

Donna Faragher
Minister for Environment; Youth

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Westonia claims State Tidy Towns title

Portfolio: Environment

The Wheatbelt town of Westonia has won the State title in the 2010 Tidy Towns - Sustainable Communities Awards.

At a ceremony held at the Perth Exhibition Convention Centre today, His Excellency Dr Ken Michael, AC, the Governor of Western Australia and Patron of Keep Australia Beautiful WA, presented the award.

Westonia was recognised for its vision and hard work that had transformed the town into what the judges described as a fantastic place to live and a must-visit location.

As the State category award winner for General Appearance in 2009, Westonia built on this success to implement projects covering community action; general appearance; recycling and waste management; natural heritage conservation; enhancing cultural identity; and water conservation.

The judges said the vibrant and progressive Westonia community had excelled in all categories of the 2010 Tidy Towns - Sustainable Communities program and that its ambitious vision had been put into action to develop a truly sustainable community.

Environment Minister Donna Faragher, who presented the 2010 State award for General Appearance, congratulated Westonia on its achievements and commended all the towns and communities which participated in the 2010 Tidy Towns program.

"If there is one thing that becomes clear when you look at the Tidy Towns program, regional communities which work together can achieve remarkable results," Mrs Faragher said.

"Tidy Towns has been running for 41 years and continues to enjoy great support. This shows that it is meeting a need - it helps communities set and achieve their goals and recognises them for those achievements.

"This year, the number of participants increased by more than 50 per cent with significant growth in the number of Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley registered with the program."

The 2010 State category award winners were:

- Community Action: West Arthur
- General Appearance: Wyndham
- Recycling and Waste Management: Kalgoorlie-Boulder
- Natural Heritage Conservation: Greenbushes
- Enhancing Cultural Identity: Menzies
- Water Conservation: Southern Cross.

The Kimberley Aboriginal community of Yakanarra was awarded a Special Commendation Award by the Department of Local Government for its commitment to a whole-of-community approach to litter prevention, maintenance of amenities, caring for the environment and providing for the needs of people of all ages.

The Minister said the State awards acknowledged community efforts to improve the appearance and environment of towns and work towards a sustainable future.

This year, 65 towns and communities registered with the Tidy Towns - Sustainable Communities program and 55 submitted entries for the awards.

As the 2010 State winner, Westonia is now in the running for the national Tidy Towns - Sustainable Communities awards to be announced next year. The 2009 State award winner, Hedland (Port and South Hedland), went on to win the Young Legends award at the national ceremony held in Canberra in May 2010.

Tidy Towns is a Keep Australia Beautiful program. Keep Australia Beautiful WA is supported by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Tidy Towns - Sustainable Communities is sponsored by Grundfos Pumps Pty Ltd; GWN; the Department of Regional Development and Lands; West Australian Regional Newspapers; and Cliffs Natural Resources Inc.

Minister's office - 9213 7250