



2023 AWARD WINNERS



Keep Australia Beautiful gratefully acknowledges the following organisations for supporting the 2023 Australian Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards



**KING
ISLAND
COUNCIL**

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Keep Australia Beautiful Network

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Keep Australia Beautiful Association QLD
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South Australia

Keep South Australia Beautiful
kesab.asn.au

Tasmania

Keep Australia Beautiful TAS
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Victoria

Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria
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Western Australia

Keep Australia Beautiful WA
kabc.wa.gov.au

Cover photo: 2023 Australian Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards Overall Winner - Gascoyne Junction, WA

Table of Contents



| | |
|---|----|
| Foreword | 4 |
| About the Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards | 7 |
| Congratulations Finalists | 8 |
| Winners Table | 9 |
| Overall Winner | 11 |
| Dame Phyllis Frost Litter Prevention | 12 |
| Resource Recovery and Waste Management | 14 |
| Heritage and Culture | 16 |
| Young Legends: Group | 18 |
| Young Legends: Individual | 19 |
| Environmental Sustainability - Energy | 20 |
| Environmental Sustainability - Water | 22 |
| Environmental Sustainability - Natural Environment Management | 24 |
| Environmental Communication and Engagement | 26 |
| Community Health, Wellbeing and Interest | 28 |
| Previous Winners | 31 |

Foreword

The Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards have been an integral and valued element of Australia's natural, built and social landscape for more than half a century.

This wonderful program, gives focus to the struggles, achievements and outstanding improvements in communities, large and small across our richly diverse and remarkable continent. Through this program, we recognise and celebrate outstanding community achievements, endeavours and undertakings. These awards are in a small way, testament to the work you all do with love, pride commitment and dedication in your communities.

2023 proved to be a year of challenges for the eponymous 'Keep Australia Beautiful' brand. This year, Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) had to quickly develop a new way of assessing the projects and activities entered. A panel of three very experienced KAB assessors was formed to review submissions, participate in online meetings and presentations and determine the most outstanding of those towns and communities that had already been acknowledged as being at the pinnacle of their respective State or Territory.

The Panel, with members from three States, met online frequently to work through the challenges of assessing remotely. While this was undoubtedly a challenging task, the Panel all agreed it was a most rewarding, robust and equitable process.

We, as Australians are blessed with remarkable human spirit and endeavour, a rich and vibrant heritage, diverse culture and identity, an outstanding commitment for sustainability and deep care for our precious social, cultural and natural resources. The Panel members, Dick, Caitlin and Peter were humbled and impressed by the quality of projects entered in the National Awards Program that reflect a community's passion, commitment, drive and effort in making their communities special in every way.

The Panel wishes to especially acknowledge the volunteers across the nation for their collective efforts and achievements. These awards are for you. Congratulations on a job very well done. Your efforts have greatly contributed to further developing communities focused on sustainability, social and economic wellbeing, natural and cultural heritage, youth, community values and health.



Australian Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards Judging Panel - Dick Olesinski, Caitlin Burns and Peter Clark.

Images top to bottom

- Oatlands Aquatic Centre (TAS)
- Belltrees water run-off ponds (NSW)
- Mount Leibig solar panel array (NT)



About the Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards



The Keep Australia Beautiful Tidy Towns Sustainability 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 Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards competition, who are largely volunteers, are some of the most dedicated, passionate and colourful people in all the Keep Australia Beautiful Tidy Towns Sustainability 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.

