



MEDIA RELEASE – 1 December 2009

National Tidy Towns Judge visits Lockhart

The Australian Tidy Towns Awards Judge, Dick Olesinski, is in Lockhart today as part of his judging tour for the Keep Australia Beautiful, Australian Tidy Towns Awards.

The Judge is in town for two days to assess the merits of Lockhart, recently announced New South Wales' Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities winner and national finalist.

Lockhart will now compete against the other state and territory finalists for the title of Australia's Tidiest Town in 2010, following Tamworth's success in 2009, which will be announced in Canberra in April next year.

Keep Australia Beautiful NSW CEO, Peter McLean, said, "Lockhart and District Progress Association have worked tirelessly for many years toward ensuring Lockhart is a great place to live, work and visit. Their organisation is well structured, proactive, and planning is always done in consultation with Lockhart Shire Council, local businesses and community groups across the district which has played a major role in their success."

Whilst in town, the National Judge will be assessing notable projects such as the 'Every Drop Counts' water conservation project, which saw the Brookong Landcare Effluent Treatment Scheme being extended in a bid to remove all discharge from Lockhart Sewerage Plant from entering Brookong Creek, which is a tributary of the Murray River. Like many Tidy Town projects, this emphasises that local actions have significant impacts at a regional and national level.

"He will also be checking out the hard work of the many other volunteer groups in Lockhart such as the Brookong Landcare group, the Lockhart Showground Committee and the Industrial Park Committee, all who work with the support of the Lockhart Council", McLean added.

According to the National Judge, Dick Olesinski, "the Australian Tidy Towns Awards provide a forum to demonstrate the efforts that many local communities are making to reduce their environmental impact. All the state finalists have demonstrated excellent environmental outcomes with their activities and I am certainly looking forward to seeing how Lockhart is working towards a sustainable future."

The Australian Tidy Towns Awards are proudly sponsored by the Packaging Stewardship Forum 'Do the Right Thing' program, Grundfos Pumps and Navman.

Other state finalists include Richmond TAS; Beechworth VIC, Rockhampton QLD, Barunga NT, whilst the WA and SA winners will be announced in early December.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: TUESDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2009

Who: National Judge, Dick Olesinski with KAB NSW CEO, Peter McLean and St Joseph's Catholic School students
Where: St Joseph's Catholic School, Ferrier Street, Lockhart
Time: 1:15pm

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

National Judge: Dick Olesinski on 0413 750 681 or ecomarketing@senet.com.au
KAB NSW: Peter McLean, CEO on 0416 227 158 or pmclean@kabnsw.org.au
KABNA PR: Lara Shannon on 0415 076 015 or laras@kab.org.au
Lockhart Shire: Chris Gallagher General Mgr PR on 026920 5305; cgallagher@lockhart.nsw.gov.au

EDITOR'S NOTES:

About the Judge – Dick Olesinski:

Dick is a passionate and committed individual who runs an environmental management support consultancy in South Australia for business, industry, community groups and government agencies.

He consults to the retail industry to initiate environment improvement policies, as well as to KESAB (Keep South Australia Beautiful) and natural resource management boards in Adelaide. Projects include implementing environmental initiatives for the construction industry together with coordinating business, industry and community environmental education programs.

Dick is the Keep Australia Beautiful National Association's longest serving Judge, working for 14 years as the Australian Tidy Towns Judge.

He is passionate about our environment and is currently a member of the:

- Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board's Coast Estuarine & Marine Advisory Committee.
- City of Onkaparinga's Environmental Consultative Group.
- Surf Life Saving Australia's ECOSurf program National Working Group.
- Waste Management Assn of Australia (SA) Commercial & Industrial Waste Working Group.

About the Australian Sustainable Communities 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 research, communications programs and awards programs.

Its national awards are known as the Australian Sustainable Communities Awards which consist 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 Tidy Towns Awards are open to rural and regional communities across Australia, covering the 20% of the population who care for 80% of the country.

The Australian Tidy Towns Awards are sponsored by:

Packaging Stewardship Forum 'Do the Right Thing' program

The Packaging Stewardship Forum (PSF) of the Australian Food and Grocery Council works with partners to deliver industry recycling, litter reduction and education programs on behalf of its members, who consist of Australia's major beverage companies and their packaging suppliers. The Forum's highly successful *Do the Right Thing* anti-litter campaign has proven to be a strong litter prevention message, with more than 80% of people recognising that *Do the Right Thing* means 'put your waste in the bin' and more than 300 towns and cities around Australia taking the *Do the Right Thing* message to their communities.

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.

Navman

Driven by innovation and expertise, Navman has grown from its humble beginnings in an Auckland garage to become a global pioneer in navigation technology. People wishing to visit and stay at past or present Tidy Towns can search them out at the TakeABreak.com.au website and find details of local accommodation, using a Navman to easily find their way there.