

# Tidy Beechworth hits awards gold

BY SARAH DEAN

BEECHWORTH has been named Victoria's tidy town winner for preserving its rich heritage of the gold rush era and working on sustainability projects.

The historical town picked up the overall sustainable community award at the Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria awards at Horsham on Saturday night.

It was a big night for Indigo Shire which picked up four awards.

Indigo Councillor Barbara Murdoch attended the ceremony but was hardly in her seat as she kept approaching the stage to accept the awards.

"I felt terribly embarrassed, I was

thinking 'are they going to call anyone else's name out'," she said.

The top Beechworth award was a particularly memorable win for resident Iris Mannik who has been working towards it for the past 14 years.

"This is a feather in the cap for Iris as she has really been pushing for this," Cr Murdoch said.

Beechworth will now go to Canberra for the Australian finals in March.

"We have proved as a shire that we can do this and hopefully we can be awarded Australia's tidy town winner," Cr Murdoch said.

The other big wins for Indigo Shire went to Yackandandah, which was awarded the heritage and cul-

ture award for rebuilding after the Black Saturday fires.

Rutherglen also took out the small town achiever award and a judge's commendation award for Rutherglen Primary School.

The school was awarded for its environmental and sustainability actions, including capturing water from 85 per cent of its roof area for use in toilets and gardens.

Indigo Mayor Cr Peter Graham paid tribute to the businesses, community groups and volunteers who have shown great dedication and community spirit.

"These wins are marvellous, Indigo Shire could well be the tidiest local government area in Victoria," he said.