

KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL NATIONAL

# SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES- TIDY TOWNS

## AWARDS 2021



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Keep Australia Beautiful gratefully acknowledges the following organisations for supporting the 2021 Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Awards



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## Keep Australia Beautiful Network

### New South Wales

Keep Australia Beautiful NSW  
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### Northern Territory

Keep Australia Beautiful NT  
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### Queensland

Keep Australia Beautiful Association QLD  
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### South Australia

Keep South Australia Beautiful  
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### Tasmania

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### Victoria

Keep Victoria Beautiful  
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### Western Australia

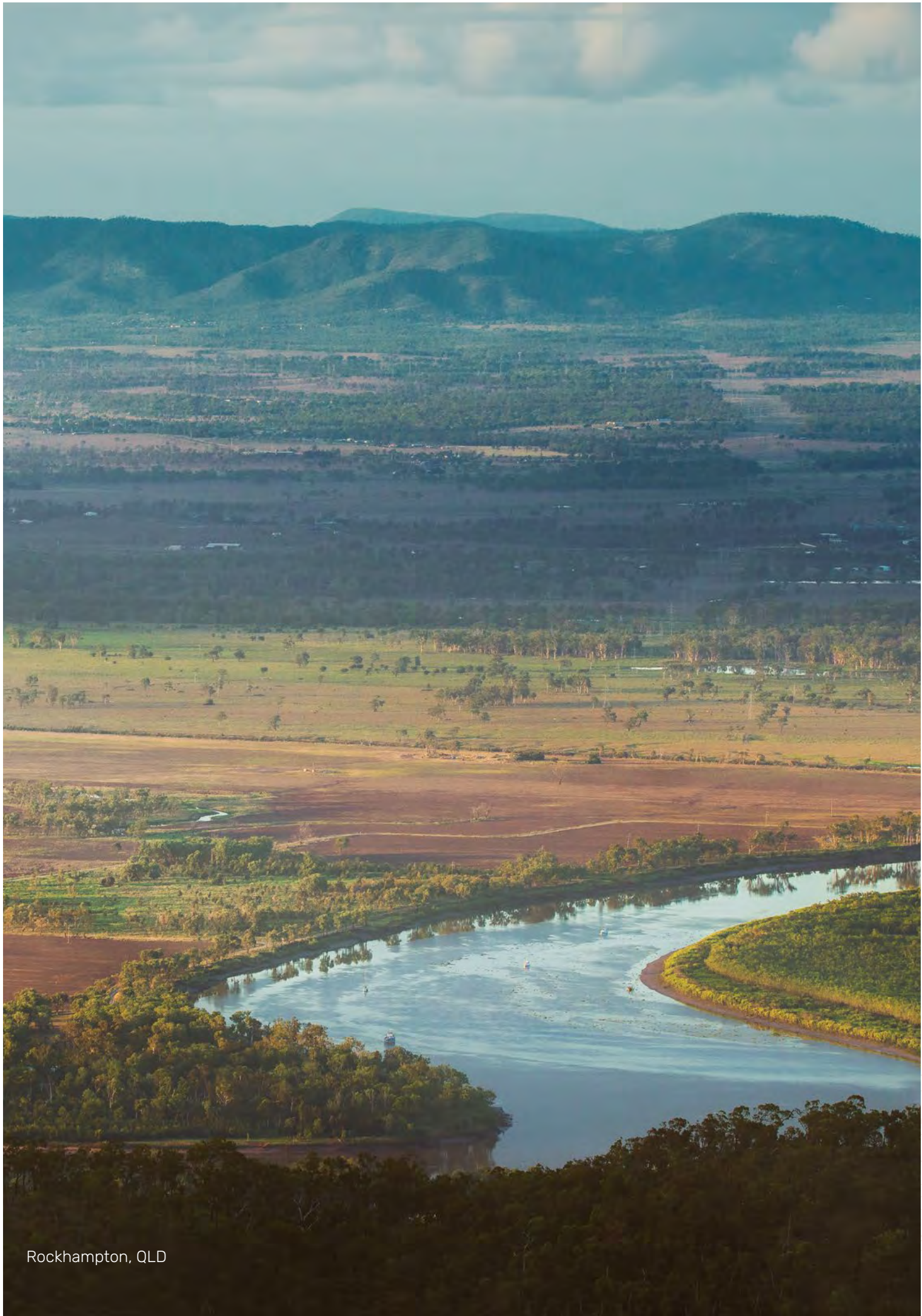
Keep Australia Beautiful WA  
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Rockhampton, QLD



# FOREWORD

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By **Australian Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Judge** Gail Langley



Half a century ago, the Keep Australia Beautiful story began, eventually creating the National Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Awards Program that we know today. Each State and Territory of Australia proudly participates in the National Awards Program each year – a testament to the relevance and respect the program continues to offer!