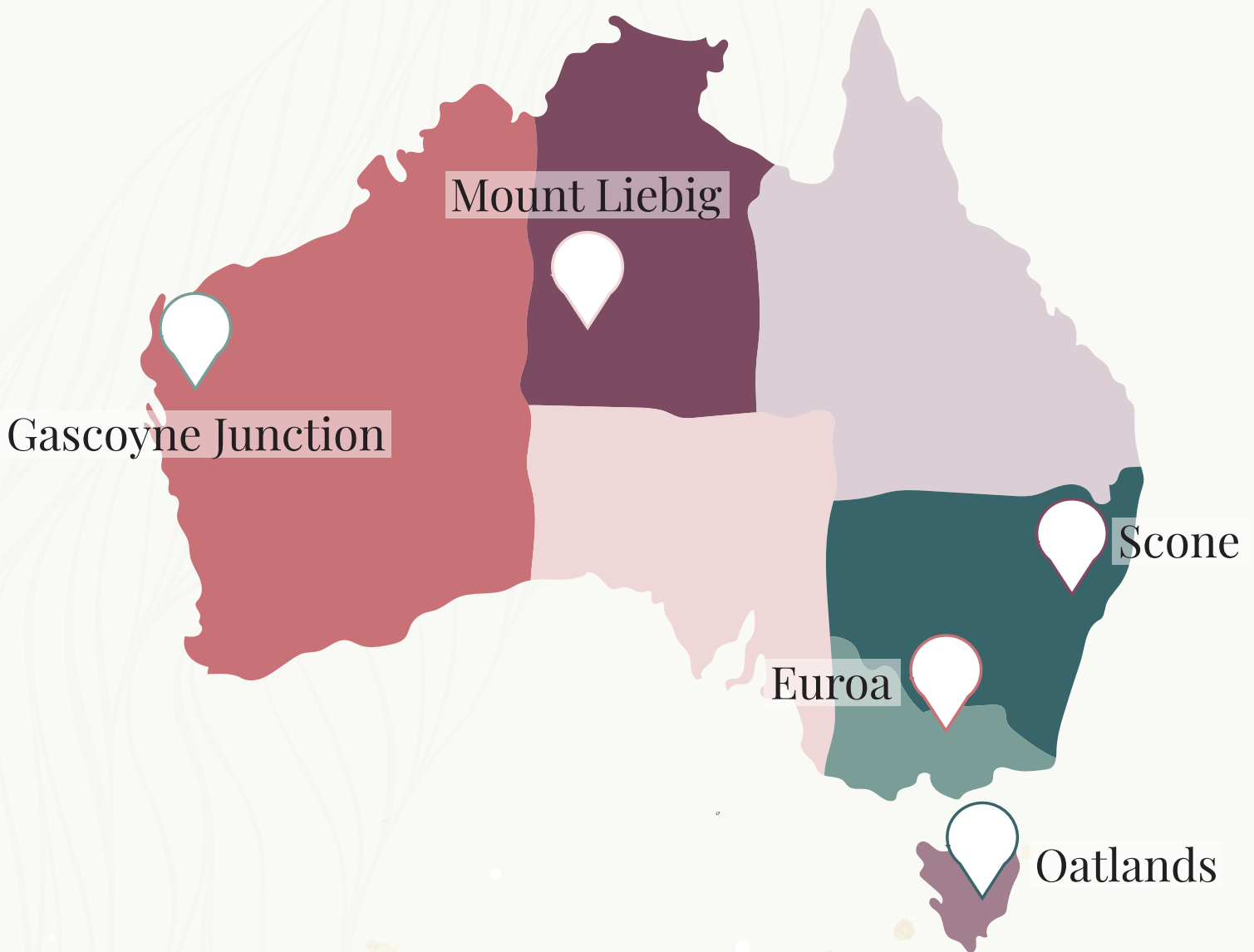
Each year, state and territory winners from the Keep Australia Beautiful network are announced between August and November. They then receive a visit from the Australian Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards judge, with the Awards presented between March and May.

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 Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards 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 Tidy Towns Sustainability 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 Tidy Towns spirit!

Congratulations 2023 Finalists



Euroa, VIC

Population: 3,508

Euroa is truly special. Situated at the base of the Strathbogie Ranges, it's a township of passionate people, majestic buildings, stunning landscapes and meandering waterways.

Gascoyne Junction, WA

Population: 70

Gascoyne Junction is the gateway to the Kennedy Range and Mount Augustus National Parks. The Junction is on the banks of the Gascoyne River.

Mount Liebig, NT

Population: 150

Mt. Liebig lies on the western edge of the greater MacDonnell Ranges, 325km west of Alice Springs. It is also known as both Amundurngu and Watiyawanu (Place beside the trees).

Oatlands, TAS

Population: 728

Oatlands is the largest intact Georgian Village in Australia and in the Register of the National Estate as a Georgian Village with 83 heritage listed buildings in the High Street.

Scone, NSW

Population: 5,624

Imagine a town that is the horse capital of Australia, a classic country town with all the hallmarks of a vibrant and industrious country centre. We are Sustainably Scone.

