

# Australian Tidy Towns 2012 Program Report

**Town/Community:** WYNYARD Tasmania ..... **Date judged:** 20 & 21 February 2012

**Population:** approx 5 700

**Organisers:** WARATAH WYNYARD Council in partnership with the community

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## COMMUNITY ACTION & PARTNERSHIPS

WARATAH WYNYARD Council works in partnership with the community to ensure that homes and private gardens are tidy and maintained. Council staff ensures that approaches to the town, including signs, public parks, gardens and sporting areas are well tendered.

Council takes pride in the beautification and presentation of community assets providing major benefits to residents and visitors. Notable example includes the recent completion of a major upgrade of the CBD. Civic Square now features three ceramic cows by a local artist. The site had been empty for a number of years having previously been a service station site.

WYNYARD's community is enthusiastic and dedicated to caring for their environment while allowing business to develop and thrive. The town is fortunate to have an extensive network of community groups including environmental, historical and sporting who cooperatively work with Council to create a sustainable lifestyle.

The town's *Healthy Communities* initiative, funded by the Commonwealth and auspiced by the Cradle Coast Authority, targets unemployed residents. Programs offered include kitchen gardening, *Walking WYNYARD at Easter* and *Wheelin' WYNYARD*. WYNYARD Fitness Centre is contracted to deliver the community's annual Learn to Swim program for children and *Heart Move* sessions.

Community consultation has become a feature of new policy and strategic plan development for WARATAH WYNYARD Council. A resource shared Communications Officer assist staff facilitate these processes and effectively inform the media.

A formal committee covers Tourism, Emergency Management, Sport & Recreation, Children's Services and Traffic Management. Informal committees exist for the WYNYARD Community Garden, community safety and the WYNYARD Wharf redevelopment project.

A \$1.5m grant from the state government has been a key towards the redevelopment of the WYNYARD Wharf as well as the re-opening of the Adult Day Care Centre, 'The Oaks' in a Council managed facility. WYNYARD Lions & Rotary have contributed financially to the projects.



## 'DAME PHYLLIS FROST' LITTER PREVENTION

Litter prevention approaches include the installation of 'Don't Waste WYNYARD' signs together with extensive community participation in the annual Clean Up Australia campaign.

Up to 12 community groups and schools participate in the clean up. Litter surveys are undertaken as part of the Clean Up Australia Day activities

Dog litter bags are provided at Council reception and at several dispensers around WYNYARD, with dogs restricted on specified signed beaches over summer as well as being prohibited from beaches adjoining penguin rookeries.

Cigarette butt disposal facilities have been provided free of charge at several locations in the CBD by a local company

## RESOURCE RECOVERY & WASTE MANAGEMENT

WYNYARD's recycling and resource recovery initiatives divert extensive tonnes of waste from landfill.

Vincent Industries effectively manage the town's Transfer Station with its main aim to minimise waste and maximise recycling with a strong financial incentive for this approach. They are a major employer of people with disabilities and have a long history of over 30 years of recycling in the WYNYARD community.

The Waste Transfer Station provides a range of opportunities for the community to recover and reuse resources such as green organics, glass, paper, cardboard, aluminium, plastics and oil.

Householders are provided with a general waste wheelie bin, collected weekly, and another for recyclables, collected fortnightly. Green waste which is able to be chipped can be taken to the transfer station and charged at half the normal rate.

WYNYARD was the first Tasmanian town to introduce kerbside recycling in the early 80's. In 2011 the community effectively changed over from crates to recycling bins. Council undertook an extensive education campaign to assist the community in effectively sorting recyclable materials.



## ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION & PROTECTION

Numerous voluntary environmental community groups work in partnership with the Council and effectively contribute to WYNYARD's well managed environment.

Inglis River and Big Creek riparian reserves are managed by Council and provide an extensive network of wildlife corridors. Public open spaces are being developed and linked by an extensive network of 14km of trails in the township. Ongoing projects with Cradle Coast Natural Resource Management (NRM) are underway to improve natural vegetation along the Inglis River.

The Inglis River revegetation project encourages neighbouring property owners to contain gardens within their boundaries and to not dispose of weeds in the riparian reserve.



An effective planning scheme has been introduced which separates industrial and residential developments and avoids potential conflicts surrounding emissions. The Prime Agricultural Land (PAL) approach underpins WYNYARD's planning scheme.



Council has partnered with WYNYARD Landcare, Friends of Sisters Creek, Cradle Coast and Mersey NRM, Family Focus, and Sisters Beach Environment Team to enable a broad range of environmental protection projects throughout the region.

Great examples of community programs that aim to conserve local flora and fauna include Bushwatch and Landcare with school initiatives including 'adopt a beach' and plant propagation projects, together with WYNYARD Landcare and North West Environment Centre projects.



## **WATER CONSERVATION**

As a result of State Government legislation, Cradle Coast Councils no longer have direct responsibility for delivering water to the community. Cradle Mountain Water is now responsible for reticulated water and wastewater treatment.

However, WARATAH WYNYARD Council still recognises the need for sustainable water management of its own assets as well as throughout the community by using and encouraging a range of conservation initiatives to achieve this aim.