Sustainability has emerged and continues to highlight the long-term desires and needs of communities who are focused on their longevity and are drawn to providing a healthy environment with a high standard of 'live-ability'.

The nine categories forming the framework for judging provides an enormous opportunity for communities to gauge their strengths, as well as highlight future needs within their community and environment. Undertaking the National submission process itself is an empowering exercise which allows Councils and communities to self-evaluate their scope and sequence for their sustainability balance and timeline.

Each community has its own 'Identity'. The stronger this emphasis is embraced by Council, community groups,

schools, government and non-government agencies, businesses and volunteers, the more uniqueness a community exhibits and the stronger their 'signature' is in promoting themselves!

I sincerely value the cohesive approach Australian communities have demonstrated with the health and safety challenges put before them in the past 18 months. Community values and attitudes have contributed to broader approaches and outlooks – putting their resident population at the forefront of their planning.

Community sustainability has become a stronger focus than ever with communities embracing healthy challenges and becoming even more empowered to provide a safer place to live.

Congratulations to this year's entrants for taking up the challenge of the Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Awards Program.

*Gail Langley*

**Australian Sustainable Communities -  
Tidy Towns Awards Judge**

# ABOUT SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES - TIDY TOWNS



The Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Awards began in 1968 in Western Australia and have been running nationally since 1990.

These awards have evolved to encompass projects and initiatives with a focus on environmental sustainability and resource management to reflect a growing awareness of the importance of community-led environmental action.

The Tidy Towns name has always been synonymous with community pride, cohesion and above all community action. The awards reach beyond tourism to encourage, motivate and celebrate the sustainability achievements of grassroots rural and regional communities across Australia.

The finalists in the Australian Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns competition, who are largely volunteers, are

some of the most dedicated, passionate and colourful people in all the Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Communities awards programs across the country. Year upon year we see a calibre of community action that allows all Australians to aspire to be tidy Aussies.

Each year, state and territory winners from the Keep Australia Beautiful network are announced between August and November. They then receive a visit from the Australian Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns judge, with the Awards presented between March and May.

The awards event, often hosted over two days, consists of networking with sustainability leaders around Australia, finalist presentations showcasing their entries, as well as highlights and suggestions from the Australian Sustainable



Communities - Tidy Towns judge. If the event is hosted by the town of the previous winner, attendees are invited to tour their projects, sustainable solutions and initiatives to learn first-hand what earned them the iconic Australian title.

In addition to a healthy dose of competition, the Australian Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns awards bring together community leaders, environmental champions, young legends and waste warriors from every corner of our great country to share experiences, learn from and inspire each other.

This is the true Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns spirit!





## WALLACE ROCKHOLE, NT

Population: 100

Wallace Rockhole, 100km west of Alice Springs is a Western Arrarnta community founded by the Abbott family in the 1970s as an outstation of Hermannsburg.



## NARROGIN, WA

Population: <5,000

Narrogin is a town hub in the Wheatbelt 193 kilometres south-east of Perth with its foundation based in agriculture..



