



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL**  
**Sunday 22 October 00:15**

### **Orange the winner of the Blue Stars Regional Overall Sustainability Award for 2018**

The annual **Keep NSW Beautiful (KNSWB) Blue Star Sustainability (Regional) Awards** were announced on Saturday 21 October during a dinner in beautiful Maitland, NSW.

The dinner, hosted by Keep NSW Beautiful and the 2017 winner, Maitland City Council, was held at the Maitland Town Hall – following a day full of tours and case study presentations.

Over the course of the evening, awards were presented to councils and volunteers for projects that excel in the categories of environmental sustainability; waste and litter reduction; best practice and innovation in cultural heritage; habitat and wildlife conservation; sustainable systems and design; and environmental education.

The program highlights the hours of volunteer time contributed by regional communities to environmental projects.

“This year, the breadth and range of winners – covering Girl Guide Groups, Tidy Town Committees, schools, individuals and councils – demonstrates how important the environment, sustainability and conservation are to the NSW regional communities”, said Val Southam, Chief Executive Officer, KNSWB.

The presentation of the Overall Regional Sustainability Award for 2018 also took place at the culmination of the evening. The award was won by Orange City Council, qualifying the Council to enter the Keep Australia Beautiful National Tidy Town Awards.

The Orange Regional Museum was also a winner of the Cultural Heritage Award, which is proudly supported by the Office of Environment & Heritage.

“The waste management plan implemented by the City of Orange is the best that I have seen”, said Syd Smith, Blue Stars Regional Awards judge. “The Orange City Council is a modern, progressive Council with its eye on the future. It is a generous Council that works cooperatively with other surrounding Councils.”

**[ENDS]**

## KNSWB Blue Star Sustainability Regional Awards 2016 Highly Commended and Winners Table

<b>Waste Less, Recycle More Award (Sponsored by the NSW EPA)</b>		
Highly Commended	'Don't Dump, It's Dumb'	Wagga Wagga City Council
Highly Commended	Our Organics Bin – 3 Council Partnership	Cessnock, Maitland and Singleton Councils
Highly Commended	Boomerang Bags Gloucester	Gloucester Tidy Towns Committee (MidCoast Council)
Highly Commended	Problem Household Wastes Recycled	Broken Hill City Council
<b>WINNER</b>	Plastic Police Partnerships	Cross Connections Consulting (Dungong Shire Council)
<b>Hey Tosser! Litter Action Award (Sponsored by the NSW EPA)</b>		
<b>WINNER</b>	Tidy Towns Volunteers Tackle the Litter Issue	Tidy Towns Volunteer Group Broken Hill (Broken Hill City Council)
<b>Going Green Education Award</b>		
Highly Commended	Sandcastles Early Education Centre – Eco Warriors	Sandcastles Early Education Centre and Preschool (Richmond Valley Council)
Highly Commended	Going Green	St Patrick's Primary School (Bega Valley Shire Council)
Highly Commended	2017 Sustainable Living Expo	Bathurst Regional Council
<b>WINNER</b>	Gloucester Primary School Garden Club – Organically Grown	Gloucester Tidy Towns Committee (MidCoast Shire Council)
<b>Young Environmental Achievement Award</b>		
Highly Commended	Bailey-Dickinson Bubb	Orange Tidy Towns Committee (Orange City Council)
<b>WINNER</b>	Hay Girl Guides	Hay Shire Council
<b>Community Environmental Achievement Award</b>		
Highly Commended	Green Bikes	Resource Recovery Australia (Midcoast Council)
Highly Commended	Cowra Nature Based Adventure Playground Committee	Cowra Tidy Towns Committee (Cowra Council)
<b>WINNER</b>	Picitup South Coast	Southern Region Waste Program (Illawara Joint Organisation)
<b>Habitat and Wildlife Guardianship Award</b>		
Highly Commended	Wollombi Brook and Wetlands Wildlife Corridor	Wollombi Tidy Valleys – Sustainable Communities (Cessnock City Council)
Highly Commended	Enhancing and Protecting Biodiversity in the Orange Local Government Area	Orange Tidy Towns Committee (Orange City Council)
Highly Commended	Build It and They Will Use It	Hallidays Point Landcare Group (MidCoast Council)
<b>WINNER</b>	Kyogle Weir Fishways	Kyogle Council
<b>Cultural Heritage Award (Sponsored by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage)</b>		
Highly Commended	Coolamon Fire Museum	Coolamon Lifestyle Group (Coolamon Shire Council)
Highly Commended	Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park Business Sustainability Program	Lithgow Tidy Towns Committee (Lithgow City Council)
Highly Commended	Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council Working to Preserve	Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council (TBLALC)

	Aboriginal Culture, Heritage and Community	(Tweed Shire Council)
<b>WINNER</b>	Orange Regional Museum	Orange Tidy Towns Committee (Orange City Council)
<b>Sustainable Systems Award</b>		
Highly Commended	The Farmers' Creek Masterplan – an inspirational and visionary future	Lithgow City Council
Highly Commended	See Saw Wines	Top Drop Pty Ltd (Cabonne Council)
<b>WINNER</b>	Water and Sewage Treatment Upgrade Projects	Parkes Shire Council
<b>Environmental Achievement Award</b>		
Highly Commended	Sandy Archibald	Murrurundi Landcare Group (Upper Shire Council)
Highly Commended	Julie Holstegge	Milkwood Farm (Shoalhaven Council)
Highly Commended	Wayne Lovis	Broken Hill City Council
<b>WINNER</b>	Trevor Evans	Lithgow Tidy Towns Committee (Lithgow City Council)
<b>Overall Metropolitan Sustainability Award (Represents NSW in the Keep Australia Beautiful National Sustainable Communities Awards)</b>		
Highly Commended	Broken Hill City Council	
Highly Commended	Lithgow Tidy Towns Committee	(Lithgow City Council)
<b>WINNER</b>	Orange City Council	

*\* Please note, Council name in brackets means that the Council does not have a role in the project. It only reflects the project's location.*

**Contact:**

Madeleine Martin, Program Manager KNSWB at [mmartin@knswb.org.au](mailto:mmartin@knswb.org.au), t: 02 8594 4035

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

**About the KNSWB Blue Star Sustainability Awards**

The KNSWB Blue Star Sustainability Awards are KNSWB's sustainability awards program. Through the Blue Stars we recognise and celebrate the hard work of NSW citizens who promote responsible environmental management in their local area.

**About KNSW Beautiful**

Keep NSW Beautiful (KNSWB) is the state's premier organisation for litter reduction and environmental sustainability. Independent and not-for-profit, our focus is to engage communities to make NSW the least littered state in Australia, transforming littering behaviour to create a beautiful and more sustainable environment.

Over a 40-year history we have built a state-wide network of dedicated individuals, businesses, schools, community groups and government bodies striving to deliver a cleaner environment.

Through five core programs we work with communities across regional, metropolitan and coastal NSW to educate and motivate environmental initiatives.