



# AWARDS 2016

KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL  
TIDY TOWNS + SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Keep   
Australia  
Beautiful

Keep Australia Beautiful National Association  
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# FOREWORD

By **Australian Tidy Towns Judge Jill Grant**

The opportunity to judge the Australian Tidy Towns competition has been a great honour as during the process of visiting the towns I have been very impressed by the efforts of the dedicated groups and individuals that make these towns so successful.

The energy and innovative solutions to the unique challenges of life in regional towns, some of whom are in the most diverse and isolated parts of Australia, has been very inspiring.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this program is the collaboration and sharing



of ideas that can be interpreted and adapted to other locations and contexts. The wide range of excellent resource recovery and waste management projects, the natural area regeneration and habitat protection, water conservation, and climate change responses help to maintain environmental and economic assets.

Meanwhile the preservation of cultural heritage and implementation of community support programs underpin the quality of life and social cohesion of each town and the broader region.

The winners of each state and territory and the individual category winners all provide us with the enthusiasm and momentum to extend the benefits of their success more widely. I congratulate all those involved, your efforts will help to set a positive course and source of guidance for others throughout regional Australia.

*Jill Grant*

Australian Tidy Towns Judge

The full judge reports can be found on the Keep Australia Beautiful website [kab.org.au/tidy-towns](http://kab.org.au/tidy-towns).

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# ABOUT TIDY TOWNS



4 The Keep Australia Beautiful 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 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. Year upon year we see a calibre of community action that allows all Australians to aspire to be tidy Aussies. This year's finalist communities represent an estimated 96,740 hours of community service from over 2,700 volunteers.

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

The awards event, often hosted over two days, consists of networking with sustainability leaders around Australia, finalist case studies, as well as highlights and suggestions from the Australian 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.

Beyond a healthy dose of competition, the Australian Tidy Towns awards competition brings 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 Tidy Town spirit.



# CONGRATULATIONS FINALISTS

## MOUNT LIEBIG

lies on the western edge of the greater MacDonnell Ranges 325 km West of Alice Springs 1,500 m above sea level. Population: 156

## MUNDULLA

is located in eastern South Australia in the Tatiara District Council local government area, 278 km South East of Adelaide. Population: 210

## ALBANY

is a port city in the Great Southern region of Western Australia 418 km South East of Perth. Population: 1,462



## ROMA

is in the Maranoa district of South West Queensland 515 km North West of Brisbane. Population: 6,906

## ORANGE

is in the Central Tableland region of New South Wales 254 km West of Sydney. Population: 39,766

## HORSHAM

is located on the Wimmera River 300 km North West of Melbourne. Population: 14,285

## TRIABUNNA

is the second largest township on the East coast of Tasmania in Glamorgan Spring Bay Council and is 84 km to the North East of Hobart. Population: 895

# OVERALL WINNER



## 8 WINNER TRIABUNNA, TAS

*"This cohesive and innovative community on Tasmania's east coast has turned itself from a period of economic and social adversity towards an optimistic future through integrated projects and creative collaborations that capitalise on the natural and cultural assets of the town and region." - Jill Grant*

The combination of vision and guidance provided by the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council and the dedicated and consistent efforts of community organisations and volunteers have resulted in numerous initiatives that preserve and enhance environmental quality and celebrate and

showcase Triabunna's long history including its links to agriculture, fishing and forestry.

There is a strong investment in a future providing sustainable employment opportunities and a rich artistic and educational base for new industries and ventures that capture the special character of the area. The focus on preservation and interpretation of the marine environment and surrounding coastal attractions, including nearby Maria Island, have the potential to significantly develop local tourism and aquaculture industries and their related service sectors. The emphasis on improving the amenity and accessibility of

the town through sensitively designed signage, infrastructure and community buildings enhances Triabunna's economic, social and environmental sustainability.

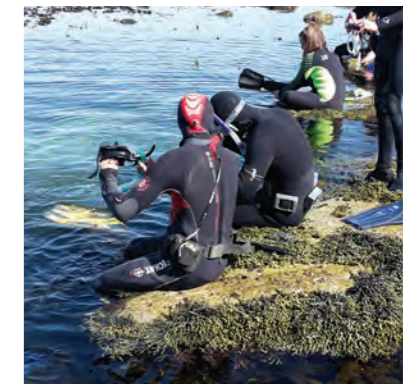
A series of annual events including Seafest, Harvest Festival and monthly produce and craft markets bring residents together to celebrate the local area and its natural assets and creativity. A thriving artist community has emerged and the integration of school and community groups in fundraising, entertainment and civic beautification projects is inspirational.

