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Tidy Towns

Sustainable Communities

Tidy Towns
Winners' Book

2007



**PACKAGING
STEWARDSHIP
FORUM**



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future



From the Chairperson

Keep Australia Beautiful Council



The Keep Australia Beautiful Council is proud of our Tidy Towns Award Program now in its 38th year. Tidy Towns WA is recognised as one of Western Australia's longest running community competitions. It offers a framework to promote sustainability, and to encourage and reward environmental and social change in our regional, rural and remote communities.

The Achievement Award categories of natural heritage, recycling and waste management, enhancing cultural identity, community action and water conservation offer incentives to those many caring and committed organisations, individuals and community groups who have volunteered their time and effort to implement programs that have real and lasting benefits to their towns.

Strong links between local government, business, school, community groups and residents are essential to the success of any Tidy Towns community. Our participants this year have shown how communities can work together to achieve great things that not only strengthen the towns by implementing projects that have real and lasting benefits, but make them more attractive and interesting places to live in and visit.

Once again, we owe our thanks to our volunteer judges who assist the Tidy Towns staff in this onerous task. It takes time and effort to visit each participating community and view the great things they are doing. Judging includes reading the portfolios, writing reports and meeting with fellow judges to come to the final decision which is never easy because of the quality of the entrants. Everyone in Tidy Towns thank them for their dedication and commitment.

Thank you to our sponsors, the Australian Food and Grocery Council - Packaging Stewardship Forum, and the Publishers National Environmental Bureau. Without their continued support, the Tidy Towns program would not be the success it is.

I would encourage everyone to read through this booklet which showcases not only the winners but also the finalists in each region. It gives an excellent summary of their activities and illustrates the range and diversity of projects which are undertaken, many of which are truly inspiring. I must make mention that the regions this year differ from previous years due to the merging of the Department of Environment with the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

From the eight Regional Winners, one town has been selected and awarded the title of 2007 State Winner. The State Winner will then go on to Tasmania to compete in the National Tidy Towns Award. I wish them the best of luck in this competition.

I would like to congratulate all the entrants in the 2007 Tidy Towns competition. The dedication and commitment you have shown in the face of some incredible challenges has been most inspiring. I cannot overemphasise how important your hard work and efforts are to the sustainability of your community.

Mel Hay, APM

Chairperson
Keep Australia Beautiful Council WA
November 2007

Major sponsor

The Packaging Stewardship Forum is the principal sponsor of the Keep Australia Beautiful WA Tidy Towns-Sustainable Communities Awards. The forum aims to significantly increase government, industry and community understanding of resource recovery and litter management through the delivery of projects throughout Australia, either directly or in partnership with others. Its focus is on providing cost effective resource recovery and litter reduction solutions that deliver real and measurable outcomes.



Supporter

The Publishers National Environment Bureau encourages newspaper recycling in Australia and has played an integral part in helping Australia reach the world's best rates in newspaper recycling.



State Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Winner Walpole



Situated on the rugged south coast, the small community of Walpole has implemented many projects which have sustained and improved their community.

Originally established in the early 1930s as a group settlement for farmers, with timber milling developing soon after, the region is famous for giant tingle trees, many more than 400 years old.

It has also developed into one of the richest dairy and beef farming areas in the State, and is surrounded by national parks and State forests.

With an abundance of natural wonders Walpole, with a population of less than 500, welcomes visitors to share in their unique wonderland and works to preserve its environment and way of life.

In such a small community, the members of the Tidy Towns Committee are on the committees of, or volunteer for, many of the other community organisations in the town, giving a strong intersection of aims and activities between the groups.

Significant activities in Walpole include the maintenance of 100 kilometres of litter free roadway by volunteers doing fortnightly clean ups. Litter education programs are run by WOW Wilderness EcoCruises and the primary school which also involves itself in Clean Up Australia Day and the UR Walpole Eco-education program.

Recycling and waste management are a high priority in Walpole with items such as batteries, oils, masonry and building products, timber and steel being removed from the waste stream to be recycled. The Walpole Op Shop has a major recycling operation with a wide range of items being collected and re-used. Bulk recycling bins, a conveyer belt for

sorting and on MRF (Materials Recycling Facility) were installed allowing for kerb-side recycling in Walpole and the Bridgetown-Greenbushes area.

