



## Media Release

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012

### West Arthur gets set to impress as the Australian Tidy Towns Judge hits town

The community of West Arthur has welcomed the arrival of the Australian Tidy Towns Awards Judge, Dick Olesinski, as it vies for the coveted title of Australia's Tidiest Town.

As part of his national judging tour, Olesinski will check out the many projects undertaken within the community that earned West Arthur the prestigious title of Western Australia's Tidiest Town in mid-November. West Arthur takes over the state title from the community of Westonia, which was announced Western Australia's Tidiest Town in 2010.

Olesinski will be greeted by Terry Waldron MLA, State Member for Wagin and Minister for Sport and Recreation, Racing and Gaming at a barbeque held at the Darkan Sports and Community Centre this evening, before beginning his tour of the town tomorrow which will be hosted by the West Arthur Tidy Towns Committee and Shire representatives.

During his visit, Olesinski will evaluate West Arthur's many initiatives against the national awards criteria which encompass environmental innovation and protection, water and energy conservation, community partnerships, litter prevention, resource recovery and the preservation of local heritage and culture.

According to Olesinski, "Each of the 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 to ensure their town and region can move forward sustainably," he added.

Olesinski's tour of West Arthur tomorrow will commence with a presentation at the Shire offices before heading off to Duranillin school via the local swimming pool and onto Lake Towerrinning, the Moodi Sports Complex and Hall and the Arthur River Country Club and Historical Precinct. The afternoon will be spent visiting the Nangip Reserve Heritage Trail, the Rail Reserve, The Shed, Railway Station and House, before finishing his tour at the Youth Advisory Committee shed.

Following his national tour of the state and territory finalist towns, Olesinski will then face the tough task of deciding who will be crowned Australia's Tidiest Town for 2011/12. The winner will be announced in May and will take over the national title from New South Wales town of Lithgow.

The Keep Australia Beautiful Australian Tidy Towns Awards are sponsored by the *Do the Right Thing* Program of the Australian Food and Grocery Council's Packaging Stewardship Forum, and Replas Recycled Plastic Products.

#### **PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**

**What:** Tidy Towns National Judge's visit

**Who:** Judge Dick Olesinski, Terry Waldron MLA, State Member for Wagin and local representatives

**When:** Monday 6th February @ 6pm

**Where:** Sports and Community Centre, Memorial Drive, Darkan

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

TT Judge: Dick Olesinski on 0413 750 681  
West Arthur CEO: Nicole Wasmann, 9736 2222 or [nwasmann@westarthur.wa.gov.au](mailto:nwasmann@westarthur.wa.gov.au)  
KAB PR: Lara Shannon on 0415 076 015 or [laras@kab.org.au](mailto:laras@kab.org.au)  
KAB WA: DEC Media on 08 6467 5555

### **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 17 years as the Australian Tidy Towns Judge.

#### **About the finalists**

NSW: Kyogle, pop 2800, 758km N of Sydney  
VIC: Mornington, pop 150,600, 55km S of Melbourne  
QLD: Caloundra, pop 331,000, 92km N of Brisbane  
WA: West Arthur, pop 880, 200km SE of Perth  
SA: Mount Gambier, pop 24,000, 450km S of Adelaide  
TAS: Wynyard, pop 4,800, 317km NW of Hobart  
NT: Wugularr (Beswick), pop 450, 427km SE of 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. Our work with Sustainable Communities includes the Tidy Towns Awards, Sustainable Cities Awards and Clean Beaches Project. The National Litter Index is the only annual report on litter nationally by type and location, whilst the annual Keep Australia Beautiful Week campaign is held in late August each year.

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:

#### ***Do the Right Thing* Program of the Australian Food and Grocery Council's Packaging Stewardship Forum**

The Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council, works with partners across the nation to deliver industry recycling, litter reduction and education programs on behalf of its members, Australia's major beverage companies and their packaging suppliers. The Forum's highly successful *Do the Right Thing* anti-litter campaign is recognised by more than 80% of people. More than 400 towns and cities around Australia are now taking the *Do the Right Thing* message to their communities.

#### **Replas**

Replas and Keep Australia Beautiful have entered into a new partnership to promote the benefits of plastic recycling and to demonstrate to communities across Australia the benefits of purchasing items made from recycled plastic. Replas will be presenting each of the finalists in the Australian Sustainable Communities Awards a \$500 gift voucher for purchase of Replas products. Contact Peter Patterson 1800 replas (737527) [www.replas.com.au](http://www.replas.com.au)