The 'Triabunna for the Future' strategy has been developed with extensive community consultation and proposed improvements in the streetscape and town entrance demonstrate the

town's enthusiasm. Support from University of Tasmania and Monash University in developing a town aesthetic to attract visitors has provided an opportunity for residents to envision the future they want and need. The process has taken into account the likely impacts of climate change and potential sea level rise so Triabunna are able to adapt with minimal disruption and damage to infrastructure.

Triabunna's youth focus is demonstrated by the impressive programs at the local school and is complemented by The Village Hub that provides support for health, wellbeing and creativity. Integration of environmental education in the school curriculum, after school and holiday activities does much to instil a strong environmental ethic in all parts of the community.

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# SPECIAL COMMENDATION



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## WINNER MT LIEBIG, NT

*"The sense of arrival at this spectacular and culturally significant community is matched by the impressive array of projects that have been generated to improve both the aesthetic appeal and environmental health of the community."*

*- Jill Grant*

While Mount Liebig (Watiyawanu) did not take out a category win at this year's awards, an impressive four highly commended mentions meant they couldn't go home without due recognition.

Keeping culture strong and people connected to the land and each other are core to

the community. They actively encourage the retention and promotion of traditional knowledge and customs and the Dreamtime story of the Willy Wagtail bird is celebrated in song and dance. Local artists exhibit their creativity through objects, story boards and murals around the town.

A large proportion of the population is under 18 and much is being done to provide meaningful activities to support their development and pride in their community. Music, art, and sporting activities and homework assistance are provided in the Youth Centre. The Mount Liebig Youth Board has been established as



a way of fostering future leadership and involving young people in setting community vision and formulating projects.

Programs run through community organisations Waltja and Tjilirra Men's movement, focus on the making and use of traditional artefacts, successfully transmit language and stories, as well as customs to the next generations.

Mt Liebig's remote location has resulted in an innovative approach to resource management and a self-sufficient community, who capitalise on local resources. Everyday items have been repurposed in relatively simple yet highly creative and effective ways. Tyres and drums have been converted to planters and sculptures that significantly add to the vibrancy and character of the town.

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# DAME PHYLLIS FROST LITTER PREVENTION WASTE MANAGEMENT + RESOURCE RECOVERY



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## WINNER **ORANGE, NSW**

HIGHLY COMMENDED **ALBANY, WA + MT LIEBIG, NT**

*"Orange has an outstanding resource management facility with waste separation and reuse and a well patronised shop for resale of items with proceeds going to charity." - Jill Grant*

The realisation that they were fast running out of space for landfill prompted Orange City Council to develop the Orange Waste Project. Designed to maximise waste recovery, 'The Project' introduced food and garden waste collection and composting that resulted in a 58% increase in waste diversion from landfill. Baling and wrapping of mixed waste not only saves on

space but virtually eliminates the problems of windblown litter and vermin. Compost is used in parks and made available to residents, creating a closed-loop system.

In addition to waste management infrastructure, Orange has implemented several waste education projects focused on reducing litter in the storm water system and a campaign to encourage the use of lawful waste disposal services, reporting of illegal dumping and respect of the natural environment.

# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



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## WINNER **TRIABUNNA, TAS**

HIGHLY COMMENDED **HORSHAM, VIC + ORANGE, NSW**

*"All aspects of life in Triabunna are tied to the quality of the environment." - Jill Grant*

Recognising their vulnerability to coastal hazards such as erosion, temperature increases, rising sea levels and inundation, the town has responded with a host of educational and practical activities in nature and water conservation and energy efficiency.

The Glamorgan Spring Bay Natural Resource Management Committee is a special group convened by Council with community volunteers

and stakeholder representatives of primary producers, Parks and Wildlife Service, police and the Earth and Ocean Network of environmental groups. They oversee a range of initiatives including weed management, clean up days, litter prevention and biodiversity protection.

A growing primary production industry is leading the way in sustainability. Spring Bay Seafoods are the first shellfish company in the world to be awarded the prestigious "Friend of the Sea" Certification for their aquaculture products.