Water conservation is a high priority for the Walpole community which has been involved in a series of public meetings and representative groups advising the Water Corporation. Community action was instrumental in changing the proposed wastewater plan, which involved pumping wastewater into the inlet or the ocean, to being used to grow trees.

The Walpole community is extremely conscious of its history and cultural heritage. The Walpole Nornalup and Districts Historical Society is active in holding frequent events to commemorate the district's history. They include the "Hours for History" in which older residents tell of their experiences, the attempt to unearth the local Aboriginal history and document it and the project to find the coal mine which gives its name to "Coalmine Beach".

Walpole now goes on to represent Western Australia in the National Tidy Towns Awards, sponsored by true local.com.au, to be held in Tasmania in early 2008.



• Walpole



Judge's Comment

"This year the South West and Peel regions were amalgamated. The South West Region now extends from Dwellingup to Walpole and across to Williams. Consequently the competition was enhanced with greater diversity. Many towns in the South West are facing rapid population growth, housing and mining booms and the myriad of stresses these issues place on communities. Many towns are undertaking a number of practical, community driven sustainable projects focusing on Tidy Town goals. Most of these projects generally aim to look after community assets and the surrounding environment. The Tidy Town Committees' ongoing dedication and hard work is very admirable. I congratulate the entrants on their hard work and enthusiasm."

Tracy Teede, South West Region – Bunbury,
Department of Environment and Conservation

Regional Overview

The South West is the most highly populated region outside the Perth metropolitan area. With rapid population growth, the South West has a consistently lower than average unemployment rate.

The South West is the most diverse regional economy in the State. The economy is based on the production of alumina and mineral sands, strong agricultural and horticultural industries, timber products, viticulture and retailing. Tourism is also rapidly expanding with national parks, ancient forests, beaches, wineries and eco-tourism sites contributing to make the South West Region the most popular tourist area outside Perth.



Winner and State Winner Walpole



The people of Walpole live at the heart of, and consider themselves responsible for, the pristine Walpole Wilderness area.

This responsibility is reflected not only in caring for the environment, such as in keeping clean more than 100km of verge along roads that carry visitors to and from the town, but in presenting a town as clean and attractive as its surrounding environment, and ensuring that visitors enjoy their stay to the maximum.

It is reflected in the emphasis given to the environment at the primary school, where the UR Walpole Eco-education program had another extraordinary year.

It is reflected in community involvement in waste water and sewage issues, plus water supply initiatives which have ensured that environmentally-damaging proposals were rejected.

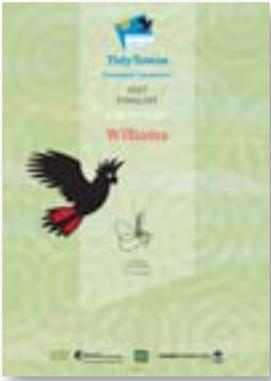
All this could not be achieved without a strong, unified community in which businesses, local organisations and individuals are prepared to play their part.

Local businesses helped when a family were in need of respite. Individual community members and businesses supported a woman tourist who was in serious difficulty after her car rolled over.

Whether is it preserving cultural heritage, encouraging and promoting sporting activities, promoting arts and crafts, or providing services for the aged, the people of Walpole "fight above their weight".



Finalist Williams



Williams possesses a vibrant group of people who are community-minded and committed to the prosperity and improvement of the town.

The Williams Lions Club not only supports the Williams community through catering and volunteer services, such as a new children's playground and the Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch, but provides and coordinates the Driver Reviver Van several times a year.

The Williams Primary School demonstrates a keen commitment to both water conservation and sustainability. From their water tanks to their worm farm and vegetable garden, they are to be commended. Schoolchildren were also involved in the clean up and landscaping of the Williams St John Ambulance hall, as well as the tree planting along the Williams River.

The Shire of Williams and Pride in Your Town Committee work in conjunction to improve the general appearance of the town with the committee aiding council gardeners pruning roses.

Furthermore, the Shire of Williams has achieved a noticeable reduction in water by purchasing a 318,000 litre water tank to store water used for the recreation ground.

The Williams Woolshed enhanced Williams' cultural identity by building "The Shearer's Yarn", giving locals and tourists an overview of the sheep and wool industry.

The Williams river foreshore is an important asset to the town both locally and as a tourist attraction. Improvements to it have been made by the Williams Landcare Inc, the Williams Primary School and the Shire of Williams.