## PENGUIN, TAS

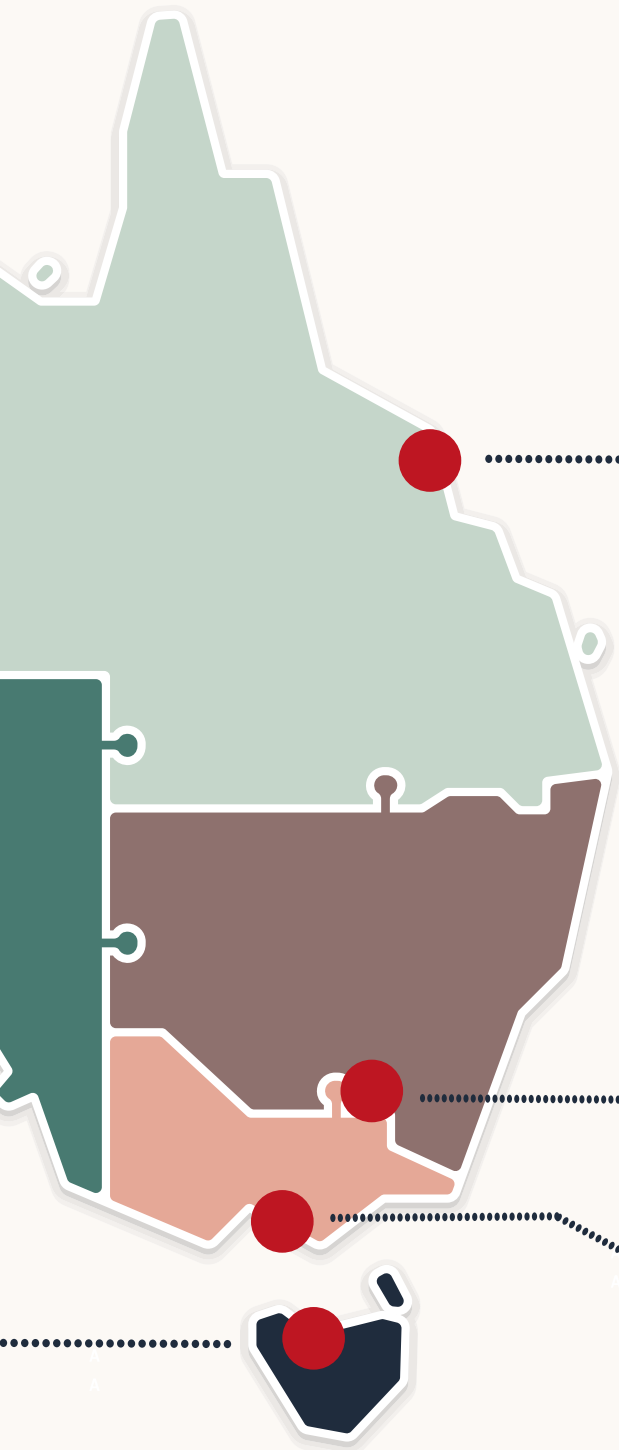
Population: 4,000

Penguin is picturesque seaside town on the north west coast of Tasmania known for its Big Penguin and quirky sense of humour.

*In 2021, there was no entry from South Australia*



# Congratulations 2021 Finalists



## ROCKHAMPTON, QLD

Population: 81,512

Located on the Tropic of Capricorn and home of the Fitzroy River, Rockhampton is located amongst breathtaking surrounds and has a rich and diverse history.

## ALBURY, NSW

Population: 58,290

With city and nature, commerce and culture, community and opportunity, Albury is a place where everyone can find their future.

## HASTINGS, VIC

Population: 10,800

The sea-side town of Hastings on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula has sweeping views over Western Port Bay. It is located within a world-renowned UNESCO Biosphere reserve and adjacent to a Marine National Park.



'Coopers Brewery proudly supports Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Communities – Tidy Towns Program, which aims to encourage, motivate and celebrate the sustainability achievements of rural and regional communities across Australia.

Coopers shares this passion for sustainability, and supports the reward and recognition of regional Australians who are making a difference in their local communities.'

**Dr Tim Cooper AM**  
Managing Director,  
Coopers Brewery

*Coopers*

[coopers.com.au](http://coopers.com.au)

# WINNERS TABLE



## Overall Winner

### **HASTINGS**

Victoria

### **Dame Phyllis Frost Litter Prevention**

**Hastings**  
Victoria

### **Environmental Sustainability – Water**

**Rockhampton**  
Queensland

### **Resource Recovery & Waste Management**

**Albury**  
New South Wales

### **Environmental Sustainability – Natural Environment Management**

**Rockhampton**  
Queensland

### **Heritage and Culture**

**Joint Winners**  
**Wallace Rockhole**  
Northern Territory

**Hastings**  
Victoria

### **Environmental Communication and Engagement**

**Wallace Rockhole**  
Northern Territory

### **Young Legends**

**Individual Winner**  
**Harrison Hansen**  
Hastings, Victoria

**Group Winner**  
**Penguin Groups**  
Penguin, Tasmania

### **Community Health, Wellbeing and Interest**

**Joint Winners**  
**Hastings**  
Victoria

**Narrogin**  
Western Australia

### **Environmental Sustainability – Energy**

**Albury**  
New South Wales





# DAME PHYLLIS FROST LITTER PREVENTION

*This award recognises innovation and achievements in litter prevention or reduction through education, effecting litter management or behaviour change. It is for projects or programs that reduce or prevent litter and could involve behaviour change techniques, the creation of partnerships or networks or the development of effective infrastructure and place design.*

## WINNER

## HASTINGS, Victoria



Hastings entered two unique programs in this category: The 'I Sea I Care Marine Ambassador Program' and the 'A Team'.

