



Media Release

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Lithgow in NSW wins the Australian Tidy Towns Awards

The New South Wales town of Lithgow has been announced the Overall Winner of the Keep Australia Beautiful, Australian Tidy Towns Awards 2010/11. The announcement was made at the national awards ceremony held this evening at Beechworth in Victoria, the winner of the prestigious award last year.

As well as winning the overall Australian title, Lithgow won the Environmental Innovation and Protection award and received a commendation in the Water Conservation and the Heritage and Culture category awards.

According to the Australian Tidy Towns National Judge, Dick Olesinski, Lithgow's community members demonstrate a great sense of commitment and pride.

"Led by Lithgow's longstanding Tidy Towns committee and the Lithgow City Council, the community as a whole is involved in a wide range of initiatives to ensure a sustainable future for their town.

"The town's active Swampwatch network continues to restore large areas of swampland, monitoring any damage or problems with the swamp system, whilst various water conservation initiatives are also in place throughout Lithgow," he added.

Lithgow was recognised for their commitment to environmental improvement projects and their efforts to replenish native vegetation, including replanted native areas and the protection of the unique bush swamps.

There is also a strong focus on increasing community awareness of the benefits of water conservation with projects including the collection and reuse of rainwater, as well as the unique nursery pot washing system devised in conjunction with the Lithgow Community Nursery.

Community groups in Lithgow are also passionate about historic preservation and restoration to ensure important historic facilities and events continue to be recognised by the community, including the world renowned Zig-Zag Railway which was recently restored.

Chairman of Keep Australia Beautiful National Association, Don Chambers, said "the Tidy Towns awards and their participants provide great examples of what individuals and their communities can achieve by working together sustainably. Well done to everyone involved in Lithgow, your efforts are helping to make a real difference and will provide inspiration to other local communities."

Through the Australian Tidy Towns Awards, Keep Australia Beautiful is able to recognise local community and individual efforts that are helping rural and regional communities to become environmentally, economically and socially sustainable. The awards are sponsored by 'Do the Right Thing' and Replas.

For further information visit www.kab.org.au



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AUSTRALIAN TIDY TOWNS AWARDS RESULTS TABLE 2010/11

Category	Winner	Sponsor
Overall	Lithgow, NSW	
Community Action & Partnerships	Westonia, WA	'Do the Right Thing'
'Dame Phyllis Frost' Litter Prevention	Barunga, NT	
Resource Recovery & Waste Management	Stanthorpe, QLD	Replas
Environmental Innovation & Protection	Lithgow, NSW	
Water Conservation	Rutherglen, VIC	
Energy Innovation	Waikerie, SA	
Heritage & Culture	New Norfolk, TAS	
Young Legends	New Norfolk, TAS	

Editor's Notes:

The Australian Tidy Towns Awards are proudly sponsored by:

***Do the Right Thing* Program of the Packaging Stewardship Forum, Australian Food and Grocery Council**

The Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council, works with partners across the nation to deliver industry recycling, litter reduction and education programs on behalf of its members, Australia's major beverage companies and their packaging suppliers. The Forum's highly successful *Do the Right Thing* anti-litter campaign is recognised by more than 80% of people. More than 400 towns and cities around Australia are now taking the *Do the Right Thing* message to their communities. Contact: Jenny Pickles 0418 558 311.

Replas

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