



media release

24 August 2009

**STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL 10:30PM ON MONDAY 24 AUGUST 2009**

### **Rockhampton – Queensland's Tidiest Town 2009**

Rockhampton tonight was named Queensland's Ergon Energy Tidiest Town for 2009, taking out the overall title in this year's prestigious Ergon Energy Tidy Towns competition.

The Central Queensland community out-performed 159 other entrants to claim the coveted title at a gala awards ceremony at the Victoria Park Golf Club in Brisbane. Rockhampton was presented with its award by Ergon Energy's Chief Executive Ian McLeod.

Ergon Energy Chief Executive Ian McLeod confirmed Ergon Energy's commitment after eleven years as a sponsor of Tidy Towns was as strong as ever.

"The Tidy Towns focus has always been on innovation and true community spirit, qualities consistent with Ergon Energy's approach to business," he said.

"Those qualities are going to be even more needed as we move into challenging times, with Ergon Energy's, and I believe regional Queensland's focus, continuing to be towards using energy in smarter ways.

Mr McLeod said it was with that in mind that Ergon Energy had proudly sponsored the Energy Conservation Champion Award 2009, approved by the Keep Australia Beautiful Council to encourage communities to become more environmentally friendly and work towards sustainability through becoming more energy efficient.

"The major prize for this award is 12 months of Clean Energy, drawn entirely from clean renewable energy sources and fully accredited by Green Power.

"We believe this a great incentive for Ergon Energy Tidy Towns entrants and will provide a fitting reward for the winner – Clean Energy to make their community even cleaner and greener," Mr McLeod said.

The Chair of Keep Australia Beautiful Queensland Emeritus Professor Tor Hundloe, congratulated Rockhampton on its many environmental initiatives and singled-out the introduction of its new domestic recycling bins and public place recycling, diverting bottles and containers from households,

for interviews | Professor Tor Hundloe, 0412 485 691

for media assistance | Lisa McConnell, Tel 3252 2886 or 0410 014 287

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football grounds and the like, from landfill to recycling businesses, saving rate payers money and the environment.

“The State award winners are the cream of the crop in their categories, and each year our dedicated volunteer judges face an increasingly tough decision. The Ergon Energy Tidy Towns competition continues to go from strength to strength, with exceptional councils and communities working together to help us keep Queensland beautiful, greener and healthier” he said.

**As well as Queensland’s Ergon Energy Tidiest Town, 11 outstanding STATE achievement awards were announced:**

*Tourism Queensland's Friendliest Town Award: - Queensland State Winner*  
**Mudgeeraba** | South East Queensland

*Australia Post Bush Spirit Award: - Queensland State Winners*  
**Carpentaria Shire Council** | Far North Queensland  
AND  
**Muffaburra** | Western Queensland

*RACQ Litter Prevention Award: - Queensland State Winner*  
**Pittsworth** | Darling Downs

*Do the Right Thing Resource Recovery Award Sponsored by the Packaging Stewardship Forum: - Queensland State Winner*  
**Hervey Bay** | Wide Bay Burnett

*OneSteel Recycling Partnership Award: - Queensland State Winner*  
**Murweh Shire Council** | South West Queensland

*Paradise & Bishopp Outdoor Advertising Heritage Award: -Queensland State Winner*  
**Bundaberg** | Wide Bay Burnett

*Grundfos Pumps Water Conservation Award: - Queensland State Winner*  
**Mackay** | Whitsunday Isaac Mackay

*MINT Outstanding Achievement Award: - Queensland State Winners*  
**Bargara 3 – Innes Park Neighbourhood Watch Group** | Wide Bay Burnett  
and  
**George Apps** | North Queensland  
*Environmental Protection Award - Queensland State Winner*  
**Woodford** | South East Queensland

*Queensland's Young Legends Award: - Queensland State Winners*  
**Ronan Robinson** | Western Queensland

and

**Burdekin Districts Schools Enviro Council** | North Queensland

*Ergon Energy's Energy Conservation Champions Award - Queensland State Winner*

**Townsville** | North Queensland

### **Ergon Energy Tidy Towns 2009 State Winners**

#### **Queensland's Tidiest Town 2009**

*The Tidiest Town Award recognises community's efficient and effective use of the resources available, against a range of criteria, including environmental protection and innovation, litter prevention, resource management, youth initiatives, visitor friendliness, cultural and heritage activities, and community partnerships and action.*

#### **Rockhampton (Central Queensland)**

##### **Nominated by Rockhampton Regional Council**

Rockhampton hosts many national and international events. Rockhampton's pride in its history and heritage makes for a remarkably diverse, attractive and vibrant city. The preservation of the old, with the blending of the most modern in buildings and technology, all add to Rockhampton's unique environment.

Rockhampton has its own character which qualifies it for a friendly town destination and extends itself to be proclaimed Queensland's 2009 Tidiest Town.

#### **Tourism Queensland's Friendly Town Award - Queensland State Winner**

*This award recognises outstanding commitment to, and active promotion of, visitor friendliness.*

#### **Mudgeeraba (South East Queensland)**

##### **Nominated by Gold Coast City Council**

Mudgeeraba has developed the reputation of being a very friendly and well presented village within the Gold Coast region. Tourism strategies are implemented to continue to maintain this recognition.

