



Media Release

Tuesday 8 November 2011

Wugularr gets ready to impress as the Australian Tidy Towns Judge visits next week

The community of Wugularr has welcomed the arrival of the Australian Tidy Towns Awards Judge, Dick Olesinski today as it vies for the coveted title of Australia's Tidiest Town for 2011/2012.

As part of his national judging visit, Olesinski will check out the many projects undertaken within the community that earned Wugularr the prestigious title of the Northern Territory's Tidiest Town in late October. Wugularr takes over the title from the Roper Gulf Shire community of Barunga, which was the Northern Territory Tidiest Town in 2009 & 2010.

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 the preservation of local heritage and culture.

According to Olesinski, "Each of the 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 councils can successfully come together to achieve positive environmental outcomes that helps to ensure their town and region can move forward sustainably", he added.

Olesinski's tour of Wugularr will start Tuesday as he drives 5 hours from Darwin to the community accompanied by KABC(NT) staff.

During his visit, Dick will meet with the children at school, view the new solar powered street lighting installation project works, community football oval upgrades which includes playing grounds, team shelters and seating for spectators. There is also interest in viewing the newly established community nursery run by youth services, the radio broadcasting services and the cultural Djilpin Arts centre.

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 June 2012, following the success of the New South Wales town of Lithgow in April this year.

The Keep Australia Beautiful Australian Tidy Towns Awards are sponsored by the *Do the Right Thing* Program of the Packaging Stewardship Forum and the Australian Food and Grocery Council, and Replas Recycled Plastic Products..

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: Kyogle, pop 2800, 758km N of Sydney

VIC: Mornington, pop 150,600, 55km S of Melbourne

QLD: Caloundra, pop 331,000, 92km N of Brisbane

WA: Announced 18th Nov

SA: Mount Gambier, pop 24,000, 450km S of Adelaide

TAS: Wynyard, pop 4,800, 317km NW of Hobart

NT: Wugularr (Beswick), pop 450, 427km SE of 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. Our work with Sustainable Communities includes the Tidy Towns Awards, Sustainable Cities Awards and Clean Beaches Project. The National Litter Index is the only annual report on litter nationally by type and location, whilst the annual Keep Australia Beautiful Week campaign is held in late August each year.

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:

***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.

Replas

Replas and Keep Australia Beautiful have entered into a new partnership to promote the benefits of plastic recycling and to demonstrate to communities across Australia the benefits of purchasing items made from recycled plastic. Replas will be presenting each of the finalists in the Australian Sustainable Communities Awards a \$500 gift voucher for purchase of Replas products. Contact Peter Patterson 1800 replas (737527) www.replas.com.au