



Media Release

Monday 5 December 2011

Mount Gambier gets ready to impress as the Australian Tidy Towns Judge visits

The community of Mount Gambier 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.

As part of his national judging tour, Olesinski will check out the many projects undertaken within the community that earned Mount Gambier the prestigious title of South Australia's Tidiest Town in late October. Mount Gambier takes over the state title from the community of Waikerie, which was announced South Australia's Tidiest Town in 2010.

Olesinski will be joined by Don Pegler, State Member for the District of Mount Gambier, and will evaluate Mount Gambier's many 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. They provide inspiration and practical case studies that other communities can learn from to help 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 be successfully combined to achieve positive environmental outcomes that helps to ensure their town and region can move forward sustainably," he added.

Olesinski's tour of Mount Gambier will include a visit to the refurbished Old Gaol, the Hayes Crescent project, the renewable energy program at TAFESA and the Agricultural Science program at Grant High School.

Following his national tour of the state and territory finalist towns, Olesinski will then face the tough task of deciding who will be crowned Australia's Tidiest Town for 2012. The winner will be announced in June and will take over the national title from New South Wales town of Lithgow.

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

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

What: Tidy Towns National Judge's visit

Who: Judge Dick Olesinski; Don Pegler, State Member, District of Mount Gambier; and Mount Gambier City Council representatives

When: 1:30pm - Monday 5th December 2011

Where: Old Mount Gambier Gaol, 25 Margaret Street, Mount Gambier, SA, 5290.

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

TT Judge: Dick Olesinski on 0413 750 681
KAB PR: Alexandra Davy on (03) 9592 4001 or media@kab.org.au
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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: West Arthur, pop 880, 200km SE of Perth
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 Australian Food and Grocery Council's Packaging Stewardship Forum**

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