The 'I Sea I Care Marine Ambassador Program', devised and created in Hastings, has proven to be so successful, it is now managed by the Education Director and team.

The program aims to empower student voices to become environmental leaders in litter reduction and management. The objective is to promote significant behaviour change, focusing on the key aims of Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle. The program, based at the Hastings Marina, has grown from 25 schools in 2011 to almost 100 in 2021, and is possible through collaborative partnerships with organisations including Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water and local councils including Mornington Peninsula Shire and the City of Casey.

The program is showcased at festivals including the Doveton Show and Casey Green Living Festival.

The 'A Team' is made up of Western Port Secondary College VCAL students aged 15 to 17 years old who participated in a student leadership Program through 'Family Life' Hastings – a non-profit special family services provider working with vulnerable children, families and communities.

As part of the leadership program, students identified numerous social and environmental issues that were impacting Hastings, subsequently becoming passionate about tackling littering and illegal dumping in the area. These environmental warriors called themselves the "A Team".

To maintain sustainable outcomes, the group partnered with Shire and Community groups and used the sustainability Victoria's Litter Action Framework to map, survey and advocate for improvements to benefit the whole community, particularly the socially disadvantaged.





# RESOURCE RECOVERY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

*This award recognises innovation and achievements in recycling or waste reduction including initiatives that conserve resources or recover and re-use materials.*

**WINNER**

**ALBURY, New South Wales**



Waste management infrastructure projects at the Albury Waste Management Centre include the Albury Recycling Centre and the AWARE Recycle and Upcycle Shop, commercial sorting pad, a three weighbridge system and general waste push pit, the Renewable Energy Hub, leachate to sewer treatment plant and a new polystyrene recycling machine.

Plans are under way for a construction and demolition material recovery facility and a mattress processing facility.

A newly established SMART Education Centre has been incorporated at the site with full-time staff providing community education at the centre, as well as visits to schools and other community hubs.

AWARE Industries partnered with AlburyCity to provide meaningful employment to local people with disabilities through the processing and repurposing of second hand goods for sale through the AWARE UpCycle Shop, processing pallets for furniture and kindling and community UpCycling workshops.





# HERITAGE AND CULTURE

*This award recognises outstanding commitment to the conservation and celebration of a community's indigenous and non-indigenous heritage and culture.*

## JOINT WINNER

### WALLACE ROCKHOLE, Northern Territory

Wallace Rockhole is a Western Arrernte community with a population of approximately 100 residents that was founded by the Abbott family in the early 1970s as an outstation of the Hermannsburg Mission.

From its humble beginnings of several tin buildings for the inhabitants to live in, the outstation bloomed into the Wallace Rockhole Community in 1982.

With its attractive setting, community members have developed a successful local store, art centre, campground and a tour business that are all Indigenous owned and operated.

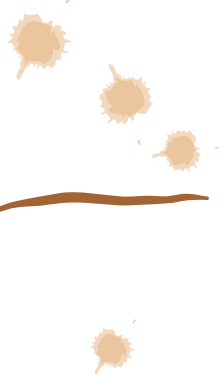
School excursion groups and visitors camp at Wallace Rockhole and have the privilege of learning about and experiencing Indigenous culture, bush tucker and bush medicine, ancient rock art and can take a tour of the unique scenery, as well as encounter the native animals and flora of the region.

Indigenous culture and heritage is very strong in Wallace Rockhole. Visitors are welcomed and are made to feel the significance of the area. Culturally significant events are recognised and respected by all who live and work there.



one of Glenys dot paintings.





**JOINT WINNER**

**HASTINGS, Victoria**



A Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) was developed by the Mornington Shire Council following consultation with the Warringine Group and the Mornington Peninsula Shire's Youth Services Team situated in Hastings.

A diverse group of talented young people teamed up with an Indigenous Hip Hop Project to create lyrics for Rap4 RAP.

Initial lack of engagement from Indigenous young people was a hurdle, with a large need to encourage and build on the proud history of the area's First Nations people.

