



Media Release

Embargoed until Sunday 28th October 2007

Melton Shire Council wins Australian Sustainable Cities Awards

Melton Shire Council has won the inaugural Australian Sustainable Cities Awards announced in Canberra last night.

The Sustainable Cities program recognises the efforts of residents, community groups, businesses and government agencies to help protect their local environment. The program is part of the Keep Australia Beautiful 'Australian Sustainable Communities' Awards which also includes the Tidy Towns and Clean Beaches programmes.

In addition to winning the overall title, Melton also picked up two category awards. These included the Community Action and Protection of the Environment awards, whilst local resident Nora Peters also received a commendation in the Dame Phyllis Frost category award.

According to Dick Olesinski, Sustainable Cities National Judge, Melton Shire Council has contributed extensive resources to help encourage local resident participation across a broad range of environmental initiatives. This includes support and guidance for community markets, cultural diversity forums, community leadership training, leisure and open space strategies, environmental improvement initiatives, as well as active lifestyle programs and youth activities.

"Melton's Recycled Water System Development project, Public Place Recycling program and the Waste Management Education & Strategy project, together with the community's overall commitment to the principles of sustainability, encapsulates the Sustainable Cities award ideals," said Dick Olesinski.

"Melton Shire Council has put great emphasis on environmental issues through their own work or in encouraging and supporting the many 'Friends of' groups. These groups, along with the students of Melton, are to be commended on the broad range of environmental improvement activities they are involved with, their desire to reinforce their message of sustainability and to gradually extend their impact into the broader community," he added.

Highlighting the importance of these awards, Keep Australia Beautiful National Chairman, Don Chambers, said:

"With climate change and water conservation at the forefront of social and political agendas it is clear that all Australians must make real changes, not just a token effort, to become a more sustainable society.

"These awards not only focus on environmental sustainability, but also take into account the economic and social growth of local communities, providing strong case studies and setting benchmarks for others to follow," he added.

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The 2007 Australian Sustainable Cities Award winners are:

Program or Category	Award Winner	Category Sponsor
Overall Winner	Melton, VIC	HUNGRY JACK'S ®
Heritage & Culture	Burnie, TAS	
Community Action	Melton, VIC	Truelocal.com.au
Environmental Innovation	National Lifestyle Villages, WA	
Water Conservation	Port Augusta, SA	
Litter Prevention	Brisbane, QLD	HUNGRY JACK'S ®
Resource Recovery	Australian Ethical Investments for Trevor Pearcey House, ACT	
Community Partnership	Randwick, NSW	Bunnings Warehouse
Protection of the Environment	Melton, VIC	
Young Legends	Randwick, NSW	Coca-Cola
Dame Phyllis Frost - Winner	Lexie Paul - Burnie, TAS	
Dame Phyllis Frost - Commendation	Nora Peters – Melton, VIC	

Further information about the Sustainable Cities Awards and details about each of the national finalists/category winners can be found at www.kab.org.au

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Editor's Notes:

The Principal Sponsor of Sustainable Cities is the Hungry Jack's® 'Bag it and Bin it' program. Category Sponsors include truelocal.com.au, Bunnings Warehouse and Coca-Cola. Any mention of our sponsors is greatly appreciated.

Sustainable Cities national finalist media contacts:

ACT: Australian Ethical Investment for Trevor Pearcey House
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NSW: Randwick City Council
Contact Richard Wilson or Peter Maganov on 02 9399 0628

QLD: City of Brisbane
Contact John Tunney on 07 3403 9117

SA: City of Port Augusta
Contact Deon Schumann on 08 8641 9100

TAS: City of Burnie
Contact Rodney Greene on 03 6430 5715

VIC: Melton Shire Council
Contact Rodney Thomas on 03 9747 7200

WA: National Lifestyle Villages for Bridgewater Village, Mandurah
Contact Denika Thompson on 08 9221 9099.