

LITTErature

Keep Australia Beautiful Council WA's

e-newsletter



Hello again from all of us here at Keep Australia Beautiful Council. It's been great to see that many of you are still out and about in the rain, hail or shine, working hard to keep our beautiful state litter free – so thank you!

Applications for the Community Litter Grants are now closed. Recipients of this year's grants will be announced in Keep Australia Beautiful Week 16-22 August. See what the Shire of Capel used their grant for [here](#).

With Keep Australia Beautiful Week just around the corner it's a great opportunity to organise a clean-up of your local spot. If you don't have a spot yet, its easy to join the [Adopt-a-Spot program](#), and we provide you with resources and insurance to help.

KABC has organised community clean-ups in Boddington, Cervantes, Geraldton, Mullewa, and North Cottesloe. Visit the [KABC Facebook page](#) for event information and to see how to get involved.

Another way to participate in KAB Week is by taking the seven-day plastic pledge. Give up a plastic item, replace it with an alternative and spread the word to your family and friends. Plastic – its that easy. More information about KAB Week can be found [here](#)

And just one last reminder that there's still time to register your regional or remote community in this year's [Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards](#).

Submissions are due on 27 August 2021.

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KABC visits Exmouth

Keep Australia Beautiful Council officers visited Exmouth in June to meet with the Shire of Exmouth and the district high school to coordinate clean ups and the filming of litter management in a pristine environment.



Exmouth is one of the leading towns in Western Australia working to reduce plastics in the environment, yet it still has a problem with littering. Last year, the Shire was successful in receiving a KABC Community Litter Grant which enabled it to tackle its roadside litter issue by designing an alternative to the plastic car litter bag. With its grant, the Shire will provide paper car litter bags to travellers and local community members to keep litter inside a vehicle.

KABC met with the Year 6 Exmouth DHS leadership group to discuss litter prevention and how they could get involved. Students were surprised to find out that cigarette butts continue to be the most littered item in Australia.



KABC attended the primary school assembly, encouraging students and parents to get involved with the Adopt-a-Spot program. A clean-up of the school grounds took place during recess with the students collecting 7kgs of litter. Cigarette butts and plastic remnants were again the top find during a clean-up on Town Beach.

Roadsides remain amongst the most littered areas of the state. KABC worked with the Shire and provided modified Outback Packs for the Shire to provide to car hire companies and the tourist information centre. These modified packs, which comprise of one large reusable white polypropene bag, a pair of gloves and tongs, will be provided to arriving travellers who want to help keep the scene clean on their journey.

[Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards](#)

Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards represent an opportunity for your community initiatives to be recognised, highlighted and rewarded. Registrations are still open but make sure you get your submissions in by 27 August.

See what Wongan Hills community have to say about the Awards and how community involvement benefits the community. <https://youtu.be/OUi6LsNroNY>



[Outback Packs](#)



Outback Packs items are now in stock and need packing. We are looking for groups who would be interested in packing our Outback Packs. Hint: it's a great way to get community service hours for students. If you would like more information please contact us kabc@kabc.wa.gov.au

[Litter Heroes - Gero Clean Up Crew](#)

With increasing litter appearing around Geraldton and only a few individuals picking up it up, there was need for an organised group to tackle the issue – and this is how the Gero Clean Up Crew was formed.

The Crew's dream was to imagine what impact many visible bodies, cleaning up their town on a regular basis, would have on the community. And it's worked. The Gero Clean Up Crew now meet on a fortnightly basis, with volunteers aged from their early 20s to mid 80s, to clean up areas in and around Geraldton. They have a strong social media presence, calling on volunteers to join the crew's clean-ups as well as promoting the great work that has been achieved.



Last year the Crew entered the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities awards and were finalists in the Litter Prevention and Waste Management category. This reinforced to the town what can be achieved when everyone works together.

Lisa Bickley from the Gero Clean Up Crew said "We wanted to highlight that keeping our environment clean was **everyone's** responsibility, not just children's, or for those on Community Service"

"It is great fun. We love what we do. And we are loving the new-look Geraldton!"

