Keep
Australia
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SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
TIDY TOWNS

SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES
TIDY TOWNS
AWARDS 2020

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
TIDY TOWNS

Keep Australia Beautiful National Association

Level 1, 268 King Street Newtown NSW 2042

T: 02 8594 4077 E: admin@kab.org.au W: kab.org.au

Keep Australia Beautiful Network

New South Wales

Keep Australia Beautiful NSW
kabnsw.org.au

Northern Territory

Keep Australia Beautiful NT
kabcnt.org.au

Queensland

Keep Australia Beautiful Qld Branch
kabqld.org.au

South Australia

Keep South Australia Beautiful
kesab.asn.au

Tasmania

Keep Australia Beautiful TAS
kabtas.com.au

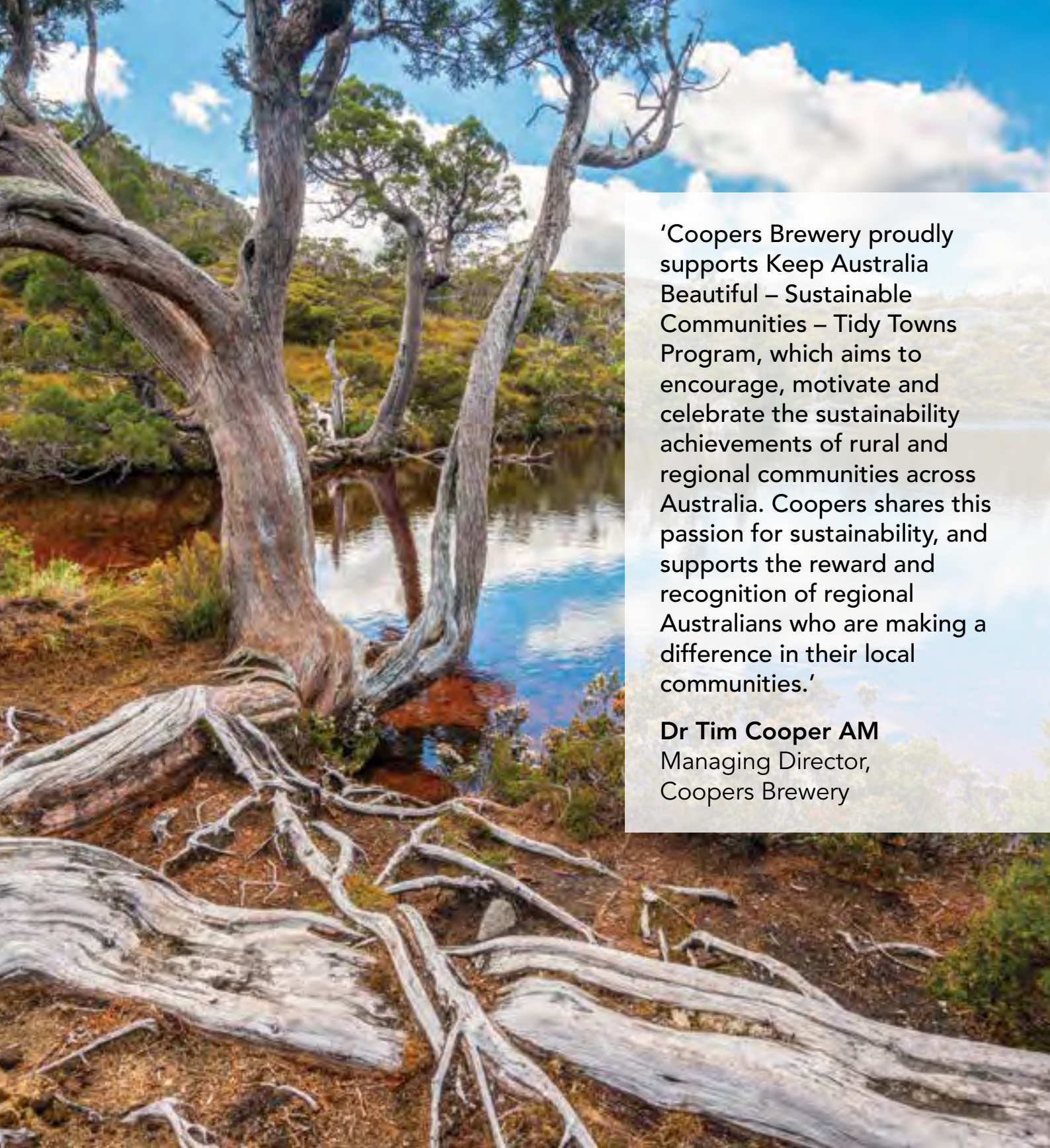### Victoria

Keep Victoria Beautiful
kvb.org.au

Western Australia

Keep Australia Beautiful WA
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Cover photo: 2019 Australian Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Overall Winner - **Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte), NT**

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'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.com.au

FOREWORD

By Australian Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Judge Gail Langley

The Keep Australia Beautiful 2020 National Awards results were finalised and sealed just before the COVID-19 pandemic era, with judging of each State and Territory overall winning town or city completed on the eve of lock-downs commencing.

The towns and cities who take on the challenge of entering the Keep Australia Beautiful Awards Program, demonstrate their readiness to be judged.

They become positive examples of resilience, sustainability and community empowerment able to embrace change and demonstrate grit in what has become an unexpectedly changing world.

The strength communities exhibit – at times under adverse circumstances – indicates an ability to move forward in a positive way to face and adopt necessary changes forced upon them for the well-being of the whole community.

The level of diversity of the unique and individual category entries this year was exemplary and reflected the 'drivers' of these community projects, alongside the quality of the teams working together to achieve their targets and outcomes.

The community volunteers who generously donate their knowledge, experience, energy and time to those around them and for the advancement of their towns are to be congratulated!