# COMMUNITY ACTION + WELLBEING



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## WINNER **MUNDULLA, SA**

HIGHLY COMMENDED **MT LIEBIG, NT + TRIABUNNA, TAS**

*"The community of Mundulla has a huge spirit despite its small size and has demonstrated that with energy and enthusiasm - much can be achieved with limited resources." - Jill Grant*

What Mundulla lacks in size it makes up for in activity. Showcasing a true community spirit, nearly every resident is actively involved in projects led by the 'Mundulla on the Move' committee.

Mundulla's heart and social hub is the sporting and recreational facility. The Mundulla Showground and Adventure Playground hosts

a range of sporting teams and equine events, while BBQ and camping facilities provide a meeting space for tourists and local alike. It is here that the popular country show, the Moot Yang Gunya Festival, is held. Attracting over 3,000 attendees the show celebrates the strong horticultural and farming traditions of the region.

The backdrop for many of Mundulla's educational, health and wellbeing activities, the Moot Yang Gunya Swamp Walking Trail incorporates interpretative signage and community generated sculptures acquired in the annual Sculpture Competition.

# HERITAGE + CULTURE



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## WINNER **ALBANY, WA**

HIGHLY COMMENDED **MT LIEBIG, NT + ROMA, QLD**

*"Albany has a strong commitment to the preservation of Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage and there is a considerable sense of pride in the history and culture of the town." - Jill Grant*

The long Indigenous history of the area and the efforts of the Menang people to preserve and celebrate their culture are demonstrated at various sites including the iconic Oyster Harbour Fish Traps which date back over 6,500 years. Culturally appropriate viewing facilities and interpretive signage have significantly increased interest in traditional knowledge, stories and language associated with the area.

Albany has a strong connection to the ANZAC tradition. King George Sound was the site for the embarkation of troops heading to Gallipoli and what is now Albany Heritage Park was an important strategic defence location during both World Wars. This association has led to the development of an impressive heritage precinct with state of the art interpretive facilities at the National Anzac Centre, memorial gardens and walks, and the restoration of historical military and engineering landmarks.



# YOUNG LEGENDS



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## WINNER ROMA, QLD

HIGHLY COMMENDED MUNDULLA, SA + TRIABUNNA, TAS

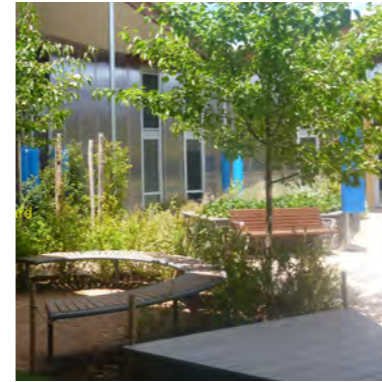
“There are many impressive youth initiatives in Roma and the involvement of local schools and sporting groups in the sustainability and heritage of the town will be a key feature of their sustainable future.” - Jill Grant

One young Roma citizen of note is Lane Brookes. A member of Western Queensland’s Mandandanji people, Lane has established a successful and inspirational cultural awareness and tourism venture that transmits local Indigenous knowledge and traditions and helps to create pride and community cohesion.

In addition to his cultural activities, Lane also organises annual sporting events that fundraise for local families and acts as a teaching assistant and mentor for Indigenous children at Roma State College. He was Roma Citizen of the Year in 2014 and he plays an active role with the Mandandanji Board to support his community into a sustainable future.

Lane’s positive and energetic example will continue to assist and encourage many young people in the region.

# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



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## WINNER HORSHAM, VIC

HIGHLY COMMENDED TRIABUNNA, TAS + ALBANY, WA + MT LIEBIG, NT

“The use of rammed earth, natural light and ventilation and solar panels and water harvesting are daily reminders of energy and water use efficiency and their benefits.” - Jill Grant

The Horsham Special School has a unique take on environmental education that encompasses school buildings, landscaping and curriculum and builds partnerships with local businesses and community groups.

Students are involved in tending plants and harvesting produce from a sensory garden and three no-dig garden beds. A partnership with

Horsham Urban Landcare furthers environmental knowledge, and produce from the garden is used in cooking and nutrition programs and catering for local service clubs and events.

The annual “Schools Habitat Design” competition, run by the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, places emphasis on the endangered species of the region and the complex interconnection between the plants and animals. There is increased awareness of the local habitat and its components and the creative responses of the students across the different age groups have been useful and innovative.

# HOW TO ENTER



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The national Keep Australia Beautiful 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.

Contact your local state or territory federation network to learn more about your eligibility.

To find out more go to [kab.org.au](http://kab.org.au).

ACT	<a href="http://kab.org.au/act">kab.org.au/act</a>
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