



MEDIA RELEASE - 19 November 2009

National Tidy Towns Judge visits Beechworth

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

The Judge will be in town to assess the merits of Beechworth, recently announced Victoria's Tidy Towns winner and national finalist.

Beechworth will now compete against the other state and territory finalists to become Australia's Tidiest Town in 2010, following Tamworth's success in 2009, which will be announced in Canberra in April next year.

Throughout Beechworth, evidence of its rich heritage through out the 1850's gold rush era has been preserved. Many of the projects which the Council and Beechworth residents have undertaken aim to protect, enhance and promote the town's history, whilst also progressing towards sustainability.

Supported by the Indigo Shire Council, the Beechworth community has carried out a variety of initiatives that celebrate the town's past such as their re-enactment group, whilst also looking to the future with initiatives such as The Climate Change Challenge, Dalcheri – uniquely ethical and the Beechworth Sustainability Group.

Many different members of the community have been involved with projects and there is a spirit and focus on working together. The young wildlife ecologist, Natasha Schedvin, who joined forces with the Wooragee Landcare Group in the research of the Barking Owl, and the guest house, Vision Splendid, are just two examples.

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 Beechworth is working 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; Lockhart NSW, Rockhampton QLD, Barunga NT, whilst the WA and SA winners will be announced later this month and early December.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19TH

Who: National Judge, Dick Olesinski with Indigo Shire Councillor, Barb Murdoch and Wooragee Primary Students
Where: Wooragee Hall, next to the primary school
Wooragee Centenary Hall, Beechworth Rd, Wooragee
Time: 11:30am sharp

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

KAB VIC: Joanna Meyer on 0407 863 853 or Joanna.Meyer@sustainability.vic.gov.au
National Judge: Dick Olesinski on 0413 750 681 or ecomarketing@senet.com.au
KAB PR: Lara Shannon on 0415 076 015 or laras@kab.org.au
Indigo Shire Media: Nell Showers on 0448 276 973 or nshowers@indigoshire.vic.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.