

10 October, 2010

RUTHERGLEN CLEANS UP AT THE KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL VICTORIA TIDY TOWNS AWARDS

Environment and Climate Change Minister Gavin Jennings congratulated the north east Victorian town of Rutherglen for winning the 2010 Tidy Town of the Year Award.

“Rutherglen, has defied its small population based of approximately 2,000 people, to lead the way in showing how our regional communities can demonstrate a strong commitment to sustainability and heritage,” Mr Jennings said.

The winners of the Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities Awards were announced last night at an awards ceremony held in Beechworth, the 2009 Tidy Town of Year.

“Rutherglen, via the Indigo Shire and a range of community groups, schools and individuals have instigated a number of initiatives which have complemented their picturesque surroundings of the Murray River and historical buildings,” Mr Jennings said.

Other towns to take home awards last night included St Arnaud, Murrayville and Horsham, as well as Violet Town who won the Community Government Partnerships award for its Bush Nursing Centre, the Efficient Energy award for their retrofitting of buildings project and the Young Leaders award through the work of local resident Jack Smyth.

“The Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities awards ceremony is a celebration and acknowledgement of the everyday actions made by all Councils and Shires, community groups, schools and individuals. All of the participants across regional Victoria in the 2010 awards should be very satisfied with the tremendous dedication they have made to improve their local communities.

“The initiatives recognised this year have demonstrated innovation, sustainability and community-based actions that have made these town’s better places to live, work and play in.” Mr Jennings said.

There were 190 initiatives entered into 10 categories from across Victoria, with 13 award winners being honoured on the night.

“The Victorian Government would like to thank every community who entered the 2010 Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities Awards and demonstrated how everyday actions can make a difference to our environment,” Mr Jennings said.

Another highlight of the awards ceremony was the presentation of the prestigious Dame Phyllis Frost Award to Don Johns from the Horsham Tidy Towns Committee for his outstanding commitment to the local Horsham environment.

“Mr Johns has been an ongoing devotee to the town of Horsham. There is no doubt that the town has experienced a huge range of benefits from his active maintenance and protection of the environment over a number of years,” Mr Jennings said.

Entries for the 2011 Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Awards will open in January 2011.

For more information about the 2010 Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities winners visit www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/kaby

Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities 2010 Winners

Sustainable Cities	
Category	Winner
Overall	Rutherglen
Community Action ≤3000	Murrayville – Murrayville Community Inc. Centenary Committee
Community Action >3000	Mornington Community Garden – Mornington Community Garden
Cultural Heritage	“Giving our Past a Future” – St Arnaud Community Action Group
Pam Keating Environmental Innovation	The Climate Change Conversation – Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
Towards Zero Waste	Lane Builders Contractors – Horsham Tidy Towns Committee
Protection of the Environment	Gemmill’s Wetland – Kiwanis Club of Mooroopna
Community Government Partnerships	Violet Town Bush Nursing Centre – Violet Town Action Group
Water Conservation	St Arnaud Water Wise Project – St Arnaud Community Action Group
Efficient Energy	VT Retrofit Buildings – Violet Town Action Group
Young Leaders	Jack Smyth – Violet Town Action Group
Active Schools	Balbirooroo Community Wetlands & Bimblemeer – Balnarring Primary School
Dame Phyllis Frost	Don Johns – Horsham Tidy Towns Committee