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FOREWORD

By Australian Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Judge Gail Langley

Decades of participation by the States and Territories of Australia are testament to the relevance and respect the "Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns" program continues to offer.

The extraordinary commitment and involvement by local councils, non-government agencies, community groups, schools, businesses and volunteers is admirable along with the healthy social and welfare benefits it brings.

It is increasingly evident that communities are embracing the concepts of their environments becoming more sustainable. All the awards categories are well understood and where possible, uniqueness is added to suit a community situation, creating some exciting and inspiring programs for judging.

The undertaking of a community to forge ahead focusing on creating a more sustainable future for themselves and others is empowering. The Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Awards program offers a proven framework for councils and their communities to analyse their situation and target areas of need or create a niche for their town. Those Councils that recognise and value community consultation and collaboration and who value their volunteers are creating successful ventures together. Creating successful projects creates enormous community pride sustainability is reassurance for communities and their future – certainly worth celebrating!

The State and Territory winning Councils and town groups coming together to learn from each other's community projects is an integral part of the Keep Australia Beautiful National Awards program - providing a rewarding and productive time of sharing.

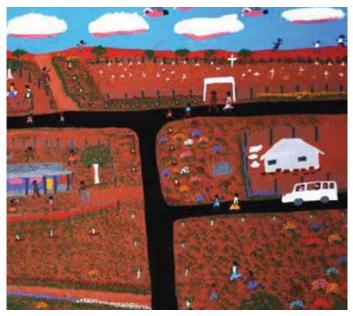
I sincerely value the difference Keep Australia Beautiful makes in communities and celebrate the creating of more sustainable futures for each and every town who takes up the challenge of entering the competition at state and national level. It is the only program of its kind which provides a unique opportunity for communities to assess their position and focus on areas of need and achieve results together to become more sustainably healthy – to grow stronger for longer!



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.

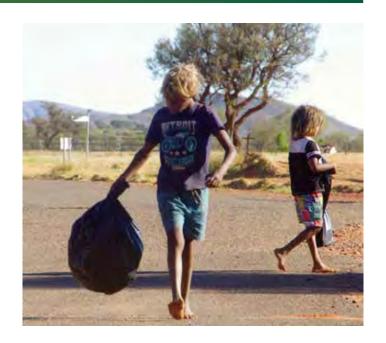
The awards event, often hosted over two days, consists of networking with sustainability leaders around Australia, finalist presentations showcasing their entries, as well as highlights and suggestions from the Australian Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns judge. If the event is hosted by the town of the previous winner, attendees are invited to tour their projects, sustainable solutions and initiatives to learn firsthand 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.



