



MEDIA RELEASE

24 November 2009

National Tidy Towns Judge visits Barunga

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

During his visit, Olesinski will be evaluating the projects undertaken by the Barunga community against the national criteria, including litter prevention, heritage & culture, youth engagement and protection of the natural environment.

Barunga is the Top End's representative that will now compete against the other state finalists to become Australia's Tidiest Town in 2010, following Tamworth's success in 2009, which will be announced in Canberra in April next year.

KABCNT CEO, Heimo Schober said, "Despite its remoteness, the Barunga community are actively working to reduce litter and promote the recovery and recycling of a wide range of resources. It is a very close knit community that places great value on its traditional heritage and culture as well as working consistently on rising up to the top of the Tidy Towns ranks in the NT."

"There are excellent sporting and recreational facilities in place for all ages of the community, and dog control programs work exceptionally well."

"There is also a great sense of pride within the community with well kept public places, parks and gardens, whilst residents have been proactive in embracing new systems and projects for the protection of the environment, integrating them with traditional practices and beliefs", he 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 Barunga 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, Lockhart in NSW, whilst the WA and SA winners will be announced in early December.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2009

Who: National Judge, Dick Olesinski with KABCNT CEO, Heimo Schober and Roper Gulf Shire representatives
Where: Shire Delivery Centre at the Barunga Community Office
Time: 2:45 pm

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
KABC NT: Heimo Schober, CEO, on 0407 186 461 or ceo@kabcnt.org.au
KABNA PR: Lara Shannon on 0415 076 015 or laras@kab.org.au
Roper Gulf Shire: Catherine Proctor, Director of Corporate and Community Services on (08) 8972 9020 catherine.proctor@ropergulf.nt.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.