2023 Winners Table

Overall Winner

Gascoyne Junction, Western Australia

Dame Phyllis Frost Litter Prevention

Gascoyne Junction, Western Australia

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Mount Liebig, Northern Territory

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Cedric Dixon, Mount Liebig, Northern Territory

Resource Recovery and Waste Management

Euroa, Victoria

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Scone, New South Wales

Heritage and Culture

Oatlands, Tasmania &

Mount Liebig, Northern Territory

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Gascoyne Junction, Western Australia

Young Legends: GROUP

Belltrees Public School,

Scone, New South Wales

Young Legends: INDIVIDUAL

Renzy Perez, Scone, New South Wales

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Travis Baliva, Mount Liebig, Northern Territory

Environmental Sustainability - Energy

Euroa, Victoria

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Mount Liebig, Northern Territory &
Gascoyne Junction, Western Australia

Environmental Sustainability - Water

Gascoyne Junction, Western Australia

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Mount Liebig, Northern Territory &
Scone, New South Wales

Environmental Sustainability - Natural Environment Management

Euroa, Victoria

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Oatlands, Tasmania

Environmental Communication and Engagement

Euroa, Victoria &

Gascoyne Junction, Western Australia

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Scone, New South Wales

Community Health, Wellbeing and Interest

Gascoyne Junction, Western Australia

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Scone, New South Wales &

Oatlands, Tasmania



Overall 2023 Winner

Gascoyne Junction, WA



Gascoyne Junction, a community of about 70 people, has proven with stunning success that a strong sense of community, resilience, self-reliance and passion are alive and well in regional Australia. At its heart, Gascoyne is a true example of what communities can do when focused on strong community, innovative sustainability and self-reliance.

Gascoyne Junction's vibrant and dynamic community demonstrated a strong sense of commitment, determination and pride through their involvement in a broad range of initiatives to ensure a sustainable future for their town situated in remote Western Australia.

A very active and dedicated community of volunteers play an enormous role in ensuring Gascoyne Junction flourishes and maintains its standing as a caring and dedicated community.



Various groups work together and in partnership with the Shire of Upper Gascoyne to accomplish positive social, sustainable, environmental and economic outcomes – on the journey to becoming a sustainable Gascoyne Junction.

The collective effect of this success has provided an incentive to continue to work together to achieve a common vision for a better environment, an enhanced quality of life and a sustainable future for all residents and visitors to Gascoyne Junction.



Dame Phyllis Frost Litter Prevention

WINNER: **Gascoyne Junction, WA**



Gascoyne Junction and the Shire have worked in partnership on a broad range of initiatives focussed on litter reduction within the town and the region as a whole.

Bins are strategically placed throughout the town's Two Rivers Memorial Park to ensure this highly-visited area remains clean. Bins are also strategically placed at key stopping places across the Shire to assist with ensure litter generated from visitors to the region is kept out of the local natural environment.

Each year the Gascoyne Junction Remote Community School redesigns colourful bin stickers with educational messages for local residents and visitors.



The school community have installed four Containers for Change bins outside the school for the community to utilise collecting eligible containers. A local volunteer regularly takes the collected items into Carnarvon (a 4 hour round trip) to the nearest refund point. The school directs funds collected back into educational resources for students. Due to the remoteness of the town, there are minimal cost-effective recycling opportunities, therefore this initiative diverts these eligible containers from landfill as well as generating litter.

Educational messages are promoted in the regular local community newsletter the 'Gassy Gossip' focusing on litter management, prevention and behavioural change.

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.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Mount Liebig, NT



Mount Liebig residents and staff from the MacDonnell Shire Council have formed an effective partnership in dealing with litter, which is almost non-existent throughout the community.

The community is extremely engaged in ensuring Mount Liebig is litter free through various new initiatives including use of a chilled water drinking fountain reducing thousands of plastic bottles to landfill each year, single use plastics no longer in place at the community store and lunches no longer served in plastic containers now using biodegradable options.

Mount Liebig is in fact a leader in litter control throughout the NT.



SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Cedric Dixon, NT



Mount Liebig's Cedric Dixon is to be commended for his unwavering commitment to ensuring litter is not an issue within the community.

Cedric is truly Mount Liebig's Litter Champion.



Resource Recovery and Waste Management

WINNER: **Euroa, VIC**

Strathbogie
SHIRE COUNCIL



Strathbogie Shire Council is committed to supporting Waste Education in Euroa with the community embracing extensive diversion of kerbside waste to landfill.

Waste education community events have helped to build a community of confident recyclers who are happy and willing to share their recycling and waste avoidance knowledge within their local community.