Overall the Williams community has contributed much time and effort to the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities principle over the past 12 months, ensuring Williams continues to be a great place to live and visit for everyone.



Category Achievements Awards

Community Action
Dwellingup

General Appearance
Walpole

Recycling and Waste Management
Williams

Natural Heritage Conservation
Greenbushes, Walpole

Enhancing Cultural Identity
Greenbushes, Yarloop

Water Conservation
Williams



Judge's Comment

"Towns in the Midwest Gascoyne region have faced difficulties with another year of drought; however, they have overcome these obstacles to reach a high standard in the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities competition.

This year the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities judges noticed an increase in community participation in all the categories, with a greater focus on sustainability. Sustainability in regional Western Australia is now recognised as being of key importance to the wellbeing of rural towns."

Adrian Price, Wonderful Ways With Waste and Regional Judge

Regional Overview

The Midwest Gascoyne region extends from a mineral rich hinterland to prime agricultural land, spectacular coastal areas and productive offshore fisheries. The region has a population of more than 50,000 people. More than half are based in the built up area of Geraldton, the region's commercial, administrative and service centre.

This region has a rich maritime history, and has the State's most significant fishing industry. The Gascoyne region is home to many popular tourist destinations, including the heritage-listed Ningaloo Marine Park. Indigenous tourism is also developing in the area.

Further inland a variety of industries operate including sheep, pigs, cattle, wheat and a wide range of cereal crops, wildflower farming and mining. Many areas are of historical significance and attract many tourists each year.



Winner Badgingarra



"If you live in Badgingarra you have the opportunity to participate in many groups which make it the best place to live, work and play," Badgingarra Tidy Towns Committee.

The Badgingarra Tidy Towns Committee has been instrumental in assisting activities either by initiating and carrying out projects or by enthusing residents and businesses to become involved.

Several projects have enhanced the general appearance of Badgingarra including the litter clean ups, garden enhancement projects and the development of the new entry to the community centre.

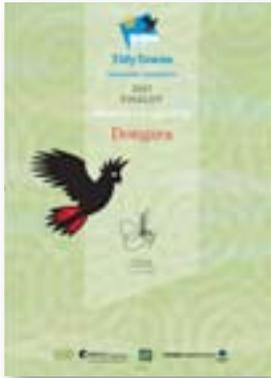
The local school has become involved and has been brightened by two murals – a wall showing icons of Badgingarra painted by Years 4 to 7, and a water tank which Years 2 and 3 painted with the prehistoric creatures they had been learning about.

A plan for the much-used public toilet and picnic area has been drawn up by the shire in consultation with the committee. The aim of the project is for the area to look more inviting and to preserve local district history.

Other projects include the maintenance of the local Heritage and Flora Walk which is enjoyed by many visitors to Badgingarra every year and the successful application for a grant to add a launch ramp to the constantly used skate park.



Finalist
Dongara / Port Denison



The tranquil twin towns of Dongara/Port Denison form the urban centre of the Shire of Irwin. Traditionally the area economically depended on farming and fishing, but has undergone some changes after the discovery of on- and off-shore oil and gas deposits. Dongara/Pt Denison is a safe community with low crime statistics and is becoming popular with retirees.

Regular clean up, pruning and weeding days were successfully co-ordinated by the Tidy Towns Committee, involving many community groups, as well as individual volunteers.

Volunteers continue to be involved in recycling activities. Bonnie Rock Transport donates free transport to Perth for the recycled goods, subject to all funds being donated to a community group.

The consistent implementation of walk trails and dual-use foot paths over the past five years won the Shire of Irwin the Sustainable Transport Coalition's "Rural or Regional Innovation Award".

The Tidy Towns Committee was highly commended at the Water Awards 2006 for its promotion of waterwise gardening.

The Dongara District High School was again involved in community focused activities such as tree planting and litter prevention over the past 12 months.

The Youth Advisory Council is still active under the leadership of a new coordinator. In addition to the continuing fundraising through the drive-in theatre they organise various activities for the youth of the area.