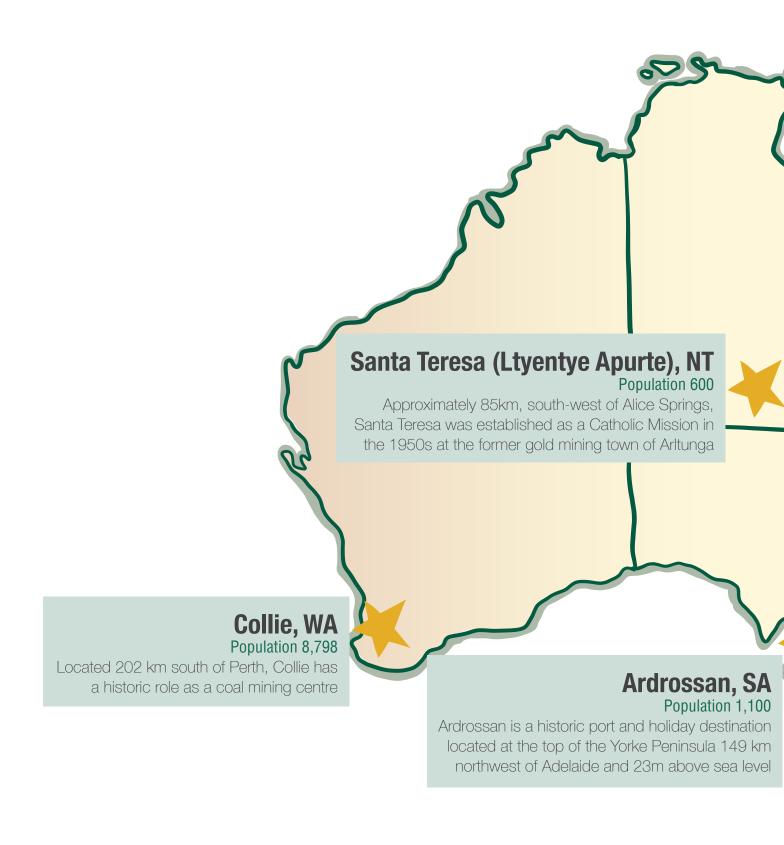


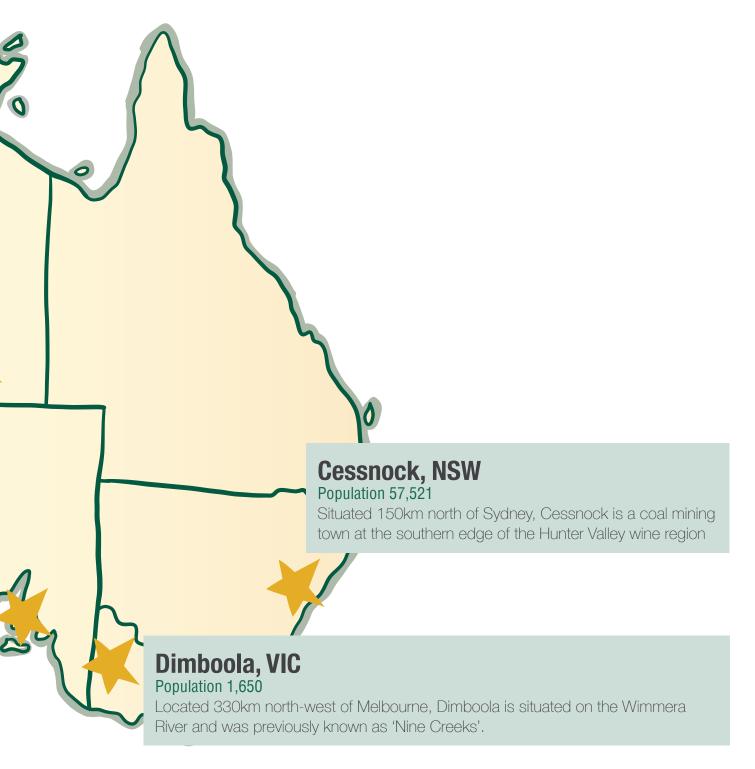






CONGRATULATIONS FINALISTS!







Oatlands, TAS Population 638

Positioned inbetween Hobart and Launceston, Oatlands has the largest collection of sandstone Georgian houses of any town in the country

WINNERS TABLE

OVERALL WINNER

Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)

Northern Territory

Dame Phyllis Frost Litter Prevention

Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)

Northern Territory

Resource Recovery and Waste Management

Cessnock

New South Wales

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)

Northern Territory

Heritage and Culture

Oatlands

Tasmania

Young Legends

GROUP

Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School - Student Representative Council

Santa Teresa, Northern Territory

INDIVIDUAL

Lauren Jackson

Collie, WA

Environmental Sustainability - Energy

Ardrossan

South Australia

Environmental Sustainability - Water

Dimboola

Victoria

Environmental Sustainability -Natural Environment Management

Ardrossan

South Australia

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Collie

Western Australia

Environmental Communication and Engagement

Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)

Northern Territory

Community Health, Wellbeing and Interest

Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)

Northern Territory

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 SANTA TERESA (LTYENTYE APURTE), NT





Santa Teresa's litter management strategy is driven through the support of the local community.

Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School supported MacDonnell Regional Council in leading a positive behaviour strategy for the residents of Santa Teresa. A highly effective working relationship was developed and grew to include a wide range of community stakeholders including: Atyenhenge-Atherre Aboriginal Corporation, NT Health, NT Police, CatholicCare NT, Santa Teresa Catholic Mission, the Ltyentye Apurte Rangers along with the Keep Australia Beautiful - Eco Schools program.