A collaborative approach to waste education alongside the town's three-bin system, waste wise events and network of transfer stations has proven to help achieve significant waste reduction results.



The Shire was ranked third in Victoria for the highest rates of landfill diversion, diverting almost 70% of all kerbside waste from landfill. The Shire has also a reputation for low contamination rates in both yellow (recycling) and green (food and garden organics) bins.

These results are great evidence that Euroa's residents are confident when it comes to waste reduction and overall management and are consistently doing the right thing.



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

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Scone, NSW



Upper Hunter Shire Council has developed a local waste management facility which is clean and well maintained and recycling is provided for paper, bottles, metal, polystyrene and green waste. A Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) recycling program has been developed and implemented whereby community members recycle food scraps from the plate to the paddock.

Belltrees Public School has developed a positive litter reduction program revolving around the 5 R's – refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle and reward the community for doing the right thing. Scone has taken a holistic approach to managing waste.

Strong partnerships with Upper Hunter Shire Council, Scone Tidy Towns, the Return and Earn Scheme, service organisations and schools have provided a practical and functional use, reuse and recycle resources policy.

A reduction of 924 tonnes of waste going to landfill was achieved in six months. Previously 1700 tonnes of garbage ended up in landfill in 6 months with an overall reduction of 30%.



Heritage and Culture

JOINT WINNER: **Mount Liebig, NT**



Mount Liebig is a relatively young community and because of this traditional culture isn't something they practice for the sake of maintaining it, it is still significant to everyday life.

It is not uncommon to have very minimal staff or reduced numbers of community residents for months at a time several times a year. Residents continually travel back and forth to various communities in various states and territories for mens/womens ceremonies, sorry business (mourning) and initiation ceremonies. The ties to heritage and culture in Mount Liebig are so strong that most people would not be aware it is still practiced to this extent or even at all.

With traditional culture so strong in Mount Liebig, its influences are evident in the everyday lives of residents. Local residents make use of the natural resources of the surrounding area particularly in the procurement of traditional food sources.

The school plays a large role in continuing the students' connection to local culture. One of the initiatives towards this goal is teaching the students Pulapa Kantuntjaku and Yuntintjaku [Traditional Dance – men's and women's]. This is achieved by inviting elders to come into the school to teach the students that helps them to understand the significance of the dance, and also when and who the songs and dances are able to be performed by.



While traditional values, laws and culture are an important part of daily life so is their adopted culture. This adopted culture was introduced to the area in the late 60's when they first encountered German missions that would go on to establish various communities across central Australia. Mount Liebig's residents have managed to incorporate the Lutheran teachings of the German missionaries and their own traditional beliefs together as each aspect is just as much a part of their lives as the other.

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

JOINT WINNER: **Oatlands, TAS**



Oatlands is a historic town with the largest collection of pre-1837 buildings in Australia.

It boasts a substantial number of historic homes and buildings, particularly of Georgian heritage, which provides a distinctive charm for tourists and residents to enjoy.

Maintaining Oatlands' proud heritage is important to the community. Heritage restoration is a major priority with many fine examples of the preservation of cultural and historic features. It is a distinctive, heritage-listed town which boasts more Georgian and early colonial buildings than any other town of comparative size.

Callington Mill historic site is owned by the State Government with Council leasing it. It is a unique precinct that was established in 1837 comprising a cluster of buildings built of local Oatlands Sandstone, which consists of a fully operational Windmill, Granary, Miller's Cottage, Mill Owners Cottage, Stables and Piggery.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Gascoyne Junction, WA



Gascoyne Junction is an inclusive community, where partnerships and assisting one another are a way of life. The traditional custodians of the Upper Gascoyne Region are the Yinggarda people. Inclusivity, joint ventures, the employment of indigenous personnel and open paths of communication, allowing for collaboration and cooperation between the Shire of Upper Gascoyne and the Yinggarda Aboriginal Corporation, is highly valued and part of normal operations for the Shire.

Gascoyne Junction Remote Community School regularly invites elders from the community, to share Stories of the Gascoyne with students from the school, the local School of the Air and visiting students from Carnarvon and Exmouth. Students interviewed elders to learn about life in the Gascoyne. This project is being further developed through a virtual reality project within the school and a podcast through the Community Resource Centre.

