

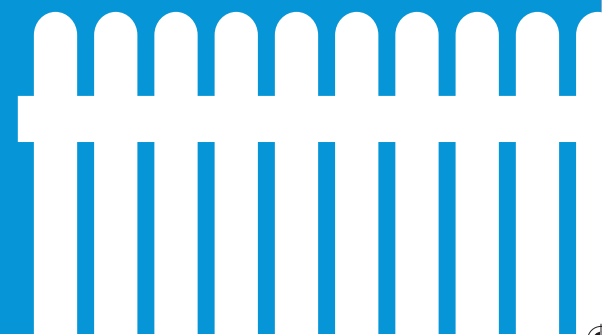


Tidy Towns

Tidy Towns
Winners Book

2005

<http://community.environment.wa.gov.au>



From the Chairman - Keep Australia Beautiful Council



Now in its 36th year, Tidy Towns is recognised as one of the government's key programs for helping rural and regional Western Australians to enhance and conserve their local environment.

In recent years, the scope of Tidy Towns has expanded beyond simply being a competition to find the tidiest town in the State. It now offers a framework to promote sustainability, and to encourage and to reward environmental and social change in our regional and rural communities.

The Achievement Award categories of natural heritage, recycling and waste management, cultural heritage, community action and water conservation offer further incentives to communities to become involved in environmental, social and cultural activities.

The Tidy Towns program and competition gives us a chance to recognise and reward those many caring and committed organisations and individuals who have volunteered their time and effort to implement local projects that have real and lasting benefits for their communities.

Good liaison between individuals, business, schools, community groups and local government is essential to the success of any Tidy Towns community. Once again, our participants this year have demonstrated how communities can work together to achieve great outcomes that not only make them more sustainable, but also make them more attractive places to live in and visit.

Once again, the judging was carried out by Department of Environment officers and representatives from a large range of government, non-government and community organisations. Judging is an onerous task and I wish to sincerely thank the many judges from around the State who have taken the time and effort to visit the participating communities, read their portfolios, and liaise with other judges to come to their decisions.

The Tidy Towns program would not be possible without the valued support of our sponsors, the Beverage Industry Environment Council and the Publishers National Environment Bureau. Thank you to both of these organisations.

Inside these pages, you will find details on all of our regional finalists. In each region, a Regional Winner is chosen, who then competes against other Regional Winners for the title of State Winner. The successful State Tidy Towns Winner will be judged by the National Keep Australia Beautiful judge in early 2006. The Winner will then be flown to Brisbane in April to compete in the Australian Tidy Towns Awards, sponsored by Hungry Jack's.

You will also find details of the Achievement Award winners for each region at the back of the book. Well done to all of the finalists and winners - please keep up the excellent work!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Trevor Wright".

Trevor Wright
Chairman
Keep Australia Beautiful Council
November 2005

2005 State Tidy Towns Winner - Collie

As Tidy Towns State Winner for 2005, the Collie community is recognised for its outstanding achievements over all of the Tidy Towns categories. The Collie Tidy Towns Committee has shown an outstanding commitment to involving all sectors of the community in a myriad of Tidy Towns projects, with literally hundreds of individuals having input into Tidy Towns activities throughout the year. Collie has displayed a long-term commitment to the concept of Tidy Towns, participating in the program for many years and winning the State title in 2003.

There has been tremendous youth involvement in Collie's initiatives with a broad range of school students and community groups participating, including Youth Ambassadors.

This contributes to the overall sustainability of the Tidy Towns Committee, with opportunities for young people to take on leadership roles.

Collie's Tidy Towns Committee holds an annual luncheon where certificates are presented to recognise outstanding efforts by members of the community. This event provides an excellent networking opportunity and is a great way to reward the contributions of volunteers.

Collie's holistic approach to waste management encompassing large companies and business through to local government and individual residents makes it a pacesetter in this initiative.

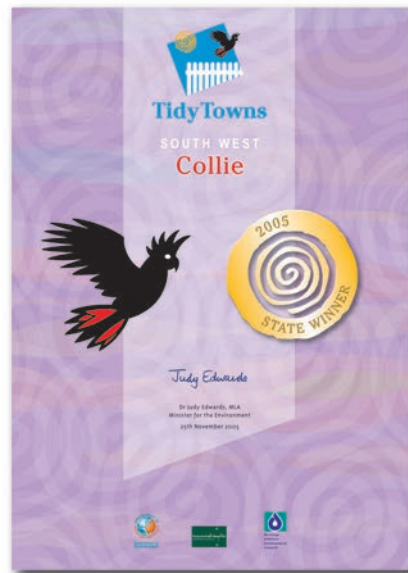
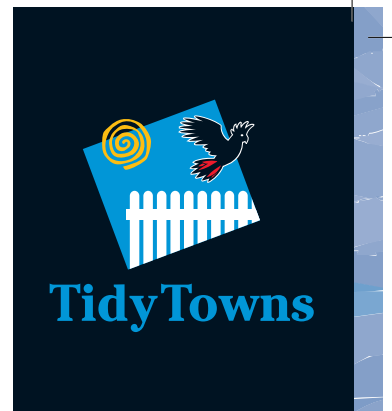
The passion and dedication shown by local community groups in tackling environmental issues such as land degradation, invasive plant species and littering is highly commendable.