Category Achievements Awards

Community Action
Dongara

General Appearance
Three Springs

Recycling and Waste Management
Badgingarra

Natural Heritage Conservation
Badgingarra

Enhancing Cultural Identity
Dongara

Water Conservation
Badgingarra



Judge's Comment

"Once again, it has been an honour to judge the Tidy Towns Awards and to observe the local level actions taking place to promote sustainable communities. The motivation and commitment of volunteer time and labour shown was outstanding. There were many examples of great partnerships between local groups, government and industry to implement large projects providing great facilities and beautiful areas. Congratulations to all involved."

Cath Rummery, Pilbara Regional Nature Conservation Officer / Coordinator Tidy Town Sustainable Communities

Regional Overview

Situated in the north west of Western Australia, the Pilbara is a mineral rich region with spectacular scenery. With approximately 40,000 people living in the Pilbara, and a significant fly-in fly-out representation, it is often described as the engine room of the nation because of its immense reserves of natural resources. The Pilbara covers a total area of 507,896 square kilometres extending from the Indian Ocean to the Northern Territory border (including offshore islands).

This region can be separated into three distinct geographical formations, a vast coastal plain, breathtaking inland ranges and an arid desert region extending into Australia's dry centre. It is blessed with stunning natural beauty boasting striking landscapes and a rich and diverse cultural heritage.

Winner

Cocos (Keeling) Islands



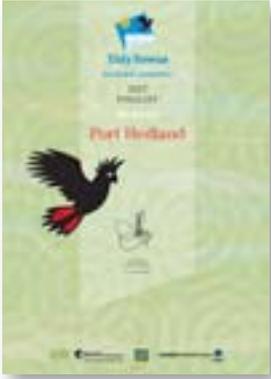
The Cocos Islands are known for their significant beauty and the shire along with the local community, the local school and the Cocos Islands' Youth Council, have collaborated to showcase the special projects being developed to maintain this beauty.

Some of the initiatives being undertaken include reducing waste to landfill and encouraging recycling, landscaping front gardens and the instillation of water-saving devices using natural materials. Another large project was the development of the Home Island Community Resource Centre which has a user-friendly design with disability access. In addition, the Cocos Islands' Youth Council is actively involved in the community, some working hard to rehabilitate historical sites on the island as part of the Green Corps Project.

The aims of the Tidy Towns committee include encouraging the community to share their knowledge and experience; to increase community participation in water conservation, recycling, and natural heritage management; to foster a sense of respect and admiration for the islands; and to develop a sense of ownership and responsibility over the management and protection of the natural environment.



Finalist
Port Hedland



Resource booms, heat, dust, isolation, cyclones, long trains and big ships...Port Hedland is a place of extremes, but ask any local why they love the town and they will always reply, "the people".

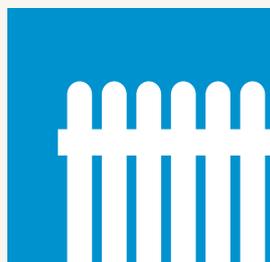
Port Hedland's multicultural community drives a busy multifaceted annual calendar of community and cultural events. The vision of the Town of Port Hedland is to make the town "a great place to live, work and play".

Generous corporate sponsorship enables the Town of Port Hedland to achieve that vision with projects such as the CBD painting program, Port Hedland parks upgrade, the cultural and tourism precinct development and the community nursery project.

Strong partnerships between government and not-for-profit organisations, the corporate sector and community groups create unique community events such as: Black Rock Stakes, Hedland Cup Day, Hedland Art Awards, Pilbara Music Festival, South Hedland Street Blitz and Cyclone George Community Concert 'Our Town, Our People'.

Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups work together to organise the Ninji Ninji Festival and NAIDOC Week activities, and to commemorate the 1967 Federal Referendum with visual and performing arts events.

The world knows the Pilbara is resource rich. Port Hedland knows that its greatest resource is its people.



Category Achievements Awards

Community Action
Wickham, Tom Price

General Appearance
Port Hedland, Youngaleena

Recycling and Waste Management
Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Natural Heritage Conservation
Port Hedland

Enhancing Cultural Identity
Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Bellary Springs



Judge's Comment

"The Kimberley region of Western Australia is a vast and ancient land where Indigenous culture and the stories of country are still strong. Unfortunately, the dramatic increase in tourism has caught the region by surprise and is having a negative impact on many areas of the Kimberley both environmentally and socially. I believe Indigenous cultural tourism has a big future in the region and it is great to see our Indigenous people sharing their culture with visitors and taking the initiative to look after their environment."