Young Legends: Group

WINNER: **Belltrees Public School**, Scone, NSW



Belltrees Public School undertakes a holistic approach to environmental initiatives. Students focus on the synergy between projects and enhancing the natural environment.

The school has been instrumental in identifying, planning and implementing these initiatives through the Youth Environmental Council, which brings together students, staff and community members to review the school's activities and address issues that have been identified.

This process is integrated into the curriculum with students investigating key concepts relating to local initiatives and researching best practice for implementing change. Overall, these changes have built a culture of inquiry, problem-solving and agency into students, readying them for the challenges in the future.



The school has been duly recognised for its commitment to the environment becoming Sustainable School NSW's School of the Year in 2022 and gaining Eco-Schools Green Flag Accreditation in 2022. Belltrees was only the second school in NSW to attain this accreditation, fifth in Australia and the smallest school in the world.



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.

Young Legends: Individual

WINNER:

Renzy Perez, Scone, NSW



For what Belltrees Public School has achieved, school leader Renzy Perez deserves individual highlighting. For the bulk of Belltrees journey to become the greenest, little school in Australia, Renzy has been the only Year 5 and 6 student at the school.

Renzy has led, inspired and informed as president of the school's Youth Environment Council. He has advocated for initiatives to further enhance the school's sustainability efforts and has worked tirelessly in ensuring the school's projects were successful, from bottle sorting, pasture cropping, tree planting, composting, data analysis and public relations.

Renzy Perez demonstrates the climate-conscious, problem-solving citizens that are making a difference to improve our world.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Travis Baliva,
Mount Liebig, NT



Travis Baliva, who is 20 years old, is responsible for the operation of the entire town and is the sole reason that it all runs so smoothly. With very little working experience prior to joining MacDonnell Regional Council in Mount Liebig and none as an Essential Services Officer, Travis has strived to excel in his duties with a level of maturity well beyond his years.

Mount Liebig might only be a small community but it still takes a lot of work to ensure power and water delivery is not disrupted and all the new operating systems are maintained and functioning correctly. Travis does it all, he's a plumber, an electrician and a mechanic!

When Travis is in between tasks and jobs that keep the water flowing and power running through community he joins the Council's civil team to assist with cleaning streets, collecting community rubbish or simply lending a hand with what ever their jobs are for the day.



Environmental Sustainability

- Energy

WINNER: **Euroa, VIC**

Strathbogie
SHIRE COUNCIL



Energy insecurity impacts the whole community and limits economic opportunity and sustainable growth at a time when the 'move to the bush' offers extraordinary opportunities to build sustainable, climate resilient and affordable communities.

Euroa's Microgrid Demonstration Initiative (EMDI) turned conventional edge-of-the-grid challenges into clean energy opportunities. The EMDI involved the Euroa Environment Group, energy provider, MondoPower and Victoria's state government energy department to deliver the clean energy initiative.

Renters, businesses and the Euroa community drove the uptake of clean, affordable, and secure energy, innovative renewable energy technology, and energy related behaviour change.



Sustainable townships are places where communities collaborate and share ideas, technology, and insights. EMDI promoted the more efficient use of energy and showcased the opportunities which arise as a function of collaboration with experts and partners.

EMDI succeeded because the proposal was localised to Euroa and managed for local community benefit. It demonstrated how climate action has been well embraced by the Euroa community.



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

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Mount Liebig, NT



Mount Liebig continues its drive towards going green and developing sustainable practices wherever practicable. Most lighting throughout all council assets within the community have been fitted with modern energy efficient LED lighting, with the remaining old tech lights being replaced to LED as they end service.

Mount Liebig is now one of the first remote communities to completely replace petrol equipment with electric options. This removes the need for oil and fuel mixtures eliminating emissions, reducing fire hazards and preventing the potentially harmful recreational use of petrol on remote communities. The new battery powered equipment has greatly reduced noise pollution causing less disruption to community while the team work and preventing ear damage for operators

The move to greener more sustainable practices is not just restricted to within the community centre, with the last of Mount Liebig's outstations being fitted out with solar and batteries enabling off grid life to enjoy as their community counterparts. All six of Mount Liebig's outstations have been fitted out with solar systems to provide their daily power needs.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Gascoyne Junction, WA



The Shire of Upper Gascoyne Strategic Community plan's objectives look to protect the environment, promote ecological sustainability, protect water quality, pursue water and energy conservation and manage future built development. Due to the high cost of electricity in the town's remote part of Western Australia and the need for high use of electricity to maintain climate through the hot summer months with temperatures in the mid 40s on average, the implementation of solar across the town has been a focus and priority.

