

LITTERature

Keep Australia Beautiful Council WA's

e-newsletter



It's been a busy few months for the team at Keep Australia Beautiful Council. We had a very successful Keep Australia Beautiful week in August, visiting towns and volunteers in the Mid-West.

We held clean-up events in Cervantes, Geraldton and Mullewa, removing 308kgs of litter in the environment. Thank you again to everyone who participated in clean-ups across the state throughout the week.

Tidy Towns judges have been out visiting regional and remote communities to assess their submissions for this year's [Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards](#). We have had a fantastic range of submissions again this year and we congratulate all finalists. We look forward to seeing our finalists and special guests at the State Awards event on Friday 26 November at Optus Stadium.

This month we partnered with the City of Wanneroo for Tangaroa Blue's annual WA Beach Clean Up event. We had over 20 volunteers help us remove and audit 10kgs of litter from Two Rocks beach. The top finds were plastic film, hard bits of plastic and, once again, cigarette butts. Thank you to all the volunteers, (some of whom attended their 7th annual beach clean-up with us) who came and supported the event

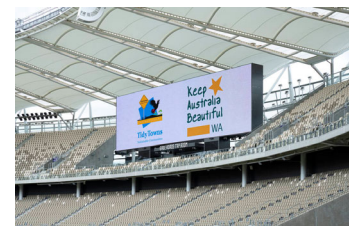
And finally, with the summer months fast approaching, it's a timely reminder to dispose of cigarette butts correctly. It only takes one cigarette to potentially risk the safety of our community. Let's do the right thing and put it in the bin.

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Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards

Tidy Towns judges have chosen 28 finalists from regional and remote communities for this year's Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards.

This is the 52nd year of the flagship program, which acknowledges sustainable, litter-free communities by celebrating initiatives such as litter prevention, environmental education, preserving heritage, community action and youth leadership.



A community will also be recognised with the Containers for Change award sponsored by WARRRL, for the 10-cent container deposit scheme refund operation, and a Leadership Award, sponsored by AIM WA, will be given to an outstanding community leader.

Winners will be announced at a gala lunch at Optus Stadium on Friday, 26 November 2021. Register to attend the State Awards event [here](#). Join us as we celebrate and recognise sustainable action in regional and remote communities.

Find out more information on the Awards and the finalists [here](#).

Keep Australia Beautiful Week



Staff from Keep Australia Beautiful Council worked with volunteers across the state to remove over 540kgs of litter from the environment during Keep Australia Beautiful Week in August. Clean-ups with community groups took place in Geraldton, Mullewa, Cervantes, North Cottesloe and Boddington, encouraging action to reduce litter.

Plastic was once again the top find, with 553 pieces of hard plastic removed from North Cottesloe beach as part of the North Cottesloe Surf Life Saving Club Plastic Free July event. Rebecca Prince-Ruiz, founder of Plastic Free July, spoke with Year 9 students from Presbyterian Ladies College on the importance of reducing plastics in our everyday lives so we can have cleaner streets, oceans and keep our communities beautiful.

Further up the coast, at the Cervantes and Geraldton clean-ups, fishing rope and polystyrene remnants were the number one finds. Lisa Bickley who leads the Gero Clean up Crew said,

“Together today we became aware of how much plastic – large and small pieces – is right there next to the ocean”

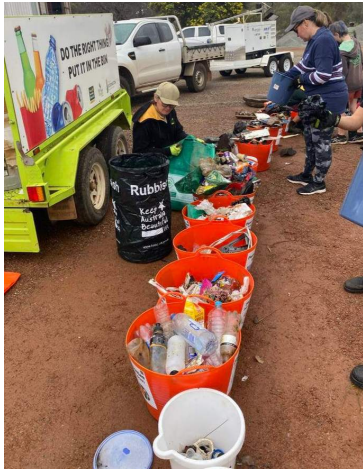
“We undertake litter collection for humans, for oceans, for land, for land animals, birds and fish.”

“It is all about improving the quality of life for all right now, and for future generations.”



The Gero Clean Up Crew are doing an amazing job in Geraldton, find out more [here](#) .

KABC Chairman, Michael Aspinall, attended the clean-up event in Mullewa where students from Mullewa District High School collected 92kgs of litter in just over two hours. “This park looked relatively litter free but it’s amazing what you can find when you look a little harder – we have just removed 15kgs of broken glass alone,” he said.



The following day, Boddington Reduce Reuse Recycle group organised a community clean-up event which saw 50 volunteers from the Shire, Peel-Harvey Catchment Council, Newmont mine and community members remove 218kgs of litter from the town. KABC staff audited half of the litter collected which included 27.5kgs of broken glass and 2kgs of metal bottle tops.

“It was a fantastic event organised by the community who are also entering the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards this year,” Michael Aspinall said.

KABC would like to thank everyone who got involved during KAB Week. More images and information from all events can be found [here](#)

Outback Packs



Outback packs are making their way to Visitor Centres across the State. These packs have been put together to make waste disposal and clean-ups easier for those travelling across Western Australia.

Visitor Centres can order Outback Packs [here](#)

Thank you to our volunteers who have packed 850 Outback Packs in the last two months.

Please get in touch if you would like to volunteer some time to assist us packing the Outback Packs.

Clean Schools – Swan Christian College Clean Up

The Year 4 students from Swan Christian College conducted their fourth annual clean-up and audit event at Lilac Hill last week. Following a school visit from the Clean Schools Program Coordinator focusing on the impacts of litter on the environment, the students worked enthusiastically to remove 39kg of discarded waste from this beautiful riverside parkland.

Once collected, the students audited the litter as part of the Tangaroa Blue WA Beach Clean-up weekend. The data collected was entered into the Australian Marine Debris Initiative database.



The main items collected included 190 cigarette butts, 184 plastic food packaging items, 138 plastic film remnants, 59 paper and cardboard packaging and 44 plastic lids and tops.

Thank you also to the City of Swan for assisting on the day and also for organising the removal of the litter.

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

Ongoing promotions



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

Look at these beautiful bin stickers in Mullewa designed by local artist Helen Ansell

For more information on how to get involved please [click here](#).

Recycling stationery and sports equipment

KABC has been working with Give Write and Fair Game to deliver recycle pre-loved stationery and sports equipment to regional and remote communities when we are out and about.



During your spring clean this year, why not put aside any items that can be re-used and passed onto families in need. Follow the links to find out how you can donate to [Give Write](#) and [Fair Game](#).

Upcoming events

Friday 26 November – [Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities State Gala Event](#)

Litter Reporter update



KABC would like to thank all our registered Litter Reporters who are out and about on the roads, reporting littering or dumping of material from vehicles. Your efforts have resulted in some positive prosecutions – see an example below.

A Mandurah woman pleaded guilty in Mandurah Magistrates Court on 7 January 2021, she was fined \$521.90 and ordered to pay costs of \$391.90 for littering a cigarette from a vehicle on the Forrest Highway, South Yunderup, this was as a result of a report submitted by a litter reporter.

Visit our website for more information about [recent prosecutions](#).

Please continue to send in your litter reports.

Not a registered litter reporter? Why not [join the program](#) and do your bit to keep Western Australia beautiful.

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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