Jake Zahl, Clean Up Australia, Campaign Manager, Kimberley region.

Regional Overview

The Kimberley region, one sixth of the size of Western Australia, is home to 35,000 residents. The population is comparatively young, with a median age of 28 years, and with a 47 per cent Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander population.

Prone to tropical cyclones, the Kimberley has a diverse and amazing environment, with sandy beaches, lush rainforests, and spinifex plains.

For the past century, the main land use in the Kimberley has been for pastoral activities. Currently more than 50 per cent (about 224, 000 square kilometres) of Kimberley land is held under pastoral lease; that is, the land has been classified primarily for the grazing of stock. The pastoral industry, mining, pearling, fishing, and tourism are all major economic activities in the region and the tourism industry is continuing to develop.



Winner

Djarindjin Community



Djarindjin is a community of 260 people living on the tip of the Dampier Peninsula about 200 kilometres from Broome. The community prides itself on having close links to land, maintaining key aspects of traditional Bardi Jawi life and building a low impact and sustainable community infrastructure while having the resourcefulness and community spirit to survive and thrive in this beautiful location.

The Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities competition has been important for Djarindjin because its values harmonise with the ideals behind the formation and life of the community. Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities has helped Djarindjin refocus on what its values are - pride in their heritage, pride in their place, living respectfully on the land (the modern word is to live in a 'sustainable' way) and working together for a shared purpose.

Djarindjin is a Tidy Town and they are happy to keep living that way! The projects that have been undertaken have improved amenity, promoted sustainability and encouraged community spirit and participation.



Category Achievements Awards

Community Action
Ngallungunda
Community

General Appearance
Ngallungunda
Community

Recycling and Waste Management
Djarindjin Community

Natural Heritage Conservation
Djarindjin Community

Enhancing Cultural Identity
Djarindjin Community

Water Conservation
Djarindjin Community



Judge's Comment

"It is great to see the communities of these towns taking such an active role in their town's development and striving for constant improvement. Every town entered in the Tidy Towns Awards should be very proud of the job they have done. I hope they all continue their great work and we see them again next year. Well done everyone!"

Joanne Gray, Tidy Towns Judge, Kalgoorlie

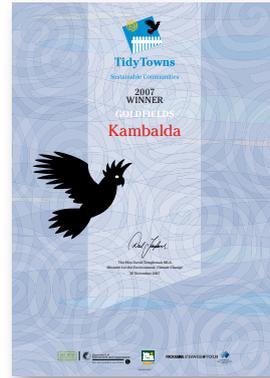
Regional Overview

The Goldfields region is just under a third of Western Australia's total land mass and the largest region in Western Australia in the Tidy Towns competition. The region also incorporates 11 Ngaanyatjarra Lands communities.

It is bound geographically by the Little Sandy Desert and Gibson Desert to the north; the Wheatbelt region to the west; the South Coast region to the South; while the South Australian and Northern Territory create borders to the east.

The region is undergoing a period of sustained economic growth, with mining and agriculture being the predominant industries.

Winner Kambalda



Kambalda has a history of community involvement and this year is no different. In 2007, community events included the Australia Day Breakfast at the newly revamped East Town Square, Clean Up Australia Day in East and West Kambalda, Pick-a-Prickle and the cleaning up of the BP Dam.

The appearance of the town was again improved through projects such as the planting of native shrubs on the Marianthus Road extensions, continued beautification of the East Kambalda Town Square and the start of the Kambalda Community and Recreation Centre.

Kambalda has continued the initiatives of can recycling and worm farming at both local schools, printer and mobile phone recycling throughout Kambalda, recycling plastic bags at Woolworths supermarket and paper brick making. New initiatives this year included a junk art competition and the clean up of the light industrial area.

Cultural identity is continuing to be sustained through Harmony Day where members of different cultural groups present traditional dances and songs, local community art and the annual release of balloons to signify the loss of loved ones.



Finalist
Coolgardie



Coolgardie was proud to hold the 100th year anniversary of the Modesto Varischetti mine rescue, one of the greatest mine rescues in Australian history. The weekend was a celebration of mine safety, Varischetti's rescue operation and Coolgardie's thriving community coming together. The Tidy Towns Committee, with the full support of the shire, embarked on transforming the main street with a much needed face lift, upgrades in Coolgardie Park, the clean up of vacant lots with new picket fencing and much more.