Educating school students and immersing the whole community to create a cleaner, healthier, more positive environment to live and share with others has been achieved. School students developed 'Bilingual' posters such as "There's NO SHAME in picking up rubbish", created a 12-page Community Education Pamphlet, designed posters which were turned into metal signs for display around the community, implemented a school bin system and were proactive in working bees.

Regular stakeholder meetings continue with the aim of having zero litter in the community – the community's previous rubbish problem has been remarkably transformed.



Rubbish kwetyemele anaye a<u>PURIRRET</u>yele!

There's <u>NO SHAME</u> in picking up rubbish!



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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 CESSNOCK, NSW





Officially opened in November 2017, a key consideration for the design of the Cessnock Waste Management Centre Transfer Station was to have an attractive appearance and the feel of a professional management facility rather than a dump. The inclusion of colour-bond metal finishes, areas of turf, rock gabions and recycled glass features have created an aesthetically pleasing space with a focus on safety for those accessing the facility.

The transfer station was designed to direct customers past a series of drop-off points for various recoverable materials and household problem wastes. The final drop-off point is a mixed waste push-pit, designed to provide a final opportunity to recover materials for recycling. Within 6-months of opening, the facility saw a 17% increase in recovery of source-separated materials.

The facility heralds a new era for waste management in the Cessnock local government area and is part of a 10-year landfill expansion project - a worthy award winner - an outstanding example of resource recovery and waste management.







HIGHLY COMMENDED SANTA TERESA (LTYENTYE APURTE), NT





MacDonnell Regional Council identified that the landfill at Santa Teresa, in its present location, was unable to meet the standards set out in the Central Australian Remote Landfill Operating Manual*. This was largely due to legacy issues, geographical location and areas of cultural significance to the custodians of the county.

After a two-year consultation period with community stakeholders, traditional owners and the land trust, a new site was identified, and work commenced developing the new landfill in late 2018. The new landfill is designed with the objective of minimising disposal to land and comprises two main areas, the Council landfill compound, and the public drop off areas which will have eleven distinct separation bays with standardised signage that is used across the Central Australian Region for segregating recyclable materials.

*The Central Australian Remote Landfill Operating Manual is one of a set of waste management guidelines developed by the Central Australian Waste Management Working Group, whose aim is to work collaboratively, discuss regional waste management and environmental health issues, along with developing sustainable and best practice waste management for remote communities







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Keep Australia Beautiful Week 2019

19-25 August 2019

Keep Australia Beautiful Week is held late August each year to raise awareness about the simple things we can all do in our daily lives to reduce our impact on the environment and encourage action.

For more information visit www.kab.org.au

HERITAGE AND CULTURE

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

WINNER OATLANDS, TAS





Oatlands boasts the largest number of intact Georgian buildings in a Village environment in Australia – it is a 'living and active' historic Village. Council's commitment to 'heritage' includes a Heritage team on staff, comprising an Archaeologist, a Heritage Research and Projects Officer and a Heritage Collections and Management Officer and many major restorations that are currently in progress.

Oatlands first Heritage & Bullock Festival was held in 2018 and proved to be an extremely successful celebration of local heritage and culture. It was estimated 5,200 people attended the Festival over the two days. Based on an estimated spending in accordance with the 'Reinventing Rural Places' Report, \$260,000 was the economic benefit to the community derived from the Festival. An estimated 653 volunteer hours went into the planning, activities and windup of the Festival.

The Festival success was largely attributed to the planning model devised which included: listening to the community; using exceptionally well-respected community individual leaders; underpinning those community leaders with solid and enthusiastic clusters of people; creating a group of conveners for each cluster of activities; engagement with community through existing community groups; engaging with the local business' and finally, the coming together of an energetic and passionate committee who were fun to work with and outcome focused.







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YOUNG LEGENDS

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.

INDIVIDUAL WINNER LAUREN JACKSON, COLLIE, WA





Collie's 2018 Young Citizen of the Year, local, 22-year-old Lauren, has completed a Master of International Development and is currently studying a Juris Doctor Law Degree at UWA. Lauren always finds time to do amazing community work while also working part-time as a law clerk at St John of God Health Care.

