



MEDIA RELEASE – 21 December 2009

National Tidy Towns Judge visits Goolwa today

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

The Judge is in town to assess the environmental efforts of the Goolwa community and council, recently announced South Australia's Tidy Towns winner and national finalist.

Goolwa 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.

As low water levels in the region reach crisis point, the local community has been working with the support of the Alexandrina Council to embrace positive and sustainable environmental change. By working together, a range of initiatives have been implemented to help conserve water, reduce waste and greenhouse gas emissions, increase recycling and more.

Whilst in town, the National Judge will be assessing notable projects and places such as the Goolwa Waste and Recovery Depot where recycled items include building products and general household items are then sold to the public, whilst green waste is turned to mulch on site and used by the Council in their gardens, or is also sold to the public. He will also be visiting the local community garden, the brainchild of Cittaslow members who felt it would complement the operations of the local fruit and vegetable cart outlet "The Barrow" in Cadell St.

Alexandrina Council also recently constructed a new waste water treatment plant, that has a capacity to treat up to 500 Mega litres per year of effluent and storm water, which will be used by industries that previously used River Murray water.

Local schools are also involved in initiatives to help save water and energy, with Investigator College harvesting water from roofs and collecting storm water to water lawns and ovals. Goolwa Primary School has introduced efficiencies such as push button taps, flow control valves and "Waterless" and has also installed interior blinds and skylights to reduce energy requirements.

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 these and other projects in Goolwa are helping them work 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 NSW; Barunga NT and Port Hedland in WA.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: MONDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2009

Who: National Judge, Dick Olesinski with Mayor, Kym McHugh and KESAB representatives.
Where: Council Chambers, Cadell Street, Goolwa
Time: 10.15am

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
KESAB: Luke Callaghan on 0413 612 126 or LCallaghan@kesab.asn.au
KABNA PR: Lara Shannon on 0415 076 015 or laras@kab.org.au
Council: Kelly Robinson, Communications Admin Officer, Alexandrina Council on 08 8555 7000 or alex@alexandrina.sa.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.