In addition, the community has shown great commitment to improving the quality and appearance of the Collie River.

The adoption of public gardens by local businesses is a tribute to the civic pride in Collie. Many of the gardens maintained by local businesses are Water Wise, assisting in conserving water.

All members of the Collie community who have participated in Tidy Towns initiatives should be commended for their outstanding contribution to both the program and the sustainability of their community.

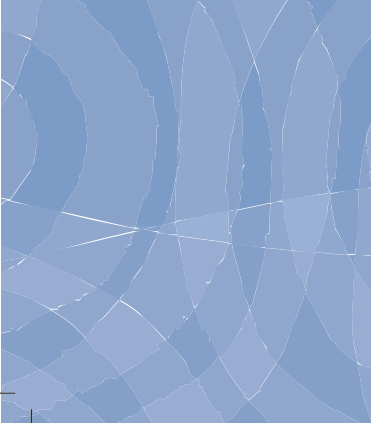
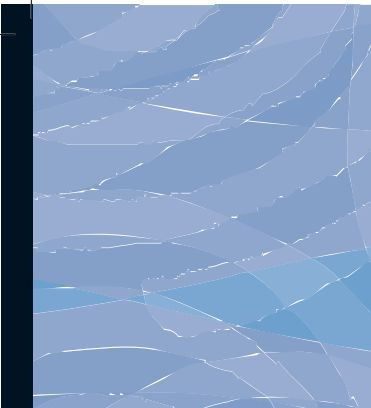
Collie will be a fantastic representative of Western Australia at the National Tidy Towns Awards, sponsored by Hungry Jack's.



Special Commendation

The State Judging Panel also decided to give a Special Commendation to the Kambalda Can Cans, the innovative name of the Tidy Towns Committee. The Judges felt that the Can Cans had made an extraordinary improvement to Kambalda over the last 12 months, and wished to encourage them to go one step further in their next Tidy Towns effort.





South West Region

Regional Overview

The South West region is described as one of the most economically and socially diverse regions in Western Australia, even though it is one of the smallest. It is home to more than 120,000 people and its growth rate is three times the national average.

While the extensive mineral wealth of the region has made the South West a major world producer of alumina and mineral sands, the region's economy is also based upon strong agricultural and horticultural industries, timber and forest products, viticulture, retail businesses and tourism.

The South West region offers a wide range of natural and cultural attractions including national parks, old growth forests, beaches, wineries, farm-stays and eco-tourism sites.

Community groups conducted several clean-up projects and started recycling cartridges, mobile phones, paper, cans and cards, as well as spectacles for Third World countries. The bowling club carted one tonne of newspaper per week for reuse in soil treatment - a fantastic achievement! Plastic bag reduction continued, and a new hydrocarbon recycling facility was built.

The new Collie Weed Action Group introduced community training and a "Weed of the Week" column in the local paper. The Ngaala Boodja Nursery started "recycling" native grass trees. The new PARKWATCH program encouraged community groups to be involved in the maintenance of parks. In an effort to further reduce water consumption, more computerised reticulation was installed.

Finalist Greenbushes

The combined effort of community groups and individuals in Greenbushes has led to fantastic results that will benefit the whole community.

School, business and community representatives participated in roadside rubbish collections, tree planting, recycling and projects to preserve cultural and natural heritage.

Some of the wide range of projects undertaken in 2005 include:

- School participation in the Waterwatch/Ribbons of Blue program
- Restoration of the historic War Memorial at Thomson Park and the involvement of the Greenbushes Primary School in the "Adopt a War Memorial" program with the local RSL
- The primary school won an "Excellence in Education Award" for participation in community projects
- Very successful running of a community co-mingled recycling scheme
- Completion of the replica underground mine at the Greenbushes Discovery Centre
- Completion of the Heritage Amble Interpretation Plan Street and Highway Signs Audit and upgrade
- Community Spirit - blood donation clinic.

Winner and State Winner



Collie

2005 has seen Collie develop a strong Tidy Towns agenda to revitalise the town's appearance while addressing key social, environmental and cultural concerns. School programs include health and diet, tree planting, worm farming, composting, recycling and participation in Clean Up Australia Day and National Tree Day.

Various industries in Collie have supported waste management, river restoration, festivals, clean ups, recycling, education, arts, sports, health services, facilities for the elderly, amongst other initiatives. Worsley started the Smith Family Foundation in Collie and, with Premier Coal and Western Power, has committed \$400,000 to the Entry Precinct Interpretive Centre.



Peel Region

Regional Overview

The Peel region has a population of more than 70,000 people. Historically, the dominant economic activities of the Peel region were based upon agriculture and forestry. While these industries still continue, the region has a diversified economy based upon many other activities, including mining, fishing, art, wineries, commerce, retail and tourism.

The Peel region continues to be a favoured destination for many Perth day trippers, and because of this, there is significant expenditure from visitors to the region. Peel towns offer a range of tourism experiences including Aboriginal culture, adventure sports, heritage sites, art and crafts, and music festivals.

Winner

Cuballing

Cuballing's rural village atmosphere attracts new residents at the rate of about 8-10 per cent each year. An integrated approach is being taken by Council to ensure this rapid growth is managed in a sustainable manner that will see Cuballing's fantastic lifestyle continue into the future.