Early 2022 saw the addition of solar panels to the Junction Hotel and Tourist Park to reduce the overheads of the business which is central to the Gascoyne Junction community operating the roadhouse, accommodation, restaurant and bar.

By harnessing the natural solar assets of the area, the Junction Hotel and Tourist Park has been able to reduce electricity bills and generate clean energy to put back into the community.

Environmental Sustainability – Water

WINNER: **Gascoyne Junction, WA**



Gascoyne Junction is remote, with scorching summers, making water an essential, highly valued resource. Significant investments have been made to ensure this resource is used sustainably, maintaining supply to the town of potable water and meeting the water requirements for town parks, gardens and firefighting.

Examples include reticulation upgrades of the Town Oval and Two Rivers Memorial Park with the town oval reticulation was identified to be highly inefficient. A new system was designed and recently installed, saving approx 47% of water previously used.



Sourcing an alternative water supply for the town was a priority for Gascoyne Junction. As a result of research, a project was funded to drill a new bore to move away from the current water supply that is located within the town's adjacent river system. Utilising funding from the Federal Government, an exploration drilling program was conducted with a new bore hole drilled accessing artesian water. The volume of water within the aquifer is vast and sustainable and more than meets the future needs of the community.



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

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Mount Liebig, NT



Due to the location of remote communities as Mount Liebig in Central Australia, clean safe drinking water is supplied through bores driven deep in the ground to reach water tables. Keeping the bores clean, well maintained and operating smoothly is an important part of ensuring it can deliver water to community without fail.

Mount Liebig is doing better than some other remote communities when it comes to water supply, however it still focuses on ensuring water isn't wasted.

Recently Mount Liebig undergone significant upgrades to its power and water infrastructure. These upgrades included computer programs that monitor the inflow from bores, chlorine dosing rates and the outflow from the town water storage tank. One of the biggest positives to these monitoring programs is that they now send alarms to multiple personnel if anything unusual happens regarding the water supply. One of the biggest advantages of the programs is identifying water leaks. Now any unusually high outputs of the community's water will raise alarms that can then be followed up quickly, greatly reducing the amount of water lost.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Scone, NSW



As part of a partnership between The Belltrees Public School and Merrimuka Pastoral, the school investigated strategies to go beyond monitoring the health of the Hunter River but to actively implement strategies to improve the water quality and biodiversity of the river. To achieve this, management practices were reviewed in agricultural zones and using the regenerative agriculture principles learned, adapted the landscape for the benefit of both the land and the water.

Managing soil erosion run-off was a significant achievement, but ensuring the water quality leaving the agricultural plot was free of excess nutrients. Again, drawing from the school regenerative agriculture principles, plans were developed to ensure filtration of water was occurring at every stage of the system. Water reeds were installed at the inflow of the ponds to ensure excess soil and nutrient were being made available to plant life. From there water was stabilised in ponds systems, slowing the flow.

Testing periods are planned throughout the year to determine water quality across the journey of the Hunter River.

Environmental Sustainability – Natural Environment Management

WINNER: **Euroa, VIC**

Strathbogie
SHIRE COUNCIL



Euroa's Arboretum has an incredible story transforming from a degraded grassy woodland to a functioning ecosystem. The 27 hectares of land had a history of sheep grazing since the 1840's and more recently was a VicRoads depot until 1992.

When it became Euroa's Arboretum, the grounds were dominated by introduced grasses with a scattering of trees. The dedicated team at Euroa Arboretum looked to Taungurung Traditional Owners to learn collaboratively how to manage the grassland.

This careful management is slowly seeing a return of extensive grassland diversity and structure, increasing the biodiversity of insects, reptiles and birds. There is a thriving population of vulnerable fauna and flora within the area.



Developing the Euroa Arboretum grassland has been a series of evolving partnerships including Greening Australia, Melbourne University and Taungurung Elders.

Seeds propagated at the Arboretum supply one third of Victoria's seed supply – a great example of a well-managed natural resource.

Euroa's community is proud of the stunning Euroa Arboretum grassland which is a great example of sustainability with obvious environmental improvements, economic benefits derived through sales and locals employed together with the opportunity to educate the extensive network of environmental groups, schools, volunteers and visitors to Euroa.



