



MEDIA RELEASE

7 December 2009

National Tidy Towns Judge visits Port Hedland today

The Australian Tidy Towns Awards Judge, Dick Olesinski, is in Port Hedland today as part of his judging tour for the Keep Australia Beautiful, Australian Tidy Towns Awards.

The Judge is in town for two days to assess the merits of Port Hedland, recently announced the WA Tidy Towns winner and national finalist.

Port Hedland will now compete against the other state and territory finalists for the title of Australia's Tidiest Town in 2010, following Tamworth's success in 2009, which will be announced in Canberra in April next year.

Whilst in town, the National Judge will be assessing notable projects such as the Cash for Trash program, which started as a pilot project where residents and community groups are reimbursed with cash upon returning certain recyclable items to nominated collection points throughout the Town of Port Hedland. The program was the first of its kind in WA and following the success of the pilot program, it was continued as a regular program till December 2009.

Visits will also be made to Pretty Pool beach and Cemetery Beach, where he will find out about the turtle monitoring that runs from October to March and sees volunteers walking the beach each morning to monitor the turtles and also collect litter and any other debris that washes ashore. He will also meet stakeholders and community members at the Port Hedland Courthouse and Gallery before embarking on a cultural tour of the area.

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 Port Hedland 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; Beechworth VIC, Rockhampton QLD, Barunga NT, Lockhart NSW. The SA winner will be announced in mid December.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: MONDAY 7 DECEMBER 2009

Who: National Judge, Dick Olesinski with Mayor, Kelly Howlett
Where: Courthouse Art Centre & Gallery, Edgar St, Port Hedland
Time: 2:15pm

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

National Judge: Dick Olesinski on 0413 750 681 or ecomarketing@senet.com.au
KABNA PR: Lara Shannon on 0415 076 015 or laras@kab.org.au
Port Hedland: Véronique Thomas-Smith, Publicity Officer on 0409 880 149

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.