep Australia Beautiful Council NSW provides waste education support through a Council-funded program that focuses on waste and litter reduction.

LOCKHART Lions club volunteers are to be commended for their commitment to coordinating the many tasks associated with recycling and recovering resources in the community.

HERITAGE & CULTURE

Maintaining LOCKHART's proud heritage is important to the community. Historic conservation approaches are a priority and managed by active volunteers. Numerous fine examples of the preservation of cultural and historic features are scattered throughout the community.

LOCKHART is recognised as the 'Verandah Town'. It represents a 'living example' of the preservation of cultural heritage in the continual enhancement program of its heritage main street.

LOCKHART's Greens Gonyah Museum is a great example of a group of volunteers with the foresight to collect, restore and interpret times gone by. The Museum houses an extensive collection of memorabilia from LOCKHART's proud rural and agricultural heritage.

Doris Golder's unique and famous Wool Art collection is also situated in the Greens Gonyah Museum. It includes portraits of notable Australians together with local landscapes and animals. This collection is a national treasure.

Kevin McKinty's extensive tractor collection is a dedicated approach to heritage restoration that is also of national significance.

LOCKHART Progress Association applied successfully for a grant from the LOCKHART Community Bank for restoration of the town's grandstand. With Council's contribution and a Heritage Grant matched by community funds, the partnership ensured the successful preservation of this historic and well loved landmark.

YOUNG LEGENDS

The education system within LOCKHART has an ongoing commitment to environmental care as well as visual improvement programs.

From recycling programs to litter reduction approaches and planting programs, the town's students continue to learn about ways to reduce their impact on the local environment.

The Progress Association, Tidy Towns, local schools and Council have initiated a Youth Engagement Forum as a priority encouraging youth to participate in beautification projects within the community.

LOCKHART's Youth Steering committee addresses broad local and regional issues affecting young citizens. Council has employed a development officer to assist with coordinating tasks associated with youth projects and initiatives.

SUGGESTIONS

If not already in place, LOCKHART's great achievement as being New South Wales' Tidiest Town for 2009 could be promoted on Shire letterheads, envelopes, etc. Local businesses could also be encouraged to market the town's award.

LOCKHART's Tidy Towns Committee is an active coordinator of numerous projects around the town. If not already in place, perhaps projects initiated by the committee could be promoted through the use of an engraved plaque or sign. This may assist in encouraging further community support of the program.

To further encourage beautification programs already in place in LOCKHART, opportunities become available to further encourage business and industry to add native landscaping in and around facilities. An industry Tidy Towns garden competition may assist in encouraging participation.

Litter is a challenge for all communities across the nation. Windblown litter from landfill sites is in particular a challenge and if uncontrolled, can affect the ambience of local residents.

The Packaging Stewardship Forum has programs that look to partner with communities and local government in providing funding support for litter and waste initiatives through the 'Do the right thing' program initiative.

LOCKHART heritage restoration projects are a major asset to the town. As the restored facilities progress and continue to grow, the development of a self-guided tour and brochure may assist in sharing these wonderful resources. Appropriate heritage signs on major arterial roads may also provide opportunities for passing visitors to view the priceless collections in place within the community.

Congratulations to everyone involved in the LOCKHART's Tidy Towns program and associated community action projects.

Good luck with future initiatives in helping to keep your part of Australia beautiful and sustainable.

*Dick Olesinski
National Tidy Towns judge*