Coolgardie continues to introduce new water wise initiatives with the introduction of drip irrigation to the landscaping area at the recreation centre and installation of a large area of astro turf. Coolgardie also continues to use treated recycled effluent water to water the Coolgardie Oval and Coolgardie Park, these being the two biggest areas of grass in town.

Schoolchildren were eager participants at the Clean Up Coolgardie Day, and the children from the CAPS School conducted a site clean up of the recreational areas around town.

The community, the town and the people are flourishing; one only needs to drive through Coolgardie to experience the spirit of this historic, intriguing, community-driven town.

Category Achievements Awards

Community Action
Kambalda

General Appearance
Coolgardie

Recycling and Waste Management
Kambalda

Enhancing Cultural Identity
Laverton

Water Conservation
Coolgardie



Judge's Comment

"The Tidy Towns program in 2007 again showcased environmental awareness, community pride and commitment to improve their surrounds in a sustainable way. It is exciting to witness this cohesive spirit and community focus despite the challenges the region endures. The dedication of volunteers and partnerships are invaluable in community development. Congratulations to all the participants – you are all winners."

Alan Kietzmann, Avon-Mortlock District,
Department of Environment and Conservation

Regional Overview

The population is diverse, with a higher than average Indigenous sector. The inhabitants of the Central Wheatbelt are widely dispersed across the region, with only a small proportion of the population living in major towns.

The Central Wheatbelt region is varied with pristine coastline, agricultural lands and areas rich in minerals. Agriculture from the region accounts for a large percentage of the agricultural produce of Western Australia. Major environmental issues are being tackled including salinity and habitat restoration.

Winner

Wongan Hills



The ongoing and concerted efforts by Wongan Hills to complete the Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities projects have been impressive.

Wongan Hills continues the great work which won them the Wheatbelt Regional Winner Award in 2006 by opening the Gazebo and the Railway precinct and placement of another two tractors in the area.

There were major planting of new trees and a feature planting of bougainvillea at the town hall and police station.

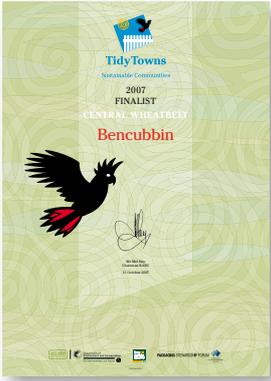
Facades of the local businesses have been improved and the addition of shade sails have enhanced the main shopping area. Roadside vegetation and conservation plans are ongoing, as are roadside pick-ups by individuals and groups.

The latest grand scale plan is to pipe water from Mocardy Dam so that the town can become self sufficient for water. The Fresh Water Catchment for recycling water is already established and working well. A continual maintenance program for water recycling is in place and further development continues.

The past year has seen the local school become more involved in recycling through various programs at school and in the community.



Finalist
Bencubbin



Bencubbin is 270km north-east of Perth in the north-eastern Wheatbelt. About 150 people live in the townsite with many more community members living around the town on farms. Bencubbin is primarily a wheat and sheep farming district and, in the past, has been well recognised for its innovation in environmental and Landcare programs.

Major projects this year included the railway dam water conservation, tree planting, the 76th Agricultural Show, various clean up days, Bencubbin Heritage Recreation Trail, new cabins and several tourism projects. All of these projects required the commitment of volunteers. Without the volunteers' passion for the town, these projects would not have been completed.

Bencubbin strives to be the centre of excellence. The people of Bencubbin want those who travel through the town to be provided with the services that make their travelling more convenient and promote its image. The community is continually striving for excellence and innovation.



Category Achievements Awards

Community Action
Wongan Hills

General Appearance
Wongan Hills

Recycling and Waste Management
Dowerin

Natural Heritage Conservation
Bencubbin

Enhancing Cultural Identity
Bruce Rock

Water Conservation
Cunderdin



Judge's Comment

It was a great pleasure to visit two towns as judge. The dedication of volunteers and their work throughout the year is obvious in the excellent results which their communities achieved. It is particularly commendable when we consider the challenges presented by rapidly increasing populations."

Ruth Watson: retired and actively involved in Bushcare, Albany.

Regional Overview

The South Coast extends from Albany along the coast to include Esperance and on to the South Australian border and includes inland towns such as Jerramungup.

