



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Member for Western Victoria

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WINNERS ARE GRINNERS IN SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY AWARDS

Beechworth has been named winner of the Overall Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Award for 2009, joining twelve other winners who are grinning with pride after the gala awards ceremony held last night in Horsham, announced Ms Jaala Pulford, Member for Western Victoria.

Now in their 27th year, the awards encourage local areas to develop sustainable communities, increase tourism and civic pride as well as improve residents' community participation, social cooperation, public awareness and conservation of their environment.

"I would particularly like to congratulate the community of Beechworth for being named the Overall Sustainable Community – Tidy Town for 2009. The Beechworth community epitomises sustainability as they work to preserve the town's rich heritage, its environment and a prosperous economic future," she said.

Ms Pulford presented the awards at last night's ceremony, saying that all winners should feel proud of their contribution to make Victoria a sustainable state.

"These awards celebrate the fantastic work being done at the local level by individuals, groups and organisations to foster community pride, preserve heritage and protect the environment for future generations," explained Ms Pulford.

This year's winners are:

- Lake Boga (*Community Pride Award*)
- Yackandandah (*Heritage and Culture Award*)
- Ballarat (*Pam Keating Environmental Innovation Award*)
- Greater Shepparton City Council (*Zero Waste Award*)
- Orbost (*Protection of the Environment Award*)
- Moorabool Shire Council, Victoria Police and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (*Community Government Partnership Award*)
- Mt Buller and Mt Stirling Alpine Resort Management Board (*Water Conservation Award*)
- Dhurringile & District Landcare Group (*Energy Conservation Award*)

Media contact: Lyall Johnson 03 9651 5799 or 0400 422 142

- Damascus College - Ballarat (*Young Leaders Award*)
- Hastings Primary School - Hastings (*Proud Schools Award*)
- Brian Stahl OAM JP (*Dame Phyllis Frost Award*)
- Rutherglen (*Small Town Achiever Award*)
- Beechworth (*Overall Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Award*).

Sustainability Victoria CEO Anita Roper said: "All winners and finalists have shown their commitment and enthusiasm to becoming more sustainable. These awards celebrate the actions taken by numerous communities to create Tidy Towns."

These are the first Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Awards since Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria (KABV) became a part of Sustainability Victoria. The two organisations joined forces in July 2009 and are united in their goal to encourage and reward sustainability across the state.

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