In 2015, Lauren was an international teacher volunteer in Kenya which inspired her to become a co-founder of "Children of Masai Educational Programme" (CMEP) – a non-for-profit organisation registered as both a community-based organization in Kenya and a charity in Australia. CMEP aims to 'reduce the underlying causes of poverty and improve health services and food security' by providing basic needs such as health care to children in the Masai area of Kenya and promoting a fulfilling and prosperous education. As well as fundraising and collecting clothing and shoes for the children, Lauren returns to Kenya periodically to help out.

Lauren also demonstrates a deep commitment to the South West Industry Road Safety Alliance by sharing her experience of the effects of losing a loved one in a road accident.

Congratulations Lauren you are a power of inspiration!







GROUP WINNER LTYENTYE APURTE CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL SANTA TERESA, NT





The Student Representative Council at the Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School in Santa Teresa was formed in 2018 with the purpose of conveying a powerful environmental message to all households in Santa Teresa and ultimately take on Santa Teresa's litter problem and educate their community for the future prevention of litter in their town – aiming for zero litter!

A Community Education Pamphlet outlining key information for residents was created and hand delivered to all households and businesses in town. It provided key information about the community's new rubbish disposal and recycling facilities (nearing completion) and what householders can do at home to help the litter cause.

The Student Representative Council members worked in partnership with MacYouth on this project. MacYouth - MacDonnell Regional Council Youth Services delivers activities to young people between ages of 12 – 25 living in remote indigenous communities. MacYouth aims to progress indigenous people into roles of leadership, to facilitate culturally relevant and engaging youth programs and contribute to

workplace sustainable development. They work collaboratively and in partnership with many other agencies, stakeholders and community members to provide young people with improved life choices and outcomes.

The Student Representative Council and MacYouth are an outstanding example of a successful partnership - working together to achieve a targeted outcome for a whole community!





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ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- ENERGY

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

WINNER ARDROSSAN, SA





The Ardrossan community and partnerships are committed to energy efficiency and to ensuring energy is conserved in all its developments.

Tidy Towns and the Ardrossan Community and Men's Shed have registered with the South Australian Government Energy Partners Program which identifies methods to assist South Australians at a local level to manage their energy use and costs through provision of information, resources and training delivery.

There has been a progressive conversion in various community facilities from inefficient lighting to LED lighting along with the installation of energy efficient refrigeration systems for cool rooms and fridges and efficient air-conditioning where possible to reduce energy use, improve night lighting and save operational costs throughout community.

Over 3200 solar panels have been installed on nearly a third of the occupied buildings/residences in town. Estimates compared to actual records indicate that these combined would conservatively generate 1 gigawatt of energy per year - for a town with a population of only 1,100.

Ardrossan have adopted a proactive approach using energy conservation and management to benefit the whole community!







ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY- WATER

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

WINNER DIMBOOLA, VIC





Following extensive damage caused by flooding of the Wimmera River in 2011, a partnership was formed between the Dimboola Boat and Water Ski Club, Hindmarsh Shire Council, Wimmera Catchment Authority and the Dimboola weir pool user group.

A four-point management plan was developed to protect the river and create an environment for all users to share: correct water level management that minimises soil erosion; community education regarding use practices on the river; working with Hindmarsh Shire Council to negotiate By-Laws that restrict the type of boating and use of the river; and development of a native water weed planting program.

This program is an ongoing process – with continual monitoring and adjustment particularly with the ongoing trials and planting of water weed. The community take responsibility for abiding by the rules and promoting the changes which are now evident with river bank erosion being arrested.

The Wimmera River Partnership is a great example of passionate local people who were concerned for the environmental sustainability of their river, they developed a plan and lead the program to a point where it has been successful and is now in a monitoring phase.







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ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY - NATURAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT

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

WINNER ARDROSSAN, SA





With the support of the Ardrossan community, the State Government partnered with the Nature Conservancy and the Yorke Peninsula Council to develop the Windara Shellfish Restoration Reef, which started in 2017 with 4 hectares of reef being created using a mixture of 800 tonnes of Limestone rock and 50 custom concrete structures layered with Pacific Oyster shells.