The area is well known for some of the most rugged and beautiful scenery in Australia and contains natural tourist locations. The unspoilt coastline offers numerous recreational pursuits from fishing, beach combing and walking on some of the finest beach sand in the southern hemisphere, whale watching and swimming in the magnificent turquoise waters of the various bays and beaches.

The main industries in the region include broadacre cropping, livestock and wool plus major industries such as mining and tourism.

Winner Hopetoun



Hopetoun is in the middle of major change due to the new BHP Billiton Ravensthorpe Nickel mine. The population has increased from 650 to more than 1000 in a short time. As old time residents moved on, community groups struggled to get members. However, the new residents are becoming involved in community life.

The main goal of the towns' people is to keep Hopetoun as friendly, relaxed and tidy as possible.

Many wonderful things have happened in the community: subdivisions are being built, the long-awaited primary school recently opened with 125 children enrolling and the new Hopetoun Police Station opened. With the advent of new businesses, new job opportunities have also been created.

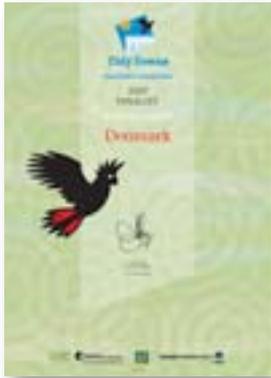
Community activities in Hopetoun included the Summer Community Concert and the Australia Day Breakfast. Indigenous author Kim Scott also visited the area.

Continued work around the town saw a new playground built at the sports grounds and shade sails installed at McCulloch Park. The Hopetoun Cricket Club was reformed and their clubrooms were renovated. The new Hopetoun Primary School Parents and Citizens group has taken over the aluminium can recycling program.

The community, local shire and government agencies are proactively addressing problems arising from the increased year round population. It's an exciting time in Hopetoun!



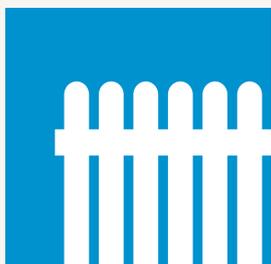
Finalist
Denmark



Denmark in 2007 is a highly diverse community, currently in the middle of a substantial increase in population and real estate prices. These factors present unique problems for the community, shire and volunteer groups.

The past year saw all volunteer groups continue, expand and increase expertise. Major projects were the completion of the new visitors centre, continuance of the plastic bag eradication program, the upgrade of the Thornton Park gazebo by the Tidy Towns Committee, the Grey's house solar design and the Denmark Primary School's Waterwise project. The school is now classified as one of the few Waterwise schools in Western Australia.

As a community, Denmark continues to follow its motto: "We are not just making the best of what we have got – we are continually making it better".



Category Achievements Awards

Community Action
Hopetoun

General Appearance
Denmark, Hopetoun

Recycling and Waste Management
Hopetoun

Natural Heritage Conservation
Denmark

Enhancing Cultural Identity
Denmark

Water Conservation
Hopetoun



Judge's Comment

"Wheatbelt communities face many challenges. One challenge is how to maintain the enthusiastic volunteer base required to fulfil the range of essential activities needed for a township to function effectively. This challenge often provides unique opportunities for the development of community leaders who can champion sustainability and community pride.

This year's Tidy Town competition was no exception and it was clearly demonstrated through the judging process that community leadership and pride is alive and well. Congratulations to all the towns represented, the people who spent many hours throughout the year developing and undertaking exciting new initiatives in their community and the dedication in preparing professional portfolio's. Well done to all."

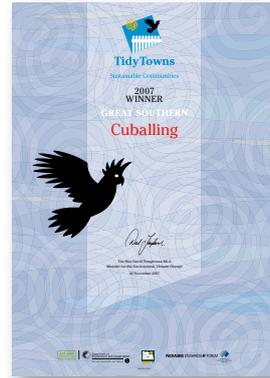
Greg Durell, Great Southern District, Department of Environment and Conservation

Regional Overview

The Great Southern has a diversity of industries. The region is the second biggest producer of agriculture in the State, along with aquaculture, tree harvesting, and the production of high quality wines, which have received a number of awards.

Tourism is flourishing in the region with great potential for nature based tourism. The popularity of local Nyoongar Australian Aboriginal art is also growing and a marketing network is being established.

