



Media Release

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Oatlands wins two categories at the Australian Tidy Towns Awards

The Tasmanian historic town of Oatlands has won the Heritage & Culture and Community Partnership categories 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.

Oatlands' features the largest collection of pre-1837 buildings in Australia. A majority of its buildings were constructed in the first half of the 19th century when the town was one of four military posts along the main road linking Tasmania's north and south. The distinctive, heritage-listed town boasts more Georgian and early colonial buildings than any other town of comparative size.

According to Australian Tidy Towns Judge, Dick Olesinski, "Maintaining Oatlands' proud heritage is important to residents. Heritage restoration is a major priority and the Oatlands District Historical Society is an extremely active community group whose aim is to showcase and preserve the district's history.

"Well designed heritage lights complement the many historically restored buildings and street tree plantings to provide a welcoming ambience. Meanwhile, one of Oatlands' major attractions is the Callington Mill, which was built in 1836, and is the only remaining tower of its kind in Tasmania.

"The mill gardens are a great example of a community project which complements the town's significant representation of cultural heritage. It is clear that there is a successful partnership between the community and Southern Midlands Council and is a testament to the numerous Tidy Towns-related tasks evident throughout the town."

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 Oatlands 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.