#### **Australia Post Bush Spirit Award - Queensland State Winner**

*This award recognises community hardship (economic, environmental or social) and then for evidence of a community's refusal to "give in".*

#### **Carpentaria Shire Council (Far North Queensland)**

##### **Nominated by Carpentaria Shire Council**

Early in 2009 Carpentaria was devastated by floods and isolated by floodwaters for 10 weeks. Due to the town's remoteness, and the difficulty of getting in supplies the community banded together in true bush spirit.

**AND**

#### **Mttaburra (Western Queensland)**

##### **Nominated by Barcaldine Regional Council**

With Mttaburra's only store and service station going up in smoke on in January 2009 the town was without a fuel supply for almost 6 months.

**RACQ Litter Prevention Award - Queensland State Winner**

*This award recognises sound and proactive litter prevention, management and education activities*

**Pittsworth (Darling Downs)**

**Nominated by Toowoomba Regional Council**

Pittsworth runs a comprehensive Anti-Litter Education and Awareness Program and has also improved the design, outlay and fencing at the Waste Management Facilities. Practices such as these clearly identify a strong commitment to litter prevention measures.

**Do the Right Thing Resource Recovery Award Sponsored by Packaging Stewardship Forum - Queensland State Winner**

*This award recognises community, business and/or council initiatives in the conservation of natural resources, the recovery and reuse of materials, and the appropriate disposal of non-recyclables.*

**Hervey Bay (Wide Bay Burnett)**

**Nominated by Fraser Coast Regional Council**

There is a high level of organisation and great work being done at the Nikenbah Resource Recovery Centre.

**OneSteel Recycling Partnership Award - Queensland State Winner**

**Murweh Shire Council (South West Queensland)**

*This award recognises partnerships that community groups have with councils, schools, businesses, clubs and/or other groups that foster good citizenship and strong environmental and community outcomes.*

It has been a great initiative to form a partnership and incorporate the Cosmos Centre and Tourist Information centre together on Qantas Drive. There is so much to discover in Charleville that the one stop shop is now a central place to start your tour.

**Paradise & Bishopp Outdoor Advertising Heritage Award - Queensland State Winner**

**Bundaberg (Wide Bay Burnett)**

**Nominated by the Hinkler Hall of Aviation**

*This award recognises commitment to the preservation, conservation and celebration of history, heritage and culture within a community.*

Bundaberg has a world class tourist attraction with cutting-edge technology recognising the achievements of Bundaberg's favourite son.

**Grundfos Pumps Water Conservation Award - Queensland State Winner**

**Mackay (Whitsunday Isaac Mackay)**

**Nominated by Mackay Regional Council**

*This award recognises initiatives in the conservation of water and involvement in WaterWise activities within your community.*

The Mackay Water Recycling Project is a major initiative of Mackay Regional Council that will recycle approximately 90% of Mackay's wastewater to protect the Great Barrier Reef from over 250 tonnes of nutrients every year and is the largest regional recycling scheme of its type in Australia. The

initiative will also protect and rehabilitate overcommitted ground water resources at risk of seawater intrusion by removing 8,500 ML of demand on the groundwater resource and achieve a more productive sugar cane industry in the region.

### **MINT Outstanding Achievement Award - Queensland State Winners**

*This award recognises an individual, or a group who has made an outstanding contribution to their local community, region or Queensland and espouses the principles of Ergon Energy Tidy Towns.*

#### **Bargara 3 - Innes Park Neighbourhood Watch Group (Wide Bay Burnett)**

There is a high level of community work being done by the local Innes Park Neighbourhood Watch group.

**AND**

#### **George Apps from Mt Isa (North Queensland)**

George Apps always remembers that in times of struggle and desperation a collaborative spirit allows communities to survive. Eighty four years young, and still going strong, this man has an incredible love of community which has made him not only an icon of Mount Isa but also earned him the title 'Mr Mount Isa'.

### **Environmental Protection Award - Queensland State Winner**

#### **Woodford (South East Queensland)**

#### **Nominated by Moreton Bay Regional Council**

*This award recognises community's commitment to the protection and management of the environment.*

Woodford's most impressive venue is run by the Queensland Folk Federation, organisers of such events as the Woodford Folk Festival, The Dreaming Festival and The Planting. Vegetation, land management practices, wildlife and power generation issues have been addressed. As land managers they have enhanced the natural environment and achieved excellence in conservation.

### **Queensland's Young Legends Award Queensland State Winners**

*This award recognises strong youth initiative and involvement in a community or encouragement of youth involvement by a community, council or business.*

#### **Ronan Robinson from Blackall (Western Queensland)**

Thirteen year old Blackall State School student, Ronan Robinson, started a campaign for public recognition of the late Lieutenant Edgar Thomas Towner, of Blackall, who won a Victoria and Military Cross in World War 1. Congratulations to Ronan Robinson for being responsible for this significant contribution.

**AND**

#### **Burdekin District Schools Enviro Council (North Queensland)**

Year 4 to 7 students can be members of the Burdekin District Schools Enviro Council. Through education and action the students are actively making a difference. This is an inspirational model.

**Ergon Energy's Energy Conservation Champions Award - Queensland State Winner**

*This award recognises community, business and/or council initiatives in the conservation of energy.*

**Townsville (North Queensland)**

**Nominated by Townsville City Council**

Townsville is trialling innovative measures to reduce energy demand. Solar power and other renewable energy options are implemented and promoted. Council is purchasing a solar energy panel so that its administration building will become a central business district Citisolar Learnscape. Townsville is leading by example.

**ends**