Winner Cuballing



Cuballing's rural village atmosphere attracts new residents at the rate of about 10 per cent each year. The council is taking an integrated approach to ensure this growth is managed in a sustainable manner to ensure Cuballing's lifestyle is preserved.

Along with the growing population is a growing sense of pride in the town. Community volunteers maintain the public gardens and keep the town looking clean and well presented. There are also residents who volunteer to pick up litter while on regular fitness walks.

Projects of the Townscape Committee this year included the upgrade of the cemetery fence with treated pine logs and wrought iron gates and the placement of donated machinery, rust treated by volunteers, around the town which combines art and the history of the area.

Social events such as the 'Community Concert' and the Festival and Garden Party enrich the lives of the community. Cuballing also supports a rich sporting culture with clubs such as cricket, tennis, golf, shooting, canine club and belly dancing making life interesting for the community.

The motto for Cuballing – 'A Place to Grow' – was well chosen.



Finalist
Ongerup



Ongerup is a 'can-do' community that is dynamic and deeply committed to the protection of the environment and the harmonious growth of the town.

Ongerup's premier attraction is the newly constructed Yongergnow Australian Malleefowl Centre, which is an environment visitor's centre based on the endangered malleefowl and malee environment.

The Ongerup Primary School has been busy undertaking fauna trapping at Nowanup and involved with Indonesian cultural days.

Community groups have continued to undertake recycling initiatives and with the help of the shire, Ongerup now has council recycling bins.

The groups also continue to organise many of the cultural activities such as the Mother's Day Bonanza, the Harvest Fare, the Community Christmas Tree and many more.

The Ongerup Community Development Committee (TTC) has been dedicated to town improvements with the reconstruction of the town entry garden after a sheep truck rolled over and destroyed it, and the continual mulching of gardens, and plantings of native vegetation.

The Ongerup Hall water wise garden is a masterpiece and mosaics, created by the school through the Arts for Now program, were added as a border to provide extra flare and colour.

Ongerup is proud to be the 'place of the kangaroo' and home to the Malleefowl.

Category Achievements Awards

Community Action
Cuballing

General Appearance
Cuballing

Recycling and Waste Management
Cuballing

Natural Heritage Conservation
Ongerup

Enhancing Cultural Identity
Kojonup

Water Conservation
Ongerup



A sincere thank you to the 2007 Tidy Towns judges, without whom our program would not be possible. We have been honoured to have a diversity of judges, whose dedication and expertise brought a great richness to the program.



The following also judged in 2006:

Virginia Scott
Principal Policy Officer, Department of Local Government and Regional Development

Bobbie Reilly
Tidy Towns Ambassador – 2003 Winner of Individual Environment Award

Adrian Price
Consultant, Wonderful Ways with Waste

Cath Rummery
Biodiversity Facilitator, Northern Rangelands Natural Resource Management Coordinating Group

Jake Zahl
Campaign Manager, Clean up the Kimberley

Joanne Gray
Landcare Officer, Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group

Tracey Teede
NRM/Complaints Officer, Department of Environment and Conservation

Sherilee Macready
Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities Program Assistant

Amy Thom
Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities Regional Support Officer

New judges for 2007:

Alan Kietzmann
District Manager, Avon Mortlock District, Department of Environment and Conservation

Tim Foley
A/Regional Leader for Parks and Visitor Services, Warren Region, Department of Environment and Conservation

Cathy Campbell
Senior Project Officer, Waste Management Branch, Department of Environment and Conservation

Bonnie Patience
Industry Regulation Administration Officer, Department of Environment and Conservation

Greg Durell
District Manager, Great Southern Region, Department of Environment and Conservation

Jill Richardson
Landcare Centre Manager, Katanning LCDC

Cally Uren
Environmental Officer, Department of Environment and Conservation

Genette Keating
Director, Bioscience Pty Ltd

Julianne Penley
Marketing Manager, Australia's North West Tourism (ANW)

Jennifer Fox
Library Officer, Dampier Library

Martin Lloyd
Regional Leader for Parks and Visitor Services, South Coast Region, Department of Environment and Conservation

Ruth Watson
Retired, actively involved in Bushcare.

Leah Martin
Tidy Towns-Sustainable Communities Program Manager, Keep Australia Beautiful

<http://www.kabc.wa.gov.au>