Mayors, Councils and their collaborative networks deserve special recognition for their role in entering and succeeding at the Keep Australia Beautiful National Awards Program.

I would like to offer my gratitude to each of the communities visited during this year's judging program.

Thanking you.

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 2020, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the awards event is being held online.

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!

Bunbury, WA
Population 31,776

Bunbury is a port city, known for wild bottlenose dolphins that often swim close to the beach at Koombana Bay.

Mount Gambier, SA
Population 27,176

Halfway between Adelaide and Melbourne, Mount Gambier is known for its limestone, volcanic land-scape and crater lakes.

Nhulunbuy, NT
Population 3,500

Nhulunbuy was created on the Gove Peninsula when a bauxite mine, and a deep water port, were established in the late 1960s, followed by an alumina refinery.

Gympie, QLD
Population 51,586

Located on the Mary River, Gympie is the site of Queensland's first goldrush. It is now primarily a service centre for the surrounding agricultural district.

Murrurundi, NSW
Population 840

Murrurundi is a picturesque town, nestled on the eastern side of the Great Dividing Range and boasts natural beauty, rich farming land and plenty of character.

Beechworth, VIC
Population 4,566

Beechworth is one of Victoria's best-preserved former gold mining towns, situated in the north-east of the state.

Wilmot, TAS
Population 298

Wilmot is a small rural township located in a mountainous region south-west of Devonport and is the last stop before Cradle Mountain.

WINNERS TABLE

Overall Winner

Beechworth
Victoria

Dame Phyllis Frost Litter Prevention

Beechworth
Victoria

Resource Recovery + Waste Management

Mount Gambier
South Australia

Heritage + Culture

Nhulunbuy
Northern Territory

Young Legends

INDIVIDUAL
Bella Burgemeister
Bunbury, Western Australia

GROUP
Nhulunbuy Youth Council
Northern Territory

Environmental Sustainability - Energy

Beechworth
Victoria

Environmental Sustainability - Water

Murrurundi
New South Wales

Environmental Sustainability - Natural Environment Management

Gympie
Queensland

Environmental Communication + Engagement

Beechworth
Victoria

Community Health, Wellbeing + Interest

JOINT WINNERS
| **Bunbury** | **Wilmot** |
| Western Australia | Tasmania |

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

BEECHWORTH, VIC

The 'Student Environment Day' was held for the first time in Beechworth, attracting almost 200 students from the Indigo Shire area.