On a small scale, the outcome was to develop a rap that promoted young Indigenous and non-indigenous voices about the issue of Reconciliation on the Mornington Peninsula, and provide a strong foundation for young people to be proud of their heritage.

On a larger scale, Rap4RAP endeavours to promote a positive Indigenous perspective on the Peninsula. In the long-term, the aim is to reconnect with young people to create Indigenous and Indigenous Allies groups, where young people lead a group sharing their views, thoughts and aspirations.





# YOUNG LEGENDS - INDIVIDUAL

*This award recognises achievements by an individual and/or group of young people (under 25) who have demonstrated significant commitment to the environment and/or have made significant contributions to any of the other categories.*



## WINNER

### **HARRISON HANSEN,** Hastings, Victoria

In his four years at Westernport Secondary College, Harrison has consistently supported the school and local community.

He is a truly exceptional young man who embodies all school values with every interaction, presenting as intelligent, youthful and extremely positive.

Harry supports numerous wider School and community events and initiatives such as: sporting events, community days, open nights, school tours for prospective parents and students.

Despite missing large amounts of class time due to his responsibilities and extra-curricular activities, Harrison values his education and is one of the school's best students.







# YOUNG LEGENDS - GROUP

## WINNER

### PENGUIN GROUPS, Penguin, Tasmania

Penguin boasts great involvement from younger groups within their town.

In 2020, the Penguin Surf Club was named the best Australian Club of the Year in the Surf Life Saving Australia National Awards. The Club has approximately 50 active lifesavers, undertaking nearly 1200 volunteer patrol hours over Summer.

Run by volunteers, the 'Nippers' (aged 5 to 13) participate across three sessions each week in learning lifesaving skills both on and off the beach. A huge emphasis is placed on the 'Nippers' at the Surf Life Saving Club to ensure a healthy future for the Club for many years to come.

The Penguin 7 Day Makeover Team utilised funds from a Tasmanian Community Fund Grant to vinyl wrap bollards with artwork from Penguin District School students. The brief - "What does Penguin mean to me?" - promoted Penguin community's young voices.

"The Rock" group hold Youth Groups each Friday night, Kids Rock for Kinder to Grade 5, a parents' room, 'Mainly Music' weekly for young children and their parents and other special events that often draw over 100 attendees.

The Central Coast Council provides opportunities for the development and growth of young people and engages them in community decision making by inviting youth representatives to meetings.





# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY - ENERGY

*This award recognises leadership and innovation in energy conservation and management in the face of a changing environment.*

**WINNER**

## **ALBURY, New South Wales**



AlburyCity is leading the way in energy conservation and management across its own facilities and with the business and household communities. "Albury 2030" – Council's Community Strategic Plan – seeks to investigate and promote energy saving initiatives and renewable energy to individuals, business and industry.

Solar has been installed across 14 Council managed facilities with systems sized to match consumption patterns.

In 2019/20, the inaugural Community Energy Fund was launched with the aim to reduce the energy consumption, costs and associated greenhouse gas emissions of leased Council buildings. This is achieved through funding either renewable energy projects and/ or energy efficiency measures of fixed infrastructure, and is overseen by the Council's Sustainability Advisory Committee.

The Albury Waste Management Centre partnered with LMS Energy to create a Renewable Energy Hub featuring an electricity generator powered by landfill biogas and 4,000 solar panels with an electric vehicle charger. Enough renewable electricity is generated each year to power more than 1,900 homes.

A viewing platform provides school students and community groups a close-up view of the Renewable Energy Hub.





# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY - WATER

*This award recognises leadership and innovation in water conservation and management for the future.*

**WINNER**

## **ROCKHAMPTON, Queensland**



In 2020, Rockhampton Regional Council reaffirmed its commitment to protecting the Great Barrier Reef by signing up to the Reef Guardian Council program for a further four years.

The 'From River to Reef' program aims to improve water quality in the Rockhampton Region, working to support a healthy and resilient reef through local government and community actions – a key objective within the *Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2018-2022*.

The Fitzroy River estuary is a vitally important waterway that supports an abundance of aquatic wildlife and provides significant recreational value to the local community. Historically, all the effluent from Rockhampton's three sewage treatment plants was discharged to the Fitzroy River estuary.