Sporting clubs and service groups such as the CWA, Bush Fire Brigade, Townscape Committee and the Tidy Towns Committee are all enthusiastic and committed to improving the town.

The effort made by the youth of the community to provide waste bins around the townsite was highly commendable. The recycled drums are painted in bright colours and stencilled with the town's floral emblem.

The Cuballing Country Festival held in August is a big social event for the community. This year the festival had a country influence including recitals from bush poets, yarn spinning and bush tucker displays. The event provides an excellent

opportunity for all community groups to gain new members and advertise their services. The Tidy Towns Committee works in partnership with the Shire to enable a great range of community based projects to be completed to the highest possible standard.

Finalist Boddington

Several of Boddington's community groups (Lions Club, Friends of Reserves, Emergency Cadets, Hash House Harriers and the Batt family) tidied the approach roads totalling in excess of 50 kilometres in the name of Tidy Towns 2005.

Boddington RSL made significant improvements to Memorial Gardens, including raising the memorial itself, connecting power, erecting a yardarm, and laying approximately a hundred metres of concrete slabs.

The local community raised considerable funds to acquire and erect a bronze statue in front of St Alban's Church, to acknowledge the pioneers of the district.

The Boddington Football Club volunteers installed a ceiling in the Sports Pavilion and erected a ticket box at the entry to the Recreation Ground.

The Tidy Towns Progress Group revived the annual Garden Competition - raising \$1,000 for prize money. The Group also met with the School Councillors to devise a Tidy Towns program for students.

Boddington Friends of Reserves continued to revitalise nature reserves and to monitor water quality in the local rivers.

The Quindanning-Boddington CWA raised funds to establish a new playground near the popular picnic area, the Ladies Hospital Auxiliary raised funds for hospital equipment through its Op Shop, whilst Lions raised in excess of \$20,000 towards community and charitable projects through its annual rodeo.



Tidy Towns



Mid West Region

Regional Overview

The Mid West region is home to about 50,000 people. A high proportion of the Mid West's gross regional product is derived from mining, with the rest coming from the agricultural and horticultural sectors.

Finalist Yalgoo

Yalgoo has entered the Tidy Towns competition for the first time in over 10 years. Yalgoo has a great community spirit and in 2005 residents have taken steps to showcase what a fantastic place Yalgoo is to live and visit.

Winner



Dandaragan

Advance Dandaragan has been involved in many community projects in 2005.

A new rotunda in Pioneer Park, including plaques depicting the history of Dandaragan, has provided a great facility for campers and locals.

The beautification of St Anne's Park was an ambitious project that the keen and focussed Tidy Towns Committee set out to complete in 2005. Many volunteers donated their skills and time to plant natives and create a quiet contemplative area near the historic church.

Dandaragan Primary School, with 79 students, has been recognised as being at the cutting edge of environmental education and was named a finalist in the United Nations Environment Awards 2005. Their commitment to recycling makes them a trendsetter in the area.

The youth of Dandaragan now have their own meeting place, after they worked to transform the old ambulance shed into a youth centre.

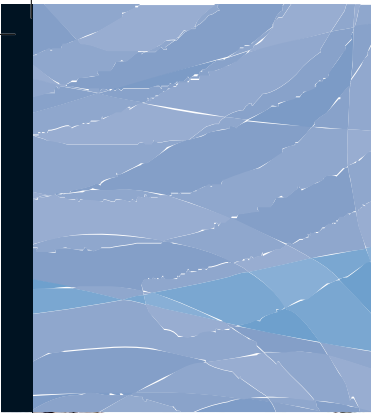
Partnerships have been developed with various state government agencies, environmental bodies, private enterprise, the local school and the Dandaragan Shire. This has seen many positive initiatives develop throughout the community in the name of Tidy Towns. The Dandaragan community is very progressive, motivated and proactive with enthusiastic volunteers promoting and contributing to the improvement of the town, its surrounds and facilities.

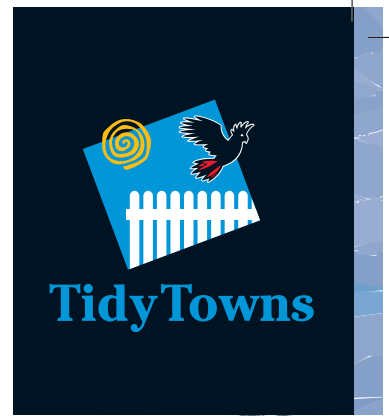
Tidy Towns projects have involved sporting groups, the School, the Shire, local businesses and the indigenous community. The programs initiated have helped to build bridges between different community groups in Yalgoo with outstanding results.

Projects undertaken include:

- the creation of two new entrance statements and the planning of a third
- the establishment of a new landfill site
- the planned upgrade of the old railway complex
- enhancement of employment and skill development opportunities through an aquaculture project
- upgrade and clean up of the Pioneer Cemetery
- the creation of a community newsletter "Yalgoo Bulldust"
- participation in community art projects and cultural mapping
- regular youth activities
- events such as the Picnic Races and the Yalgoo Race Day

Yalgoo's Healthy Community Project, the employment of a Healthy Community Coordinator and an Employment Opportunities Facilitator have enabled the establishment of links between community groups in Yalgoo. Opportunities have also been developed for healthy lifestyle education, skill development, self-esteem and confidence building, and in-roads have been made to create a more sustainable and healthy community through community capacity building and motivation.





