



Media Release Monday 6th December 2010

Barunga gets ready to impress as the Australian Tidy Towns Judge visits this week.

The community of Barunga is eagerly anticipating the arrival of the Australian Tidy Towns Awards Judge, Dick Olesinski, this week as it vies for the coveted title of Australia's Tidiest Town.

As part of his national judging visit, Olesinski will arrive in Barunga on Tuesday to check out the many projects undertaken within the community that earned Barunga the prestigious state title of NT's Tidiest Town.

Olesinski will be evaluating the initiatives against the national awards criteria which encompass environmental innovation and protection, water and energy conservation, community partnerships, litter prevention, resource recovery and protection of local heritage and culture.

According to Olesinski, "Each of Tidy Towns national finalists should be extremely proud of their efforts as they provide inspiration and practical case studies that other communities can learn from to protect and preserve their local environment, culture and heritage."

"It's great to see how the dedicated work of individuals, community groups, industry and local council can successfully come together to achieve positive environmental outcomes that helps ensure their town and region can move forward sustainably", he added.

Olesinski's tour of Barunga will start Tuesday afternoon where he will review the joint initiative of the community's resource recovery and waste management. During his visit, he will view the various community initiatives and other energy efficiency projects introduced around town.

Olesinski's tour will also take in a visit to the Barunga Community Education Centre where environmentally conscious students and staff have been extremely active in litter reduction and recycling together with beautifying school grounds reducing the environmental impact. Environmental awareness programs continue to educate children to encourage them to become actively involved both at school and within the home environment.

He will end with a visit to the Town's Heritage Park to meet the local volunteers of the community who have been working to protect the town's proud history and natural heritage.

Following his national tour of the state and territory finalists, Olesinski will then face the tough task of deciding who will be crowned the national winner, to be announced in Canberra in April 2011, following the success of the Victorian town of Beechworth in April this year. The Australian Tidy Towns Awards are sponsored by Navman and Grundfos Pumps.

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

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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 15 years as the Australian Tidy Towns Judge.

About the finalists

NSW: Lithgow pop 11, 298, 150km NW Sydney
VIC: Rutherglen, pop 2502, 276km NE Melbourne
QLD: Stanthorpe, pop 4,271, 218km SW of Brisbane
WA: Westonia, pop less than 100, 314km East of Perth
SA: Waikerie, pop 1,744, 173km NW Adelaide
TAS: New Norfolk, pop 10,100, 32km NW of Hobart
NT: Barunga, pop 350, 398km SE Darwin

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:

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.