



MEDIA RELEASE
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Australia's Tidiest Town announced

Keep Australia Beautiful has announced the winners of the 2017 Australian Tidy Towns Awards. The sustainability and litter-fighting organisation set out to recognise the hard work undertaken by individuals and groups in rural communities and share these best practices and ideas to continue to improve our vibrant rural towns. Running since 1990, the national awards are sponsored by the [Australian Packaging Covenant](#) and the [Department of the Environment](#).

The finalist for New South Wales, Maitland was highly commended in the **Dame Phyllis Frost Litter Prevention, Waste Management & Resource Recovery** and **Heritage and Culture** categories. The overall Australian Tidy Towns win went to Barmera, South Australia.

Australian Tidy Towns judge Jill Grant said, "The town of Maitland is very well kept and displayed with great pride in the historic buildings and cultural heritage.

"The extensive parks and recreation areas are well integrated throughout the town and display best practice water and land management regimes and use water efficient plantings to minimise future demands as the population and visitation to the region continues to grow."

Val Southam, Interim Chief Executive, Keep Australia Beautiful said, "The pressure from population growth and rural residential development has created additional water and waste demands and increased transport infrastructure. The Council and other regional groups have shown how working together to ensure efficient planning and public consultation can preserve key values and sites throughout the area.

"It's pleasing to see another year of high calibre National finalists from every corner of our amazing country."

The two-day event included a tour of Triabunna that showcased some of the town's excellent projects, which contributed to their win last year; an address by Greg Irons, Wildlife Rescue Campaigner and Former Young Tasmanian of the Year; highlights from Jill Grant's judging tour; finalist case studies; as well as opportunities, which allowed representatives the chance to share information and network with like-minded professionals from around Australia.

This year the program received more than 195 applications, with over 445 category submissions across councils, shires, community groups, schools and individuals.

The full judge reports and winners book are available at kab.org.au.

Australian Tidy Towns winners table 2017

Category	Winner	Highly Commended
Community Action and Wellbeing	Stanley, TAS & Greenbushes, WA	Areyonga (Utju), NT Barmera, SA
Dame Phyllis Frost Litter Prevention, Waste Management & Resource Recovery	Barmera, SA	Maitland, NSW Areyonga (Utju), NT Greenbushes, WA
Environmental Sustainability	Barmera, SA	Horsham, VIC Greenbushes, WA
Heritage and Culture	Stanley, TAS	Maitland, NSW Areyonga (Utju), NT
Young Legends	Barmera, SA	Horsham, VIC Greenbushes, WA
Environmental Education	Barmera, SA Horsham, VIC	Areyonga (Utju), NT Greenbushes, WA
Overall	Barmera, SA	

(ENDS)

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

About the Australian Sustainable Communities Awards

Keep Australia Beautiful seeks to lead, challenge and inspire all Australians to strive for a sustainable and litter free environment. It does this through research, communications programs and awards programs.

Its national awards are known as the Australian Sustainable Communities Awards, which consist of the Tidy Towns, Sustainable Cities, and Clean Beaches Awards. Each awards program commences with state and territory awards and culminates in a national Grand Final event.