Finalist Three Springs

Three Springs' Tidy Towns Committee has found that by working in conjunction with other community groups a great deal can be achieved. The completion of a large number of community projects in 2005 is testament to this ethos.

A large industrial-themed mural has been painted to improve the main street in preparation of the town's centenary. This mural is complemented by a number of artworks by a local artist and placed on permanent display this year.

The hard work of the historical committee has seen great benefits with Duffy's Store being listed on the State Heritage Register and receiving funding for a new roof.

Other projects include the development of a community garden with recycling facilities, a community playground, gardens at the aged care facility and town entrance statements.

The Shire continues to reduce lawn in public areas and increase plantings of native and water wise species. The local school has again been involved in National Tree Day and other projects including the community garden, worm farming and composting.

The Lions Club continues to provide excellent recycling services to the community, in addition the Shire has shredded paper available to residents to utilise in composting, worm farming and chook yards.

Finalist Meekatharra

The Tidy Towns program has brought the community of Meekatharra together in so many ways.

2005 projects include a graffiti art mural designed by local youth and the commencement of a 50 square metre mosaic art area. Approximately 50 community members donated over 30 hours each in the first week to produce the first panel in the mosaic project.

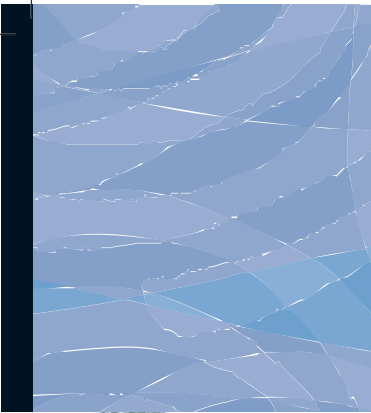
The Yulella Aboriginal Corporation, the Youth Employment program, the local school, the Youth and Social Centre and the Shire have joined forces in an effort to beautify the town to attract tourists and to improve facilities for locals.

The Shire worked with the community to launch the new Rangelands Discovery Trail. The three kilometre walk trail around Meekatharra Creek takes in the natural and cultural heritage of the area whilst encouraging physical activity. As a result, a partnership between the Shire and Yulella's Aboriginal Youth Employment Program has been formed.

The landfill site was cleaned up and new signage installed to better manage the town's waste. Yulella Aboriginal Corporation plans to adopt an incentive program for recycling, with Shire support, to encourage community involvement.

The Tidy Towns Committee aims to preserve Meekatharra's heritage and to drive projects that beautify the town and promote Meekatharra as a golden prospect and a great place to stop and enjoy!





Gascoyne Region

Regional Overview

The Gascoyne region has a population of 10,000, with indigenous people making up 17 per cent.

The Gascoyne region has a diverse economy based on fishing, horticulture, pastoralism, mining and tourism. In recent years the growing tourism sector has become a major component of the region's economy - more than 200,000 tourists visit the Gascoyne each year.

- Development of the Jurabi Coastal Park Track Rationalisation Project
- Continuation of the Volunteer Tree Nursery project
- Ongoing reuse of grey water
- Ongoing management of the Exmouth landfill site

Finalist Useless Loop

The efforts and determination of the residents of Useless Loop prove what fantastic results can be achieved in a small, relatively remote community.

There have been many successful Tidy Towns projects undertaken in 2005. For National Tree Day, school students created garden beds of local native species to reduce areas of lawn. Other community members contributed rehabilitating a vacant block with native species. Clean Up Australia day was a huge success with a tidy up carried out at both private residences and the landfill site.

The entire community is now plastic bag free and recycling of cardboard, glass, plastic and paper are the norm for the general community. The town landfill site is well maintained with all rubbish buried as soon as it is dumped to reduce the presence of feral animals in the area. Mulched green-waste is used in all areas of the town, and it is encouraged as an option for controlling soil erosion.

The Biosphere project and the control program for feral animals are successfully helping to increase populations of once endangered native animals. The entire community is involved in the Biosphere project through information sessions, hands-on monitoring, trap and release programs, the development of interpretive signage and the maintenance of fences.

Winner



Exmouth

Participating in the Tidy Towns program enables Exmouth's dedicated volunteers, residents and local businesses to be recognised for their tireless commitment of time and resources in an effort to ensure that Exmouth remains the wonderful place that it is today.

The community spirit and civic pride that the residents of Exmouth openly display for their town and its surrounding environment is truly amazing.

Exmouth District High School students are developing commendable reuse and recycling initiatives in line with a sustainability ethos.

Some of the fantastic initiatives undertaken in 2005 include:

- The 'No Plastic Fantastic' plastic bag free week, followed by a survey, with the aim of achieving a plastic bag free Exmouth.
- Plastic bottle recycling by Exmouth District High School
- Reuse of dredged sand from the marina
- Development of the Jurabi Turtle Interpretive Centre
- Installation of solar powered and low impact lighting for the viewing of turtles

Wheatbelt Region

Regional Overview

The Wheatbelt is currently home to about 72,000 people, with an outlook for long-term growth. About 30 per cent of the region's gross product comes from agriculture, forestry and aquaculture, which in turn employ about 35 per cent of the region's workforce.