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

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Oatlands, TAS



The Lake Dulverton Management Strategy was developed by Council to assist with maintaining the long-term sustainability of the lake and the recreational opportunities it presents on the edge of Oatlands. The Strategy outlines the overall management of four zones identified within the lake area to the high water mark, plus the surrounding foreshore.

The Lake Dulverton and Callington Park Management Committee is a Special Committee of the Southern Midlands Council. The Committee is predominantly made up of volunteer community members, who oversee the implementation of the Action Plan, guided by the higher level Management Strategy.

The specific objectives of the Lake Dulverton Management Strategy are to maintain the long term sustainability of the fauna and flora habitat of the lake with the recreational opportunities it presents.



Environmental Communication and Engagement

JOINT WINNER: **Euroa, VIC**

Strathbogie
SHIRE COUNCIL



Strathbogie Ranges Conservation (SRC) works with a variety of partners including landholders, groups, agencies, etc, to tackle conservation, biodiversity, and land management issues, but is focusing on the most threatened ecosystems in the Ranges, including precious wetlands, rocky outcrops and high conservation value forests.

In 2018 the SRC held its first ever Fungi Festival and has continued every year since with 2019 seeing the introduction of an accompanying art, cultural and food festival all orbiting around the theme of fungi.

The inclusion of working with children from the primary schools and the high school creates multiple opportunities for young people of the town to learn about the importance of the natural environment, and specially about the role fungi play in the ecosystem.

Using art as a tool of communication allows the children to share their learnings with our diverse community in a creative, accessible way furthering awareness about the natural environment and sustainability.



This annual event is a huge success, combining education about the importance of the mycelium and fungi world, artistic exploration, expression and play, fabulous dining events and a sense of awe and wonder at the natural beauty in Euroa and the Strathbogie Ranges.

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.

JOINT WINNER:

Gascoyne Junction, WA



The Upper Gascoyne Community came together to create a Plan for the Future 2022-2032. The community is highly invested in seeing the district succeed and develop for future generations. Our place: well-maintained infrastructure and preserved natural environs for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations was identified as one of four key objectives. This includes continued support for community groups, controlling noxious weeds and declared animals, promoting soil preservation and erosion mitigation and also investigating opportunities to increase accessibility to and facilities at local natural attractions.

The 'Gassy Gossip', a monthly community newsletter promotes the broad range of events and activities happening within the Shire. Updating locals on upcoming events, past events, road conditions, work being undertaken, Shire updates, school updates, articles, etc.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Scone, NSW



The challenges currently facing the agriculture industry are extensive with climate change, soil degradation, methane emissions, and deforestation. Belltrees Public School recognised the importance of developing the skills and knowledge of students and future agriculture leaders, to not only survive but thrive.

It was recognised how education can support the transition from past extractive mentality and embrace regenerative principles to repair and enhance the natural environment. But, with the growing regularity of once in a century event occurring now, it was decided to bring the community along on this learning journey - A journey to regeneration.

The potential impact of this journey to regeneration learning experience is significant. Excursions have incorporated Belltrees Public School students, parents, and staff, who have then led field days and tours at Belltrees Public School for over 200 local school students and community members about these principles. Farming partners on the learning pathways have a combination of over 10 properties with 1000's of hectares that will benefit from enhanced regenerative practices.

Community Health, Wellbeing and Interest

WINNER: **Gascoyne Junction, WA**



If a community's success is defined by the depth and diversity of social activities and groups, Gascoyne Junction is the epitome of that definition. Gascoyne sets new standards for inclusion, diversity and outstanding community well-being and resilience.

Gascoyne Junction Remote Community School instead of raising funds for themselves are generous fundraisers for great causes. Notable activities raised \$14.5k at a Charity Ball for Royal Flying Doctor Service, an annual Pink Stumps Day raised \$3491 for the McGrath Foundation, \$417 raised for the Telethon and a Colour Fun Run raised \$1376 for the WA Leukaemia Foundation. There are 11 students in the school!



The town's Drought Resilience Leadership Program hosted 40 residents from across the Shire to build and foster relationships between those who reside in town and pastoralists. Throughout the activities, the group discussed the challenges of living in the Upper Gascoyne and discussed systems and services that could reduce this and forged friendships and connections. This free event was part of a grant through the State Government.