As a result, Council has initiated a range of water saving initiatives including automated watering systems being installed in parks and reserves working off timers. These are mostly set for the early hours of the morning to minimise evaporation.

Low flow taps have been installed in public toilets, mowing and watering regimes designed to minimise maintenance costs such as frequency of mowing. Areas are prioritised based on use and the need for quality presentation, ie, location.

A new drinking fountain servicing a play area and walking track incorporates a tray at ground level. This collects surplus water from the fountain and makes it available for dogs being walked by their owners.

## **ENERGY INNOVATION**

North West Environment Centre has been supported by Council to conduct community dinners followed by regular information sessions on sustainable energy use.

Council promotes the use of solar panels and hot water systems as well as the adoption of passive solar design principles in new housing regulations. Example includes Spencer Park Inc who has built six units complying with new energy ratings including the installation of solar hot water systems.

Master switches have also been installed in a number of major Council owned and managed facilities. These effectively manage lighting systems and remove the possibility of lights remaining on when the last person leaves the building.

## HERITAGE & CULTURE

Heritage restoration and preservation is on a large scale in WYNYARD with numerous buildings and sites carefully restored to their former glory.

Various private and public buildings are wonderfully restored providing a welcoming environment which is appealing to locals and the many tourists who visit each year.

A number of community-based development plans relating to historic preservation and restoration have been put in place including the Table Cape Lighthouse Precinct, the Courthouse restoration together with WYNYARD Wharf redevelopment projects.

WYNYARD's Historical Society has coordinated a collection of over 700 photographs, publications and promotions of historical occasions celebrating the town's proud heritage.

Aboriginal culture is recognised at the Wonders of WYNYARD together with inclusion of the spiritual cleansing ceremony as part of Australia Day activities. Acknowledgement of 'Country' is also an important part of civic occasions within the town.

Archeological studies have also been undertaken recently at Doctors Rocks and Table Cape prior to development of the Lighthouse Precinct.

Notable historic highlight is the Francis Ransley Ford veteran car collection situated in the busy Wonders of WYNYARD information centre. The display features a collection of veteran motor cars, including a 1903 Model A Ford, one of only two in existence and the equal oldest Ford in the world. Many fully restored vehicles are over 100 years old and provide a fascinating exhibit for anyone interested in historic automobiles – the collection is one of national and international significance.



## YOUNG LEGENDS

Environmental awareness and education programs are an integral part of education system within WYNYARD. Students are actively involved in numerous community activities and partnerships.

WYNYARD has a range of programs in place to support and promote youth initiative through environmental education programs. Examples include:

- Co Pilots program at WYNYARD High School.
- MAD Day (Making a Difference) at WYNYARD High School.
- Youth Team organised by Council.
- Environmental projects at local beaches and foreshores.
- Tryskills, a Council initiative to facilitate the transition from school based to community clubs and activities. The program has run for 8 years and helps clubs develop a strategy for renewal by recruiting younger members.

WYNYARD High School High School's on campus activities include gardening and ground maintenance by students. The school received the town's Schools Environment award in 2010.

The WYNYARD area has seen local youth representation on statewide bodies such as the Tasmanian Youth Forum together with local young people attending conferences and forums in Launceston.

The recent appointment of a Youth and Recreation Officer into Council saw a young person, who also grew up locally, be successful in being appointed to the position – an ideal role model for local youth.

Two young people, under25, have played a big role in revitalising WYNYARD Landcare which was in danger of folding in 2010. Their collective enthusiasm has led to greater environmental awareness in the community through the organisation of open days at French's Road Nature Reserve and other significant sites in and around WYNYARD.

## **SUGGESTIONS**

WYNYARD's great success as being Tasmania's Tidiest Town 2011 is able to be promoted on local business materials as well as Council correspondence to share the town's achievement and hopefully derive benefits from increased visitation and subsequent economic opportunities.

Entry statements are an ideal way to attract new visitors to a community. WYNYARD has a proud heritage and perhaps consideration may be appropriate regarding interpretation of that heritage. Involving the community in the design may also provide an opportunity to engage public participation. Also, to further promote the town's Tidy Towns success, well designed signs at the town's entry/exit sites may also encourage residents and visitors to be aware of their responsibilities.

Council may wish to consider establishing a waste education centre, in partnership with Vincent Industries, at the town's resource recovery facility. This may assist in educating children and the community regarding what can be recycled within WYNYARD's waste collection services.

Litter is a challenge for communities across the nation. A positive approach to reducing the incidence of litter within WYNYARD's High School grounds may be by encouraging the placement of further bins to enable students to dispose of their litter appropriately. A fun focus on litter reduction may also provide more 'ownership' by students to get involved in litter reduction.

With the main street's Civic Square area completed, Woolworths may wish to consider upgrading their wall mural to complement the welcoming appearance now so successfully achieved.

*Congratulations to everyone involved in the WYNYARD's Tidy Towns and associated community action programs.*

*Good luck with future initiatives in helping to keep your part of Australia beautiful and sustainable.*

*Dick Olesinski  
National Tidy Towns judge*