Environmental issues are very significant for the region, which suffers from highly stressed landscapes, salinity, and habitat fragmentation. The percentage of indigenous people in the region is above the State average and their influence in the region's economy, social and cultural life is growing.

Winner

Goomalling

In 2005, the Goomalling Tidy Towns Committee endeavoured to create positive partnerships with all sectors of the community. They have achieved very encouraging results as shown by the success of their projects.

Goomalling Primary School students have shown great commitment to Clean Up Australia Day and the revegetation of the old landfill site. The school has also conducted a water audit and have gauged their success by cutting their water account by more than 50 per cent.

Goomalling's Tidy Towns Committee continues to conserve their natural heritage by creating a native garden in the Industrial Area, and by winning a grant to fence off native bushland that is home to a rare orchid (*Caladenia filifera*).

The Goomalling community has put in a tremendous effort to reduce the use of plastic bags and continues to support the community-based Lions Club recycling.

Goomalling is part of the Pioneers Pathway Tourist Drive and the Tidy Towns Committee is encouraging locals to try their hand at Farm Art to complement this initiative. They hosted an international artist through the Avon Valley Arts Society's 'Salt of the Earth Project'. Goomalling's sculpture was the only project that involved the community, and as such became the success story of the whole project!

Finalist Dowerin

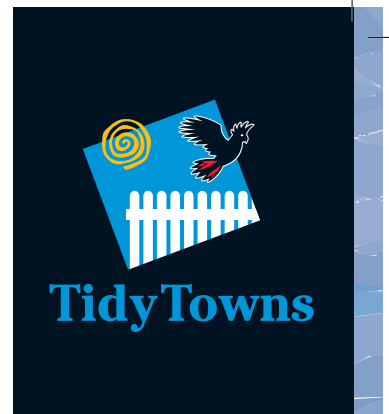
As a new entrant to the Tidy Towns competition, Dowerin's Tidy Towns Committee has focused on coordinating the projects undertaken by a range of groups. The popular Dowerin Field Day relies heavily on volunteer time and effort and serves to educate the community from an early age about the value placed upon and the experience to be gained from volunteering.

Recycling is encouraged in Dowerin with a drop off point at the school, and the Shire's new initiative to construct a transfer station and recycling shed will reinforce the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle ethos.

Preserving native flora through the creation of the Threatened Species Garden, various tree planting initiatives, recovery of threatened species and the activities of the Mortlock Bushland group have enabled participants to learn about and work towards the protection of Dowerin's natural environment.

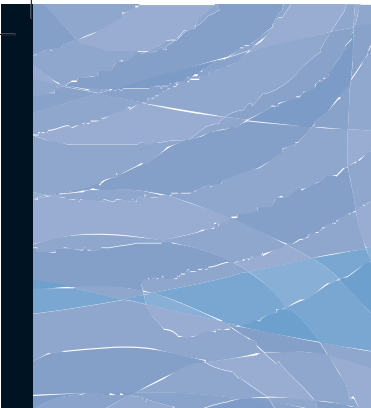
Rusty the Tin Dog, designed by local school students, is an interesting public art piece in the town. The local museum has involved students in a gardening project and started collecting artefacts.

In an effort to conserve water, a Surface Water Management plan is underway and all newly built Shire homes have water saving devices.



Tidy Towns





Great Southern Region

Regional Overview

The Great Southern is home to 53,000 people, of which 1,900 are indigenous community members. Most of the region's population live in rural and coastal towns. Local industries and enterprises are highly diverse, with high growth in the viticulture and agro-forestry industries. The main industries in the region are agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Finalist Wongan Hills

The ongoing and concerted efforts to complete Tidy Towns projects in Wongan Hills are as expansive as its Wheatbelt horizons. Projects include painting heritage-picture murals, cultural mapping and planning, improvements to the appearance of business houses, a roadside vegetation and conservation plan, litter pick-ups by individuals and groups, and beautification of the main street.

The massive physical construction works required to dig out, line and clean the surrounds of the new 30,000 kilolitre dam allows for the recycled effluent and waste water from the town to be added to run-off freshwater ensuring self-sufficiency of watering supplies for all gardens and ovals. This dam will enable the greening of the 10-acre Historic Railway Precinct in the middle of town.

Following a successful grant application, the Trails' Master Plan for the Shire was produced and adopted by Council. 2005 activities included driving and walking current and proposed trail routes, developing strategies to develop them up to a world-class standard and conducting initial works to ensure the physical safety of walkers.

The Wongan Hills Cemetery has been upgraded with beautification of the entry, research of unmarked gravesites and the planting of 600 trees. The project brought together volunteers from throughout the community and has fostered real civic pride in the cemetery.



Winner

Albany

This year the Keep Albany Beautiful Committee has strived to engage the wider community in Tidy Towns and has shifted the focus of their projects. In 2005, annual projects such as the Monthly and Annual Garden Competitions, Day of Trees, Clean Up Australia Day and School Competitions have been complemented by those undertaken by the large number of passionate, community based volunteers now involved.

The Keep Albany Beautiful has broadened its membership with the inclusion of a youth representative and an Aboriginal Liaison Officer.

