



Media Release

Strict Embargo until 12:01am Sunday 20 April 2008

Mt Gambier (SA) wins Resource Recovery and Community Partnership Awards at the Australian Tidy Towns Awards 2008

The South Australian town of Mount Gambier has won two national category awards at the annual Keep Australia Beautiful Tidy Towns Awards held in Hobart last night.

Mount Gambier's waste management strategy aims at sustainable practices in waste reuse, recycling, avoidance and resource recovery, earning them the Resource Recovery Award sponsored by the Packaging Stewardship Forum. Numerous collection and diversion systems and school recycling programs are available, enabling the community to maximise these facilities to recover resources, rather than disposal to landfill.

Many of the town's environmental initiatives are coordinated by the local service clubs and provide a host of facilities for the benefit of local residents and the many thousands of tourists and visitors to the city. Notable examples of community partnerships include the Rotary Clubs of Mount Gambier's, Potters Point lookout partnership with Council and the creative Community Garden project.

Mount Gambier's long standing Youth Advisory Committee also continues to work in partnership with Council to address broad local as well as regional issues that affect young citizens of the south east of South Australia. It was these and other community led initiatives that earned Mount Gambier the Community Partnership Award, sponsored by Mount Franklin.

Congratulating the community of Mount Gambier on their win, Keep Australia Beautiful National Chairman, Cr Don Chambers, said: "The community of Mount Gambier works hard in partnership to preserve and enhance their local environment. Their resource recovery initiatives are successful in diverting waste to landfill. The work of the dedicated Tidy Towns participants around the country is producing many tangible, positive results for our environment and I would like to thank every individual who has participated in the program since it began over 30 years ago."

The Queensland town of Toowoomba won the overall national award, sponsored by Truelocal.com.au, and was announced Australia's Tidiest Town for 2008.

Sponsored by online business directory Truelocal.com.au, part of the News Digital Media, the 2008 Australian Tidy Towns achievement award winners are:

Category	Winner	Sponsor
Australia's Tidiest Town	Toowoomba – QLD	Truelocal.com.au
Community Action Award	Moe – VIC	Truelocal.com.au
Heritage and Culture	Ross – TAS	TakeABreak.com.au
Environmental Innovation	Toowoomba – QLD	
Water Conservation	Toowoomba – QLD	Grundfos
Litter Prevention	Naiyu Nambiyu (Daly River) – NT	Hungry Jack's Bag it & Bin it
Resource Recovery	Mount Gambier – SA	Packaging Stewardship Forum
Community Partnership	Mount Gambier – SA	Mount Franklin
Protection of the Environment	Walpole – WA	
Young Legends	Dorrigo – NSW	
Dame Phyllis Frost - Group	Naiyu Nambiyu (Daly River) – NT CDEP Group	
Dame Phyllis Frost - Individual	Michael Filby – Walpole – WA	

Further information & project details can be found at www.KeepAustraliaBeautiful.org.au



For media interviews and enquiries please contact:

- 1) Lara Shannon - Keep Australia Beautiful M: 0415 076 015 or E: laras@kab.org.au
- 2) Mount Gambier contact - Gina Ploenges on T: 08 8721 2505 M: 0417 858 458 or E: GPloenges@mountgambier.sa.gov.au

EDITOR'S NOTES:

About Keep Australia Beautiful

The Keep Australia Beautiful Network has been encouraging people all around Australia to care for their local environment for over 30 years. Through its *Sustainable Communities Awards*, consisting of Tidy Towns, Sustainable Cities and Clean Beaches, local communities and individuals are recognised for their achievements in helping create sustainable communities.

The Keep Australia Beautiful National Litter Index is the only national, quantitative measure of litter that takes place annually whilst Keep Australia Beautiful Week is the annual national publicity campaign, held in the last week of August, which calls for public action to help reduce their ecological footprint. These are just some of the activities that involve up to 3 million Australians each year. Visit www.keepaustraliabeautiful.org.au for further information.

Tidy Towns Sponsors

Many thanks to our Principal Supporter, Truelocal.com.au, part of the News Digital Media Network and Category Sponsors including HUNGRY JACK's ® Bag It & Bin It program, Grundfos Pumps, Mount Franklin, the Packaging Stewardship Forum and TakeABreak.com.au. Any mention of the Tidy Towns Sponsors is much appreciated.