Run in conjunction with the Indigo Shire and coordinated by the North East Environment Education Directory (SEED) – a uniquely North East Victorian initiative run through a partnership with North East Catchment Management Authority and North East Waste and Resource Recovery Group – the 40th 'Student Environment Day' garnered support of many passionate local supporters and groups ranging from community groups, social enterprises, Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups and art collectives.

Participating students were given the opportunity to learn about closing the loop, the impact of consumerism, up-cycling materials, biodiversity and habitats, sustainability, renewable energy, water and land management and Indigenous culture.

The students were also able to practice being waste-wise by having a rubbish-free lunch (of which they produced the least amount of waste of all 40 events), and water-wise by bringing refillable

water bottles.

Additionally, the students also participated in the biggest swap shop SEED has ever conducted during lunchtime by giving toys, books and clothing they no longer used a second life, subsequently, keeping 218 items out of landfill.

RESOURCE RECOVERY + WASTE MANAGEMENT

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

MOUNT GAMBIER, SA

Mount Gambier established a number of inspiring enterprises that enable the town to recycle effectively and reduce waste.

Its popular annual 'Recycled Runway' event, which has been running since 2013, sees fashion designers transform outdated clothing items into new stylish outfits, with raised funds donated to the local branch of ac care. This year, the event drew the biggest crowd in its history.

In October 2018, Mt Gambier established a second-hand market – the Mount Gambier ReUse Market – which has reduced waste going to landfill by more than 100 tonnes since its opening.

To further its waste reduction efforts, Mount Gambier also installed at its Waste Transfer Station a polystyrene recycling machine, which condenses the material allowing the waste product to be shipped off to be processed into new products.

To build awareness and engage the community as a whole, local Council staff also conducts tours of waste facilities and develops education programs for schools and community groups.

The Council also distributed almost 7,000 kitchen caddies and rolls of compostable bags to support Mount Gambier residents in diverting food waste away from landfill; as well as introducing the 'Compost Revolution', offering discounts on home composting equipment.

A food business organics trial was also initiated, with one local business diverting 2.5 tonnes of food waste from landfill in just over two months.

HERITAGE + CULTURE

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

WINNER

NHULUNBUY, NT

nhulunbuy corporation

Keep Australia Beautiful NT

Nhulunbuy displays a strong focus on preserving, sharing and educating people about their rich culture and history through art; nature; reconnection with land, language and culture; as well as protection of historically significant artefacts.

Murals are used to depict the heritage of Yolngu and Macassans people, as well as the town's military history, mining and European settlement in the area that were of importance to Nhulunbuy's Indigenous people.

More than 130 participants, representing 16 community groups and individuals painted the 100 panels.

Five walking trails showcasing the town's unique natural features and sites of historical significance were established around the town, acknowledging and respecting the Yolngu culture.

Using signage, the trails showcase and provide education on important cultural, historical and wildlife features of the area.

The Arnhemland Historical Society (AHS) supports the very important social fabric and future of the Gove Peninsula and Nhulunbuy.

The society collects, restores, maintains and displays important historical artefacts, memorabilia and documents that record and provide evidence of the role Arnhemland and Gove played in history.

The Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation delivers Learning on Country programs to improve attendance of Yolngu children at school and prepare the next generation of Yolngu landowners to care for their estates.

Nhulunbuy Town Board has also amended its Constitution to include a member from the local Yolngu Indigenous clans to ensure decisions reflect and support the traditional custodians of the town.

YOUNG LEGENDS

INDIVIDUAL WINNER
BELLA BURGEMEISTER,
BUNBURY, WA

Bella, who is a member of the Bunbury Youth Advisory council (YAC), instigated a highly significant project addressing the vulnerable in her community.

The plight of the homeless in Bunbury posed a significant concern for Bella, who felt that they should at least have the ability to store their belongings safely.

Together with the Youth Advisory Council fund, Bella raised $3,000 for lockers, with the Council adding a further $30,000 to the endeavour. These funds allowed 24 lockers to be installed across three sites.

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.

