



Media Release

Thursday 25 November 2010

Westonia gets ready to impress as the Australian Tidy Towns Judge visits this week

The community of Westonia is eagerly anticipating the arrival of the Australian Tidy Towns Awards Judge, Dick Olesinski this week as it vies for the coveted title of Australia's Tidiest Town.

As part of his national judging visit, Olesinski will arrive in Westonia on Wednesday to check out the many projects undertaken within the community that earned Westonia the prestigious state title of Western Australia's Tidiest Town.

Olesinski will be evaluating the initiatives against the national awards criteria which encompass environmental innovation and protection, water and energy conservation, community partnerships, litter prevention, resource recovery and protection of local heritage and culture.

According to Olesinski, "Each of Tidy Towns national finalists should be extremely proud of their efforts as they provide inspiration and practical case studies that other communities can learn from to protect and preserve their local environment, culture and heritage."

"It's great to see how the dedicated work of individuals, community groups, industry and local councils can successfully come together to achieve positive environmental outcomes that helps ensure their town and region can move forward sustainably", he added.

Olesinski's tour of Westonia will start Tuesday evening at the Wessy Wanderers Pavilion where the community of Westonia will be holding a Drought Relief Community Function. Dick will be able to see the community spirit in full swing when the town and farm folk band together and show their support for each other in this drought affected times.

During his two day visit, he will view local mining heritage sites, restored and new buildings, town site gardens, as well as the Mining Camp Wastewater Treatment Plant to learn about Council and partners water conservation measures.

A stop off at the Community Resource Centre will demonstrate how the facility provides services for the community, such as computer, craft and mobile phone classes as well as providing community services such as beauticians, acupuncturists and office functions such as photocopying and laminating. Other local sites include the local Museum, modelled on the Old Club Hotel and Primary School where the students have contributed to the community's activities and spirit.

Olesinski's tour will end with a visit to the town's main street to meet the volunteers who have been working to protect the town's proud history and natural heritage.

Following his national tour of the state and territory finalists, Olesinski will then face the tough task of deciding who will be crowned the national winner, to be announced in Canberra in April 2011, following the success of the Victorian town of Beechworth in April this year. The Australian Tidy Towns Awards are sponsored by Navman and Grundfos Pumps.

MEDIA ALERT - Photo Opportunity with National Judge and elected representatives

Date / Time: 3.30pm, Wednesday 1st December 2010
Location: Shire Office, Wolfram Street, Westonia

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

TT Judge: Dick Olesinski on 0413 750 681
KAB PR: Lara Shannon on 0415 076 015 or laras@kab.org.au
KABWA: Gail Dodd on 08 6467 5131 or gail.dodd@dec.wa.gov.au
Westonia Media: Kara Hatch on 0427 467 077 or clc@westonia.wa.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 15 years as the Australian Tidy Towns Judge.

About the finalists

NSW: Lithgow pop 11, 298, 150km NW Sydney
VIC: Rutherglen, pop 2502, 276km NE Melbourne
QLD: Stanthorpe, pop 4,271, 218km SW of Brisbane
WA: Westonia, pop less than 100, 314km East of Perth
SA: Waikerie, pop 1,744, 173km NW Adelaide
TAS: New Norfolk, pop 10,100, 32km NW of Hobart
NT: Barunga, pop 350, 398km SE Darwin

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:

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.