



Media Release

Wednesday 8th December 2010

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

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

As part of his national judging visit, Olesinski will arrive in Waikerie next Monday to check out the many projects undertaken within the community that earned Waikerie the prestigious state title of South Australia'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 councils 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 Waikerie will start Monday afternoon at the Waikerie Council Office, Strangman Road, Waikerie.

During his two day visit, he will view solar installations at local schools and other energy efficiency projects introduced by local business around town, as well as the Waikerie Community Wastewater site to learn about Council's water conservation measures. He will also visit the Waikerie Primary School which has just won the Environmental School of the Year named by the SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resource Management Board.

A stop off at the Waikerie Bottle and Can Depot that has been operating for the past 21 years will demonstrate how the facility, surprisingly with no kerbside recycling in the town, has successfully led to increased resource recovery and diversion of waste from landfill.

A number of businesses and Waikerie's Aged Care Warrawee and Karingal have been included on the tour as they have been proactive in recycling and water conservation. The tour will also highlight the wonderful work in the conservation of flora and fauna with special emphasis on the regent parrot, which has been carried out by the Riverland West Local Action Planning Association and the remediation of sites with partnerships with Council and local schools.

Heritage and culture are strong within the town and visits to the Waikerie Machinery Preservation Society, Waikerie National Trust and Waikerie's Heritage Walk. Olesinski will also be able to view the Rain Moth Gallery art trail and visit Waikerie Santa's Cave a community run event which has over 6500 visitors per year.

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.

MEDIA ALERT - Photo Opportunity with National Judge and elected representatives

Date / Time: 13th December 2010 1.00pm

Location: Waikerie Council Office Strangman Road Waikerie

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

TT Judge: Dick Olesinski on 0413 750 681

KAB PR: Lara Shannon on 0415 076 015 or laras@kab.org.au

KESAB: Alex Hammett on 08 8234 7255 or alex@kesab.asn.au

Waikerie Media: Penny Smith on 0428 876 511 or cdo@loxtonwaikerie.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 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.