



Media Release

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Caloundra wins the Protection of the Environment category at the Australian Tidy Towns Awards

The Sunshine Coast town of Caloundra QLD, has won the Protection of the Environment category at the annual Keep Australia Beautiful Australian Tidy Towns Awards, hosted by the Governor-General, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC at Government House in Canberra last night.

Volunteers play an enormous role in ensuring Caloundra thrives and maintains its reputation as a caring and committed community. Various groups including anti-litter, historical and environmental groups work in partnership with the Caloundra Tidy Towns group and Council to achieve positive social, environmental and economic outcomes.

According to Australian Tidy Towns Judge, Dick Olesinski, "Numerous voluntary environmental groups work in alliances with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council to protect their local environment.

"Active community members come together as groups within the catchment area and are responsible for cooperatively managing their respective areas of interest.

"Caloundra's recycling and resource recovery initiatives divert extensive tonnes of waste from landfill, whilst many Caloundra residents are committed to preserving the city's proud heritage", he added.

Local resident, Greg McKean was highly commended in the Dame Phyllis Frost Individual Award for his involvement in establishing numerous charity and environmental associations in Caloundra.

The iconic Tidy Towns program celebrates 40 years of local environmental achievements in 2009 and aims to identify, acknowledge and promote Australia's best examples of sustainable communities in regional and rural areas across Australia.

The program is sponsored by the Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council 'Do the Right Thing' program, Grundfos Pumps and the Hungry Jack's 'Bag it and Bin it' program.

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For further information about Caloundra and all national category award winners visit www.kab.org.au/tidytowns

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Australian Tidy Towns 2009 Award Winners

| Category | Winner | Sponsor |
|---|---|---|
| Australia's Tidiest Town | Tamworth - NSW | |
| Community Action | Tamworth - NSW | |
| Heritage and Culture | Oatlands - TAS | |
| Environmental Innovation | Kambalda - WA | |
| Water Conservation | Horsham - VIC | Grundfos Pumps |
| Energy Innovation | Tamworth - NSW | |
| Litter Prevention | Horsham - VIC | Hungry Jack's® 'Bag it and Bin it' |
| Resource Recovery | Atitjere - NT | Packaging Stewardship Forum 'Do The Right Thing' |
| Community Partnership | Oatlands - TAS | |
| Protection of the Environment | Caloundra - QLD | |
| Young Legends | Stansbury - SA | |
| Dame Phyllis Frost Award: Individual | Don Johns OAM – VIC winner Greg McKean – QLD commended | |
| Dame Phyllis Frost Award: Group | Stansbury Tidy Towns Committee – SA | |

About Keep Australia Beautiful

The Keep Australia Beautiful Network has been encouraging people all around Australia to care for their local environment since 1968. It holds the Tidy Towns, Sustainable Cities and Clean Beaches Awards and conducts the National Litter Index research. Keep Australia Beautiful Week is held at the end of August each year as a reminder of what we can all do to improve our local environments.

About the Tidy Towns Awards

2009 is the 40th Anniversary Year of Tidy Towns in Australia. The program was borrowed from Tidy Towns Ireland and commenced in Western Australia with Bunbury the first winner in 1969. Since then it has grown to become an Australian icon involving individual effort to create positive environmental change within local communities

Tidy Towns Partners

Packaging Stewardship Forum 'Do the Right Thing' program

The Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council provides a vehicle for broader corporate support for Australia's efforts to improve resource recovery and reduce littering of food, beverage and grocery packaging.

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.

HUNGRY JACK'S® 'Bag it and Bin it' program

Hungry Jack's is doing its bit to help keep Australia beautiful by introducing a 'Bag it and Bin it' anti litter message and a range of environmental initiatives in stores across Australia.