The Junction and Landor Races and Gymkhana Committees and the Kennedy Range Campdraft Club host iconic events each year attracting approx. 1000 people to events and run by volunteers. The Campdraft team hosted a Campdraft event, with local pastoralists donating fencing, and one station mustering cattle twice to provide cattle for the event.



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.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Scone, NSW



'Where's there a Will' teen mental health program was developed in Scone to address mental health concerns and provide strategies and coping skills for youth to manage their life. This is the first time in Australia and possibly the world, that an entire cluster of schools, early learning centres, a travelling toybox and the community in one geographic location, have embraced Positive Education to improve mental health and wellbeing. The work being done in the Upper Hunter, NSW is seeing change in language, understanding and skills for children aged from two years of ages upwards.

The program is a community led and funded charity focused on supporting delivery of programs and skills to increase community wellbeing and improve mental health in the Upper Hunter, NSW. The project believes that 'Prevention through Education' for all youth from preschool to Year 12, can equip children with the knowledge and skills to develop resilience and self-awareness. Youth can be taught to build their own resource toolkit, so they can call on their strengths to make informed choices for their own wellbeing now, during and long after their formal education is completed.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Oatlands, TAS



The Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre in Oatlands has received a Five Star Rating for its aged health care. The Centre was among the one percent of Australian care providers to receive Five Stars. In addition, it was the only Tasmanian facility to be awarded this prestigious rating. Staff of the Centre and the wider community, are understandably proud of this achievement and to be congratulated for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to providing an elite aged care service.

The Oatlands Aquatic Centre, opened in March 2023, is a fully enclosed 25m, 6 lanes, with a toddlers pool and gym. The health and wellbeing of the community is greatly enhanced by the establishment of this well designed facility, built in harmony with the town's unique heritage design.

Rural Alive and Well, a suicide prevention and well-being program, started as part of Southern Midland Council's Community & Corporate Development business unit and through energetic support from Council, the community, Government and the private sector, it continues to go from strength to strength in providing valuable support to rural communities across Southern Midlands, Central Highlands as well as Glamorgan/Spring Bay.

'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

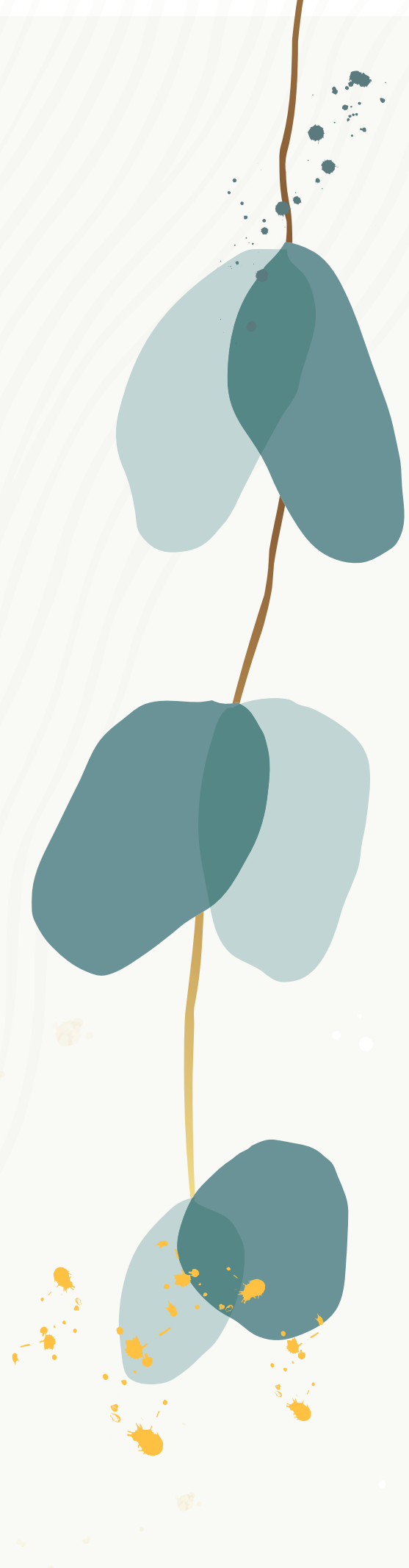
King Island, Tasmania

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Previous Winners

- 2023 Gascoyne Junction, WA
- 2022 King Island, TAS
- 2021 Hastings, VIC
- 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



Thank you to the following organisations
for their generous support of the
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