The shellfish reef is the first of its kind in South Australia and is the largest shellfish restoration effort in Australia. The local community has supported efforts to develop the reef by donating their time to pilot fishing boats to survey the seafloor and by donating powered caravan sites where the truck carrying the oyster spat was based during the seeding of the reef.

In December 2018, the reef was expanded to 20 hectares with an approximate cost of \$4.2million to establish. The 20-hectare reef is critical to improve marine biodiversity and will provide food and habitat to support fish production, increase water quality and assist with coastal erosion.

The reef will result in economic and social benefits to the community as fishing is one of the major tourism draws. It is estimated this reef could increase fish stocks by up to 500 tonnes and provide opportunity to develop ecotourism for diving on the reef.







HIGHLY COMMENDED COLLIE, WA





The people of Collie demonstrate a whole community emphasis on their natural environment and are approaching sustaining their natural environment in many ways.

The innovative Collie 'Seed Library' in co-operation with the very active Community Garden Group is underway and will be housed at the Collie Public Library. The local residents, school groups and community organisations will be able to access local seeds for planting.

Collie have attempted the largest ever planting of the native Naytsia Floribunda (WA Christmas tree) – this planting is being keenly watched by Kings Park in Perth along with others. Another 200 seedlings have been raised to be planted out this winter with additional 400 seedlings requested for 2020.

All five primary schools in Collie are actively involved with the South32 Junior Landcare Enhancing Habitat Grants Program. The schools collectively use waste wise school bin systems, grow vegetable gardens, fruit trees, herb gardens, maintain worm farms, compost systems, grow water-wise plants, and plant shrubs and ground covers in adjacent bush to improve habitats for native wildlife such as bandicoots and black cockatoos.

The education taking place in all of the Collie schools about their natural environmental and the sustaining of it, is outstanding!







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ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATION AND 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 SANTA TERESA (LTYENTYE APURTE), NT





MacDonnell Regional Council (MRC) understands that the children in communities across the MRC area are the key to making environment change into the future.

During 2017/18 MRC acquired the 'Get Grubby Program' for use at all early learning centres. The program contains ten sustainability units for early learners featuring special videos from Dirtgirl, Costa the Garden Gnome and Scrapboy with songs, clips and heaps of activities, games and ideas for teaching/learning.

The launch of the "Get Grubby Program" included a visit by Costa the Garden Gnome, Dirtgirl and Scrapboy for Eco Week. Eco Week was supported by all stakeholders in the community and the day promoted a 'fairground fun feel' which included local bands, stalls, a jumping castle and teams of people doing bush wok cooking.

Santa Teresa Catholic School includes 'environmental literacy' as part of the curriculum, with students participating in anti-litter/recycling classroom workshops. Students are more environmentally aware and much less likely to litter than they were in the past. As these students are the future adult population and leaders of Santa Teresa, the school is creating sustainable change with this audience.







COMMUNITY HEALTH, WELLBEING AND INTEREST

This award recognises initiatives for the health and well-being of a community to build a strong, healthy, vibrant and accessible community.

WINNER SANTA TERESA (LTYENTYE APURTE), NT





The Santa Teresa community are engaging in an extensive range of worthwhile and meaningful Community Health and Wellbeing Programs:

- Community wide nutrition program Merne
 Mwarre in response to a rise in diabetes type
 2 and low iron levels in the population.
- Pregnant women and young mum's incentive program - aimed to increase attendances for key appointments
- Melbourne Football Club cultural immersion trips
- 'Our Country and Our People' Local staff camp out with MRC
- Horse Program students with high levels of attendance and behaviour learn to ride and care for horse out bush.
- Development of social enterprise Traditional Craft Centre; Hair Salon and Store Precinct Development
- Community Awareness Events Tidiest Yard ad Christmas lights Competitions
- Regional Sports Events including the annual Santa Teresa Horse Race
- The MacYouth Skate Program Musical instruments and a sound recording system/ room allow teenagers to write and produce music

There is a respectful and meaningful feeling about the way the Santa Teresa Indigenous community involve themselves in the various programs offered.