Find out more about what the Gero Clean Up Crew have been up to [here](#)

Clean Schools professional learning

More schools are looking at ways to educate students about the impacts of litter in their school and local environment. As educators we support and encourage our students to become responsible citizens and to develop and enhance a sense of pride and ownership in their school.

Register for free workshops and join other educators in developing a Clean Schools program, full of fun and inspiring ideas, to help keep your school litter free. By using the Clean School guide, your program will be specific to your school and suit the needs of your students.

To make it easier for you to take part, we are able to cover the relief cost for two people from your school to attend a workshop.

The full day workshops are a great opportunity to network with other educators and discuss ideas that can be implemented in your school.

All Term 3 workshops are run in conjunction with Waste Wise Schools. Join the team from Waste Wise Schools and Keep Australia Beautiful to learn how to avoid and recover waste, and protect our environment, through litter prevention and waste reduction.

Upcoming events

Clean Schools professional learnings workshops

[Kalgoorlie Clean Schools and Waste Wise Schools workshop](#)

[Wanneroo Clean Schools and Waste Wise Schools workshop](#)

[Geraldton Clean Schools and Waste Wise Schools workshop](#)

Our Clean Schools program is supported by the Waste Authority through the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account.

[Find out more >>](#)

[Marine Debris Project - Dampier Archipelago](#)

KABC joined staff from Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and the Department of Transport in Karratha in May to conduct a marine debris survey on the Dampier Archipelago.

Marine debris on the islands of the archipelago had previously been identified as an issue and anecdotal evidence suggested the debris was primarily of local origin. Concerns for the impact on the local environment warranted a more detailed study.



The Dampier Archipelago comprises 42 islands and is the richest area of marine biodiversity in Western Australia, including nature reserves on the islands. The beaches of the area are nesting sites for green, loggerhead, flatback and hawksbill turtles, and the waters contain coral reefs, sponge gardens, seagrass and over 650 species of fish.

The team surveyed 16 kms of coastline along the Dampier Archipelago over 5 days including sites on Enderby, Angel, Gidley and East and West Lewis Islands.

In total, 310 kilograms of rubbish were removed, consisting of over 1,900 items. Unlike the situation of many marine debris surveys, the majority of the debris was not the usual consumer items, but industrial or commercial objects.

Some of most common items were broken hard plastic remnants, rope and net scraps, jetty and boat fender plastic pieces. Shotgun shells, golf balls and detonator cord were more notable items.

The team also discovered an extensive area of buried rubbish on a beach on Enderby Island, including steel beer cans from the 1970s, soft drink and juice bottles with in-tact polystyrene wrappers and a commemorative wine bottle from 1977.



The next phase of the project is to identify the source of the debris and to develop source reduction plans to prevent these items from entering the ocean. The team plans to return to the archipelago to monitor if the debris is historical or if it is a contemporary issue.

KABC would like to thank all the other agencies that assisted with the project: Pilbara Port Authority, Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation, Yara Pilbara, Pilbara Dive and Tours and the City of Karratha.

[Ongoing promotions](#)



KABC is continuing to offer custom-made bin stickers through two of our programs: Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities; and Clean Schools.

[Find out more >>](#)

[Upcoming events](#)

1 August 2021 – [Kalgoorlie-Boulder clean-up and tree planting day](#)

13 August 2021 – [Clean Up Mullewa](#)

14 August 2021 – [Clean Up Geraldton](#)

15 August 2021 – [Clean Up Cervantes](#)

17 August 2021 – [Rescheduled Plastic Free July Beach Clean Up](#)

21 August 2021 – Clean Up Boddington

Are your litter reporter contact details up-to-date?



Please continue to send through your litter reports. Reports can be completed online via:

- our website – [Lodge a litter report](#)
- the [Litter Reporter App](#) – Android only.

If you have moved house, changed your phone plan or got rid of that old Hotmail email from 10 years ago, then please: [update your litter reporter details](#)

Quick links:

[Report Littering](#) | [Adopt a Spot](#) | [Tidy Towns](#) | [Clean Schools](#) | [Clean Clubs](#) | [Outback packs](#)

Social Media links:

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)

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