NHULUNBUY YOUTH COUNCIL, NT

nhulunbuy corporation

Keep Australia Beautiful NT

The Nhulunbuy Youth Council was formed in 2019 with the purpose to engage young people in Nhulunbuy Town Board's decision-making processes and increase the Town Board's understanding of young people's perspectives and needs.

To date, members of the Youth Council have been greatly involved with traditional community events, as well as planning and facilitating very successful new events like 'Youth Space', which was attended by 150 Yolngu and Balanda youth.

The Youth Council also supports various sporting club activities, Nhulunbuy's Cans and Bottle Recycling exchange for funds program and educational programs ranging from robotics to youth suicide.

The Nhulunbuy Youth Council demonstrates positive leadership mentoring to the young environmental and cultural champions in their local schools.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY - ENERGY

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

WINNER

BEECHWORTH, VIC

'Totally Renewable Beechworth' (TRB) is a community energy initiative, with the goal for Beechworth and their postcode area to be powered by 100% renewable energy by 2030.

TRB has organised and partnered in community events and networks, led community conversations, raised awareness and delivered actions to achieve this goal.

The community has found that this response to climate change builds and strengthens community resilience and sustainability. By fostering partnerships and by working together, the town benefited as a whole.

A significant focus of Beechworth's efforts is to decarbonise the energy used and secure reliable supply, providing options for owner occupiers, tenants and low-income households to participate and benefit from renewable energy.

Since its inception, TRB has organised and partnered in several community events and networks, led community conversations, raised awareness, and delivered actions to achieve its 100% renewable energy goal, including among

others a collaboration with Mondo Power to provide a solar panel and battery purchase offer for residents and business and community liaison with AusNet services.

The 'Totally Renewable Beechworth' initiative has demonstrated passion and drive, working as a whole community to proactively strive to meet their goal.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY - WATER

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

WINNER

MURRURUNDI, NSW

During the recently prolonged drought, Murrurundi was put on level 6 water restrictions that lasted more than 18 months.

The Murrurundi Public School, which has a great track record of environmental achievements, received outstanding support from local organisations and groups which worked with the school and broader community to develop and implement several impressive projects.

In the past 12 months, the school installed water harvesting solar panels, providing students with drinking water and the ability to refill their bottles at school. This is a significant environmental and cost saving to the school which was previously buying water for students and staff to drink.

Murrurundi Public School has taken the lead from a researcher at the Australian National University's School of Earth Sciences who promotes that hydro panels could potentially provide a creative counter to the greenhouse effect by turning air and sun into drinkable water.

Hydro panels use solar power to produce large-scale condensation, after which water is mineralised and placed in an ozonator where it can be channelled to a nearby tap.

A 10-panel hydro system is capable of producing 3,000 bottles of water per month.

The concepts and installation of hydro panels provided a significant energy and cost saving, while providing sustainability.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY - NATURAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT

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

GYMPIE, QLD

With claims that over 25% of Koala habitat has been lost in Queensland as a result of this season's fires, Gympie's Koala 'Habitat Protection Program' is now even more important.

The Gympie Region is in the enviable position of having several viable koala populations within its boundaries. Council adopted a Koala Conservation Management Plan to guide organisational and community action to ensure the long-term sustainability of Koala populations in the Gympie Region.

The Gympie Regional Community worked directly and in conjunction with various Natural Resource Management (NRM) organisations to create a program that identified and protected koalas in the region.

Council also engaged the University of the Sunshine Coast Detection Dogs for Conservation to undertake koala surveys verifying the significant Koala populations and relied on Queensland University of Technology's heat sensing drone technology to study koala populations at sites in Gympie's Southside.

To date, the program has been responsible for installing wildlife-friendly fencing that protects important natural areas while allowing fauna to move freely; undertaking surveys to verify koala populations; and using Koala Habitat Mapping to create koala habitat values overlay to ensure ecosystems supporting both koalas and other threatened species are protected.

Additionally, the Southside Koala Habitat and Environment and Conservation Precinct (Corridor) Protection mapping program was incorporated to protect koala habitat and travel corridors; and interactive koala dashboard and story maps were developed allowing vital statistics to be updated immediately.