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OVERALL WINNER





"Congratulations" to Santa Teresa winner of the Keep Australia Beautiful -Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns National Award 2019.

The Ltyentye Apurte Community (Santa Teresa) in collaboration with a wide range of community stakeholders including Atyenhenge-Atherre Aboriginal Corporation (AAAC), NT Health, NT Police, CatholicCare NT. Santa Teresa Catholic Mission and Ltyentye Apurte Rangers and MacDonnell Ranges Council (MRC) demonstrated thorough planning and execution of all nine categories of the Keep Australia Beautiful - Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns National Competition.

The Ltyentye Apurte people are a sustainable community strong of character who are continually evolving - they have been challenged to grow more environmentally and educationally sustainable with outstanding success. The Santa Teresa community can stand proud among other Northern Territory Indigenous Communities and Australia can be proud of Santa Teresa's journey!

The four categories won by Santa Teresa were: The Dame Phyllis Frost Litter Prevention Award, The Environmental Communication and Engagement Award, The Community Health and Wellbeing Award and also won the Group Young Legends Award. They also won a Highly Commended Award for The Resource Recovery and Waste Management Award. The details of these winning categories can be read under each category award section.

Santa Teresa scored extremely high in the remaining five categories - here is glimpse of Santa Teresa's achievements in those areas.

Education and skills-based training has become a strong focus for the Santa Teresa Community. Santa Teresa currently employ approximately sixty percent of their own people; their aim is to employ one hundred percent of local people to work in their town. Tourism has a successful economic base for the people of Santa Teresa who have earned their reputation in the arts and crafts field for their use of original methods and mediums and the high quality produced.

A unique example of preserving history and culture was celebrated with the production of a video entitled "The Stone Houses" by Mary Flynn and Maya Newell for the Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation and Jesuit Social Services. The video tells the stories of what Santa Teresa mission was like back in the 1950's. Original footage shows scenes of everyday life in the village including the men making their stone houses. This is a profoundly moving encounter which preserves the lives of the people of the day while includes some of the same elders interviewed sixty years on, recognizing themselves and their ancestors. Indigenous men's and women's ceremonies are still in practice today.

SANTA TERESA (LTYENTYE APURTE)

Notable research between the CSIRO and the Santa Teresa community over a 60-year period concluded with a booklet being produced on the topic of climate change. This historic data provides evidence of a change in the climate at Santa Teresa over these years – and includes many quotes from Ltyentye Apurte elders who explain how the climatic change in their environment has impacted on their lifestyle and has changed the Indigenous way of life.

Environmental energy and water sustainability are a strong focus in this remote community with the introduction of solar lights in community parks and a strategy of introducing energy efficient technologies into all facilities. The implementation of a smart water metering project has had significant success, including identification and resolution of loss of 2KL per day, leak identification, the import of accurate water consumer information for billing and individual site and collective water monitoring graphs are provided on a monthly basis. One hundred and fifty smart water meters have been installed in Santa Teresa.

In the area of environmental sustainability – natural environment management, the Ltyentye Apurte Rangers are responsible for the Real Jobs Program - targeting employment in land management, agricultural land tourism sectors and provide on-the-job and accredited training opportunity. Other activities include: youth cultural learning camps, ecological knowledge learning caps, biodiversity monitoring and threatened species, surveying landmarks, monitoring impact of grazing, fire management, fuel reduction works with traditional owners, fire hazard reduction feral animal management, feral animal management, weed management, soil management, erosion conditions, freshwater management, removal of weeds, community education and development and identification of local native plants in Arremte language and shared knowledge of the plants and their uses. An enormous undertaking!





Santa Teresa represents a comprehensive working model of a community driven to strive to create a vibrant sustainable environment for themselves and future generations to live and work. As a community, they continue to evolve through necessity in a changing world, they are willing to learn and adapt in a unique environmental, social and political arena.

I look forward to watching Santa Teresa's future sustainable development growth as a community and wish them much success with future endeavours!

Sincerely,
Gail Langley
Australian Judge, Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns

Keep Australia Beautiful gratefully acknowledges the following organisations for supporting the 2019 Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Awards Event











The TASMANIAN FOOD CO