Albany's new recycling and waste management program continues to achieve outstanding successes with approximately 35 per cent of household waste being diverted from landfill and 2.837 tonnes of recycling processed through the Albany materials recovery facility in the last year. School children throughout Albany have also been learning the importance of recycling through the Waste Wise Schools Program.

Preservation of Albany's natural heritage has been enhanced by the efforts of the Albany Rare Flora Recovery team and the Albany Wildflower Society, and creation of Walk Trails and other initiatives.

Pilbara Region



In terms of cultural heritage, a Multi-Cultural Outdoor Learning Centre has been established at Mt Lockyer Primary School and a waterfront Anzac-themed park is planned.

Finalist Ongerup

There have been some exciting Tidy Towns projects coming to fruition in Ongerup in 2005. Two outstanding initiatives being the Yongergnow Malleefowl Visitor Centre and the Ongerup Community Development (OCD) Housing Project. Other significant projects have included the extension of the Ongerup Museum, as well as organisation of an annual wildflower show.

Ongerup Primary School students have been very involved in the Tidy Towns effort, collecting native seed, propagating the seed and planting the seedlings from the school nursery around the town for landscaping and conservation projects. The school has also obtained funding for rainwater tanks to assist in the supply of the school's drinking water.

The Yongergnow Visitor Centre and the OCD Housing project have evolved over several years and virtually every member of the Ongerup community has been involved, devoting many volunteer hours and displaying fantastic enthusiasm in improving the sustainability of their town.

The Shire of Gnowangerup has been a huge help with both projects, contributing resources and labour where necessary as well as supplying the block of land for the housing project.

Regional Overview

About 40,000 people live in the Pilbara. Mobility among the population is a significant demographic feature, particularly among the non-indigenous workforce.

74 per cent of the Pilbara's gross regional product is attributable to the mining of natural resources. Indigenous involvement in the region's economic and social life is increasing, and so is support for training and development schemes initiated by mining companies.

As well as boasting a strong cultural heritage, the region also has a rich and diverse natural heritage. Natural features of the region range from coastal archipelagos and plains, to rangelands and arid desert.



Winner



Tom Price

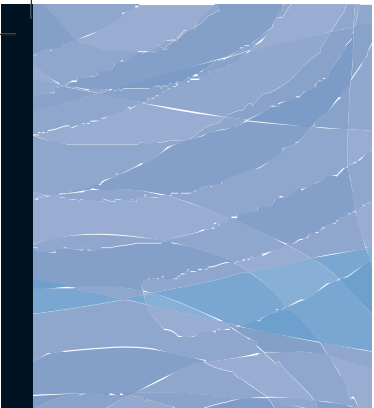
The new Tidy Towns Committee in Tom Price entered the competition this year with a bang. The committee received strong support from the Shire of Ashburton, local businesses, community groups and individuals who donated services, goods and volunteer time.

The Clean Up Australia Day event was well attended with a huge increase in volunteers from last year. Current waste management strategies focus on plastic bag reduction and recycling bins have been set up at the landfill site.

Fresh water conservation is very important for the town of Tom Price and the Tidy Towns Committee's enthusiastic promotion of swimming pool covers has already reduced the amount of evaporation from swimming pools.

To promote natural heritage, the Tidy Towns Committee published articles focussing on Pilbara plant species, and students from the





High School launched a program about the environmental harm caused by riding motorbikes in the bush.

Other projects included new playground equipment installed at the Lions Park, an upgrade of the War Memorial and the new Community Recreation Centre has been built after a 10 year planning and fundraising process.

The community enjoyed another Nameless Festival and Family Picnic Day, organised once again by dedicated volunteers. Students participated in NAIDOC Day, as well as the Pilbara Iron bus shelter project, Lighthouse Project Boys in Education events and Youth Centre initiatives.

Finalist Point Samson

The small community of Point Samson on the Central Pilbara Coast has an ongoing commitment to improving not only the general appearance of its town, but also to providing much need amenities such as parks, gardens and a community hall. 2005 saw the near completion of the parks and garden project.

The community held regular clean up days in the town and continues to monitor and promote responsible waste management.

The community, in partnership with Coast West and the Shire of Roebourne, demonstrate an ongoing commitment to protecting dunes, reefs, marine life and the fauna and flora of the town's foreshore areas. Interpretive signage, an information bay and a Visitor's Information Brochure are just some of the initiatives achieved.

Cultural heritage and identity is being preserved and developed in Point Samson with members of the community being actively involved in recording local history in Point Samson and surrounding areas. A Kids Art Award is sponsored and promoted by the community in Point Samson, Roebourne and Wickham to promote young people's art and culture.

The Point Samson community actively fundraises for its community projects by running Market Days and through sales of its book the "Samsonites Guide to Cooking Seafood".

Finalist Dampier

With Dampier entering Tidy Towns for the first time in over a decade, the decision was made to set small achievable goals, with the idea that this was a good way of introducing the community to the concept of Tidy Towns.

With numerous structural changes over the last few years, Dampier was suffering from neglect, and so improving the general appearance and the level community action were the highest priorities for 2005.

Business, community groups, the general public, Dampier Primary School and Pilbara Iron all came together to paint, weed, garden and remove litter from around town. Goods and services were also donated to assist community projects, such as a mural painted by the town's youth, preservation of Sam's Castle on Tidepole Island, the development of a 12-tonne anchor entry statement and the rehabilitation of orphaned joeys rescued from roads.