Rockhampton Regional Council has implemented recent upgrades that have delivered a significant reduction in nitrogen released to the Fitzroy River estuary. Significant strategies saw the installation of new aeration systems and dedicated anoxic zones to improve nitrogen removal. This upgrade work and the construction of a new pipeline enables the ageing West Rockhampton Sewage Treatment Plant to be decommissioned and its sewage inflow directed to the upgraded South Rockhampton Sewage Treatment Plant.

The completion of other renewal and upgrade works at the nearby North Rockhampton Sewage Treatment Plant have also improved performance. Work is also ongoing to complete the establishment of recycled water schemes and improved biosolids management at the North and South Rockhampton Sewage Treatment Plants.





# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY - NATURAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT

*This award recognises the protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural environment.*

**WINNER**

## **ROCKHAMPTON, Queensland**



Mount Archer (Nurim) is one of the region's most iconic locations that has seen an incredible transformation over the past few years.

Following Cyclone Marcia in 2015, an ambitious plan to protect and enhance Nurim and to activate it as a significant natural and cultural asset began.

Having received funding from both the State and Federal governments, Council partnered with the Darumbal people, the community, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to enact the *Mount Archer Activation Master Plan, Nurim*.

The plan celebrates culturally significant stories, language and artwork, with extensive work carried-out to date including a new all-abilities walking circuit, an elevated boardwalk, lookouts, nature play area, interpretive signage, bush regeneration, an amphitheatre and gather circles.

Mount Archer was awarded a Trip Advisor 2020 Travellers' Choice Award as testament to the successful collaborative activation of the site.

Council continues to protect, maintain and enhance Nurim as an important natural and cultural asset and plans to continue to work with the Darumbal people and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service as the next stage of work commences to improve trail heads and bushwalking opportunities in the adjacent National Park.





# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY - COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

*This award recognises outstanding achievements in raising awareness in environmental sustainability, leading to empowerment and behaviour change amongst the target audience. Open projects from both formal and informal educational institutions, for example: community groups, business, childcare centres etc.*

## WINNER

### WALLACE ROCKHOLE, Northern Territory



At the heart of Wallace Rockhole are the First Nations people and a community that is wholly run and maintained by the Arrernte people.

Through stories and sharing of knowledge by the Traditional Owners, the environmental awareness is maintained, creating unique affinity with Country that if not maintained, will be lost to future generations.

Education about the environment is initiated in the school and is carried through to adulthood via work, being supported at Local Authority meetings.

Wherever possible, consuming bush tucker that is prepared using traditional methods, is encouraged and preferred. This ensures that ancestral knowledge is passed on through the generations.

The local Council also assists with a Healthy Communities program called "Get Grubby" and "Get UnGrubby". Colourful characters Costa, Dirt Girl and Scrap Boy visit Wallace Rockhole School and run children's education programs and events focusing on healthy practices that include growing plants, trees and foods, as well as practicing healthy gardening hygiene.





# COMMUNITY HEALTH, WELLBEING AND INTEREST

*This award recognises innovation and achievements in litter prevention or reduction through education, effecting litter management or behaviour change. It is for projects or programs that reduce or prevent litter and could involve behaviour change techniques, the creation of partnerships or networks or the development of effective infrastructure and place design.*

## JOINT WINNER

### HASTINGS, Victoria



During the devastating 2020 bushfires, local agencies through the Incident Control Centre and Royal Australian Navy, were looking at options to assist 4,000 people gathered on the beach at Mallacoota.

Overall command was through the State Control Centre, the sea phase was coordinated by the Royal Australian Navy, the shore phase at Mallacoota was coordinated by VicPOL and supported by Red Cross. The shore phase in Westernport was through the Regional Controller with Mornington Peninsula Shire providing local coordination of agencies to facilitate the repatriation of evacuees to family.

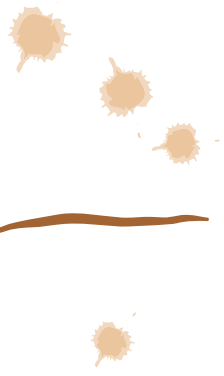
The first evacuees arrived on 4 January 2020 at Blue Scope Wharf in Hastings, with the Council having less than 48 hours to establish an Emergency Relief Centre and engage all relevant support agencies, volunteers and contractors.

This time factor effectively allowed Council to implement its *Municipal Emergency Management Plan*, which enabled local planning and coordination to occur that ultimately underpinned the success of the event. The outcome of the repatriation process was an extraordinarily well organised initiative that saw approximately 1,025 people and 150 pets transported by sea from Mallacoota to Hastings.