ENVIRONMENTAL 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
BEECHWORTH, VIC

The Beechworth Festival of Change was a community-driven not-for-profit event designed to empower regional communities to take responsibility for their own futures and drive positive change towards a fair, just and sustainable world. The Festival had two key objectives: build change-making skills and build networks of change-makers.

By focusing on skills and networks, rather than individual issues, an environment was created where people working across the social and environmental sectors could come together, learn new skills, make connections and generate ideas and initiatives to create positive change.

The Festival philosophy centred on the ideal of giving, where new ideas could be taken back to communities to make a meaningful difference.

Under several themes, 36 events were on offer at the Festival, which saw 1,274 event bookings in total including attendees from interstate.

Events were held at 10 venues throughout Beechworth to spread the economic benefits to local businesses and embed the Festival in the town.

The Festival was organised and run by volunteers, amounting to a total of 860 volunteer hours. Costs to attendees were heavily subsidised and profits were donated to Backtrack Youth Works and into Our Hands Community Foundation.

COMMUNITY HEALTH, WELLBEING + INTEREST

BUNBURY, WA

The City of Bunbury's Community Culture and Engagement team is all about the people and their wellbeing.

The Team worked in conjunction with the Koombana Foreshore Redevelopment to deliver a key project: The 'Beach Wheelchair Access and Foreshore Disability Installation', which focuses on best practice with respect to disability access.

This project was completed in consultation with the Bunbury Access and Inclusion Committee and resulted in several innovative features for the foreshore including Beach and Water Access for Disabled people that was constructed by creating a graded concrete ramp, followed by beach matting. Two all-terrain Hippocampe Beach Wheelchairs are housed and available from the kiosk, allowing travel over sand and water, enabling the user to get out and swim.

A disability Friendly Change Room for those with profound needs was also constructed. Wheelchair friendly BBQ's and Tables were also designed and built along the foreshore.

These projects could proudly be adopted by other communities to improve the liveability of people in their midst with a disability.

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

WILMOT, TAS

The community of Wilmot is made up of a group of people who demonstrate an enormous respect for their unique environment, their ancestry and for the well-being of those in their community. The morals, values and attitudes displayed by individuals, families, groups, organisations are exemplary.

Promoting a healthy lifestyle and caring for others is the core of what 'drives' the Wilmot community – it just seems to happen naturally! The people of Wilmot have taken a serious approach to the needs of those in their midst and have created a strong, vibrant, extremely liveable community. Some committees in Wilmot started with the settlement of the township and are still strong and vibrant.

More recent initiatives see committees and groups formed covering an extensive variety of interests, activities and sports. Home grown and home cooked food and produce plays an important role for residents of Wilmot and is generously shared among the community!

OVERALL WINNER

WINNER

BEECHWORTH, VIC

Beechworth, with a population of 4,566, won three of the nine categories and scored highly in the remaining six categories to become the recipient of this year's Keep Australia Beautiful Overall Australian Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Award.

Beechworth was awarded:

- The **Dame Phyllis Litter Prevention Award** for Student Environment Day which was run in conjunction with the Indigo Shire and coordinated by the North East Environment Education Directory, involving the North East Catchment Management Authority and the North East Waste and Resource Recovery Group.

- The **Environmental Sustainability – Energy Award** for Totally Renewable Beechworth community initiative, which aims to power Beechworth and the postcode area by 100% renewable energy by 2030.

- The **Environmental Communication and Engagement Award** for The Beechworth Festival of Change initiative – a community-driven not-for-profit event designed to empower regional communities to take responsibility for their own futures and drive positive change toward a fair, just and sustainable world.

Beechworth scored highly in the six categories entered, allowing the town and its community to be a deserving winner of this year's overall National Award.

The Beechworth Tidy Town Committee demonstrate their dedication to their community and sustainability as a priority all year round – every year!

Beechworth has become an outstanding example of a community demonstrating consultation and collaboration to implement and succeed with their undertakings.

Keep Australia Beautiful gratefully acknowledges
the following organisations for supporting the
2020 Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards

🐦 @KABNAHQ   #TidyTowns