Kapok weed was slowly taking a stranglehold on the town so a counterattack was launched to eventually eradicate this rampant pest.

A revamp of the tourist information bay by fixing the slats on the shades, removing old plants and planting new ones, adding more gravel, painting picnic tables and shade poles and replacing the old entry sign has created a more welcoming entry to the town.

Kimberley Region

Regional Overview

The population of the Kimberley region currently stands at just over 30,000 people, and with a median age of 28 years, the population is relatively young in comparison with both the State and national average. The region also has a high proportion (47 per cent) of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders.

The economy of the Kimberley region is diverse, with mining, tourism, retail, agriculture, and pearling the major contributors to the region's economic output. Like the region's economy, the Kimberley's environment is also diverse. The region boasts sandy beaches, mangroves, rainforests, spinifex plains, and rugged hills. This environment provides both opportunities and challenges for the people of the Kimberley, while also shaping future initiatives and projects.

- Recycling of plastic solid waste as plant growing and storage containers
- Establishment of a community plant nursery and vegetable garden
- Establishment of a children's garden and a variety of landscaping works
- Access definition for vehicles
- Maintenance and redecorating of public infrastructure and housing
- Outdoor seating
- Construction of a Community Services Centre

Community activities and initiatives include the formation of a Tidy Towns Committee, a monthly Tidiest Yard Competition, a Free Tree Program and community clean ups by the Football Club, children and the Bidyadanga Police.



Winner



Bidyadanga

Over the last 12 months, the Bidyadanga Aboriginal Community has focused on creating a cleaner, greener and healthier place for its members. Through Tidy Towns, there has been a significant increase in community action and awareness of the issues facing the local environment.

There have been a number of dedicated work crews as well as community volunteers contributing to activities such as rubbish collection, gardening, community plant nursery activities, as well as home and community infrastructure maintenance. The result of all the hard work is plain to see.

Some of the remote community's achievements include:

- Greatly reduced levels of litter
- Erection of street signs

Goldfields - Esperance Region

Regional Overview

The Goldfields - Esperance region is home to 55,000 people, a number which is increased by the high number of "fly in - fly out" workers in remote mining communities. About 71 per cent of the region's gross product is attributed to mining. International and domestic tourism is taking off in the region, especially along the Esperance coastline. The region has undertaken substantial efforts to profile its cultural heritage through the Golden Pipeline Heritage Trail.



Winner

Kambalda

Kambalda Can Cans may have only been up and running since April 2005 but they have already been involved in many Tidy Town initiatives. Their particular focus is on improving community awareness of Kambalda's cultural heritage, and in forming partnerships with other community and business groups.

The 'Celebrating Our Community Festival' was very successful, involving the Kambalda Cultural and Arts Group, the Kambalda Community Development Group, various sporting associations and local talent. Local businesses and the Shire of Coolgardie sponsored the event.

Work on the Miners Memorial, dedicated to workers who have died in mines, has progressed and the Can Cans are looking forward to planting the gardens with native vegetation.

Cleaning up the scrap metal in the light industrial area and tree planting on median strips have also been very successful initiatives. Educating the community on a number of issues such as disposing of "doggie poo", conserving fresh water, natural heritage conservation and recycling was an educational experience and a lot of fun too!

Whether it be through painting banners with a cultural theme, attending meetings

with the schools 'Science Gurus' to assist them in their recycling efforts, litter drives or updating tourist information boards, Kambalda's Tidy Towns effort has the town looking fantastic and has contributed to the growth of the town's community spirit.

Finalist Forrest

Forrest is a tiny and very remote community on the Nullarbor with a permanent population of just three and many visitors. The three residents, along with other helpers have been the heart and soul of the Forrest's inaugural Tidy Towns effort.

A wide range of initiatives were undertaken, including:

- windbreaks and re-vegetation of the camping areas
- building of the Forrest information shelter
- establishing street signage and letterboxes
- improvements to the lookout
- refurbishment of the airport terminal
- painting of the airport runway
- repainting of fences
- improvements to ablutions and kitchen facilities for campers

One of the main objectives of the Forrest community has been to, where possible, use existing materials and recycle them into each project. Recycling of kitchen waste into compost, in addition to the use of grey water and waste from the water desalination process on gardens and lawns has greened the town.

A historic trail has been established, providing visitors with a view of times gone by. The trail culminates at the recently established museum, which highlights Western Australian Airway's activities in establishing Forrest in 1929, through to the involvement of the Department of Civil Aviation, the Bureau of Meteorology and the railways.

The community of Forrest has achieved some amazing results in 2005 for Tidy Towns.



Finalist Hopetoun

Hopetoun has shown fantastic commitment to the Tidy Towns program in 2005.

The addition of playground equipment and the BBQ gazebo to McCulloch Park has been a great achievement for the community. This project has been carried out over two years with many volunteers giving up their weekends to install equipment, repaint existing facilities and install the BBQ to the refurbished gazebo. Over the summer, both locals and tourists enjoyed the new facilities. Hopetoun Progress Association utilised the park for festival activities, including the annual Band in the Park and Australia Day Breakfast and Awards. The Park is now a well-utilised public space.