The Hastings community supported the initiative, accommodated people in their own homes, donated food and essential items and were there to help.

The Evacuation was a huge success and the Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre approach means it could be used or modified by other organisations for emergency situations.





## JOINT WINNER

# NARROGIN, Western Australia

Situated two-and-a-half hours south-east of Perth, Narrogin – with a population of approximately 4,500 – has developed a major focus on sporting facilities, as well as park areas for children and families, with most boasting newly erected amenities and facilities blocks.

Narrogin’s sporting facilities include two beautifully maintained AFL grounds, international standard hockey fields where two international competition matches were hosted in recent years, artificial turfed netball and basketball courts, tennis courts, bowling greens, an indoor swimming centre with gym, trotting and race track, power boat racing, a go-cart track, speedway race track, a velodrome and a skate park – to name a few.

Some of the sports grounds and play equipment parks are ‘sensory friendly’, including signage, with numerous newly constructed amenity blocks.





Narrogin, Western Australia



A person wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a floral dress is walking away from the camera on a dirt path through a forest of tall, thin trees. The trees have light-colored bark and dense green foliage. The scene is captured in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. A semi-transparent light blue rectangular area is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text.

# PREVIOUS WINNERS

- 2020** Beechworth, VIC
- 2019** Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa), NT
- 2018** Smithton, TAS
- 2017** Barmera, SA
- 2016** Triabunna, TAS
- 2015** Toodyay, WA
- 2014** Sheffield, TAS
- 2013** Victor Harbor, SA
- 2012** Caloundra, QLD
- 2011** Lithgow, NSW
- 2010** Beechworth, VIC
- 2009** Tamworth, NSW
- 2008** Toowoomba, QLD
- 2007** Swansea, TAS
- 2006** Collie, WA
- 2005** Mount Gambier, SA
- 2004** Port Vincent, SA
- 2003** Wyalkatchem, WA
- 2002** Soldier's Point / Salamander Bay, NSW
- 2001** Horsham, VIC
- 2000** Batchelor, NT
- 1999** Goolwa, SA
- 1998** Denmark, WA
- 1997** awards not held
- 1996** Stanley, TAS
- 1995** Kiama, NSW
- 1994** Naracoorte, SA
- 1993** Lucindale, SA
- 1992** Forbes, NSW
- 1991** Mount Gambier, SA
- 1990** Mt Tyson, QLD



# OVERALL 2021 WINNER HASTINGS, VICTORIA



The sea-side town of Hastings on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula has sweeping views over Western Port Bay. It is located within a world renowned UNESCO Biosphere reserve and is adjacent to a Marine National Park.

Hastings, with a population of 10800, was a recipient of four awards, two of which were joint, scoring highly in the remaining categories to become 2021 Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Overall Winner.

Hastings was awarded:

- The **Dame Phyllis Frost Litter Prevention Award** with the impressive 'I Sea I Care Marine Ambassador Program', which continues to grow in popularity; and the efforts of the 'A Team', which is making a difference, particularly to the socially disadvantaged sector of Hastings.

- The **Heritage & Culture Award** (joint winner) for the Reconciliation Action Plan, which was developed with the Warringine Group and the Mornington Peninsula Shire's Youth Services Team. The diverse group of talented young people devised an Indigenous Hip Hop project complete with lyrics and choreography.
- The **Young Legends - Individual Award** received by Harrison Hansen.

The Western Port Secondary College student is a very impressive person whose life seems to unceasingly revolve around assisting in, and running as many events in his school and the Hastings community.

- The **Community, Health, Wellbeing and Interest Award** (joint winners) awarded for the 'Mallacoota to Hastings Evacuation' following the devastating



2020 bushfires, which required 1025 people and 150 pets to be transported by sea.

The Blue Scope Wharf in Hastings and the Council had less than 48 hours to establish an Emergency Relief Centre and engage all relevant support agencies, volunteers and contractors. The evacuation was a huge success and provides a framework for future emergency training.

The Hastings community and Keep Victoria Beautiful showcased the town and showed there is a strong focus on striving to become more sustainable each year, with the community demonstrating consultation, collaboration and inclusion to implement successful projects.

There has been a strong focus on determining perceived needs of future generations as well as valuing and caring for the abundant natural resources in their local area.

Hastings not only caters well for those living in the town but also provides a worthwhile place to visit, boasting unique seaside and inland features.





**Put rubbish  
in the  
right bin**

