

Library

From: Keep Australia Beautiful Council WA <tidytowns@kabc.wa.gov.au>
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Welcome back to Keep Australia Beautiful Council's quarterly newsletter.

We have had an extremely busy start to the year with lots of [Clean Up Australia](#) activities across the state.

It was great to see so many of you at these events and we look forward to your ongoing support for the rest of the year.

We are looking forward to collaborating with Broome Surf Life Saving Club and Kimberley Care Group next month. We will be joined by Eco Surf and launch another litter station with Broome Surf Life Saving Club followed by a clean-up and audit.

We will also be joining the team at Kimberley Care Group for its second AAS clean-up around Forrest Street. If you are in the area and keen to get involved [find out more here](#).

Thank you to everyone who registered or completed a clean-up so far this year. If you want to know how you can easily adopt your own spot and make a difference, visit our website to register and find out [more](#).

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[Abrolhos Clean Up](#)



KABC was invited to the annual [Flotsam and Jetsam Clean Up Australia](#) event on the Abrolhos Islands. The founder, Pia Boschetti, a pearl farmer at Basile Island, created the initiative after witnessing firsthand the increasing amounts of litter and rubbish washing up on and around the islands. KABC was a sponsor for this event and provided support and resources including gloves and reusable bags to assist the volunteers with their collection efforts.

KABC officers travelled two hours by boat from Geraldton to the Abrolhos Islands to assist with the removal of litter and to conduct litter audits to capture data for the event. This is the first time in 14 years of Abrolhos clean-ups that some of the collected litter was audited.

Five volunteers and two KABC officers conducted audits on Long Island and Gregory Island. A total of 2,789 (83.5kgs) items were collected, recorded and removed from the Islands. This data has been recorded into the Tangaroa Blue Australian Marine Initiative database.

Over the three days, thirty volunteers removed approximately four tonnes of litter from several of the 210 Islands, including Pelsaert Island. Pelsaert Island is home to many ospreys and other ground laying birds. Marine Biologist Chris Surman, who also assisted in the clean-up activities, is currently studying the impact of plastics on many of the islands and the effect it is having on these birds.

The litter that was removed by volunteers was brought back to the wharf in Geraldton where artists, who come from near and far, eagerly awaited its arrival. The litter was sorted into categories, making it easy for the artists to select items that inspire them. Almost all of the collected litter on the wharf was taken within two hours.



This year's theme for the Art Exhibition is Plantasia and artists have until April to enter their final works. Ninety percent of the artwork must be made from marine debris collected from the islands. KABC's Chair will be at the event in April where the winner will be announced. The exhibition will be open to the public in Geraldton until June.

[See more from the event here](#)

[Clean Up Australia](#)

KABC supported multiple CUA events in February and March across the state. KABC Chair Michael Aspinall joined volunteers from [Fremantle Surf Life Saving Club](#) to launch [Eco Surf Australia](#)'s "3-minute litter station" at Leighton Beach. The litter station, made possible through KABC's Community Litter Grants, aims to educate beach goers on what they can do to make a difference, reducing litter on our beautiful beaches.

Volunteers removed a total of 490 items of litter from the beach and recorded it into the [Tangaroa Blue](#) Australian Marine Debris Initiative database, with hard plastic remnants being the top find.

Volunteers at the [Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club](#) were also busy at their Clean Up Australia event. Litter was collected and removed from the jetties and club grounds, and an enthusiastic dive team took to task and jumped in the water to remove items that may have made their way into the ocean. The clean-up haul weighed in at 38kgs with cigarette butts being the most noticeable item. This clean-up event was also made possible through KABC's Community Litter Grants.

In Albany, volunteers joined KABC for a "Pick up and Pizza" event at Middleton Beach. The team removed 15kgs of litter from the area in an hour. The City of Albany and Keep Albany Beautiful supported the event to make it a great success. [See more here.](#)



Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities



This year's National Tidy Towns Awards will be held in the heart of the outback in Gascoyne Junction in May. Gascoyne Junction is the proud holder of the National Tidy Town – Sustainability Awards and have organised a three-day event to showcase its unique charm.

We wish 2023 State Winner Pingelly all the best at this year's awards.

[Community Litter Grants](#)

This year's Community Litter Grants will open on the 11 April in Djarindjin in the Kimberley.

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for initiatives that address litter.

The grants provide financial assistance for action and education on litter prevention with a total of \$60,000 available.



Litter Reporter Scheme



Between the months of November to February, the Litter Report Scheme received 426 reports of littering from vehicles.

Of the total reports, 55% were for offences of discarded cigarette butts.

Alarming, 73 of these offences were for 'lit cigarette butts' posing significant fire risk to our communities during one of Perth's hottest Summer's on record.

Join the Litter Report Scheme and you too can make a difference.

[Find out more here.](#)

Clean Schools

More schools are looking at ways to educate students about the impacts of litter in their school and local environment. A school litter audit is a valuable tool for designing your [Clean Schools](#) program. By collecting and auditing the litter around the school, this data can guide staff and students in planning activities that promote litter-prevention program specific to your school.

See how the incredible students of Makybe Rise Primary School demonstrate [how to conduct a litter audit](#).

Have a look through the Clean Schools [guide](#) to see the step-by-step process for developing and implementing your program.

Upcoming events

11-13 April - Kimberley Clean Up events.

3 May - Clean Up Carnarvon

3-6 May – National Tidy Towns Event

17 May - Tidy Towns Launch in Karratha

5 June - World Environment Day

8 June - World Oceans Day

Quick links:

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

Social Media links:

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