This year the Telecentre has become a collection point for recycling printer cartridges and mobile phones, oil is now able to be recycled at the landfill site, and there are now collection points for recycling aluminium cans around the town.

The cultural heritage of Hopetoun is being conserved through the establishment of the Hopetoun - Ravensthorpe Railway Heritage Walk Trail with help from a Lotteries West Grant. New picnic seating and signage has been installed and tourist information is available.

Other ongoing projects have been maintaining Hopetoun's public gardens and town pathways with the inclusion of a new path from the local hotel to the Caravan Park.



Tidy Towns 2005 Regional Achievement Awards

Great Southern Region

Appearance and Community Action Achievement Award	Gnowangerup and Kojonup jointly
Recycling and Waste Management Achievement Award	Albany
Natural Heritage Achievement Award	Ongerup
Cultural Heritage Achievement Award	Gnowangerup and Albany jointly
Water Conservation Achievement Award	Broomehill

South West Region

Appearance and Community Action Achievement Award	Collie
Recycling and Waste Management Achievement Award	Collie
Natural Heritage Achievement Award	Greenbushes
Cultural Heritage Achievement Award	Darkan
Water Conservation Achievement Award	Collie

Peel Region

Cultural Heritage Achievement Award	Boddington
Water Conservation Achievement Award	Cuballing

Mid West Region

Appearance and Community Action Achievement Award	Dandaragan
Recycling and Waste Management Achievement Award	Dandaragan
Natural Heritage Achievement Award	Three Springs
Cultural Heritage Achievement Award	Meekatharra
Water Conservation Achievement Award	Yalgoo

Gascoyne Region

Appearance and Community Action Achievement Award	Useless Loop
Recycling and Waste Management Achievement Award	Exmouth
Natural Heritage Achievement Award	Useless Loop
Cultural Heritage Achievement Award	Exmouth
Water Conservation Achievement Award	Exmouth

Wheatbelt Region

Appearance and Community Action Achievement Award	Dowerin
Recycling and Waste Management Achievement Award	Goomalling
Natural Heritage Achievement Award	Bencubbin
Cultural Heritage Achievement Award	Wongan Hills
Water Conservation Achievement Award	Bruce Rock
Avon Wheatbelt Special Award	Nungarin

Pilbara Region

Appearance and Community Action Achievement Award	Point Samson
Recycling and Waste Management Achievement Award	Tom Price
Natural Heritage Achievement Award	Point Samson and Dampier jointly

Kimberley Region

Appearance and Community Action Achievement Award	Bulunjarr
Natural Heritage Achievement Award	Bidyadanga

Goldfields - Esperance Region

Appearance and Community Action Achievement Award	Kambalda
Recycling and Waste Management Achievement Award	Forrest
Cultural Heritage Achievement Award	Coolgardie



Tidy Towns Judges 2005

Our most sincere thanks go to the following people who spent many hours judging Tidy Towns. Without their knowledge, skills and expertise, the Tidy Towns program would not succeed.

Mrs Bobbie Reilly	Tidy Towns Ambassador - 2003 Winner of Individual Environment Award
Ms Virginia Scott	Program Manager - Department of Local Government and Regional Development
Mr Kevin Beere	Regional Manager - Kimberley TAFE
Mr William (Chicky) Clements	Environmental Health Lecturer - Kimberley TAFE
Ms Julie Senini	Board Member - Karratha Business Enterprise Centre
Mr Adrian Price	Active Community Member - Wonderful Ways with Waste
Ms Toni Lewis	Project Officer - Gascoyne Development Commission
Mr Bob Wade	Active Community Member
Ms Brenda Tilbrook	Active Community Member
Ms Tracy Teede	Active Community Member
Ms Irene Shepherd	Active Community Member
Mr Dave Bauer	Active Community Member - Manager Arid Landscapes
Mr Kenan Bender	Environmental Health Officer - City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Ms Jane Mouritz	Active Community Member - Recipient of Outstanding Rural Leader of the Year Award 2001
Ms Colleen Yates	Regional Development Coordinator - Peel Development Commission
Ms Sally Wilson	Active Community Member
Ms Kay Curson	Manager - KalSec and Kalgoorlie Business Centre
Mr John Silver	Regional Development Officer - Kimberley Development Commission
Mr Brian Whittington	Community Member - Avon Catchment Council
Ms Pamela Payne	Active Community Member - Peel Waterways
Mr Paul Rosair	Department of Environment - Director, Regional Operations
Mr Declan Morgan	Department of Environment - Kwinana Peel Region
Ms Kylie Catto	Department of Environment - South West Region
Mr Brendan Kelly	Department of Environment - South West Region
Mr Wayne Tingey	Department of Environment - South West Region
Ms Michelle Holmes	Department of Environment - Swan Goldfields Agricultural Region
Ms Kerrie Edwards	Department of Environment - North West Region
Ms Margaret Edwards	Department of Environment - Great Southern Region
Mr Martin Revell	Department of Environment - Swan Goldfields Agricultural Region
Ms Parveen Naidoo	Department of Environment - Midwest Gascoyne Region
Ms Biddy Myres	Department of Environment - Community Education
Ms Lauren Holst	Department of Environment - Community Education



Tidy Towns