



MEDIA RELEASE
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For immediate release

Beechworth, Victoria Crowned Winner of 2024 Keep Australia Beautiful National Tidy Towns Awards

Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) is thrilled to announce Beechworth, Victoria, as the esteemed recipient of the 2024 National Tidy Towns Award. This prestigious accolade stands as a shining testament to the commitment and dedication of the Beechworth community towards fostering a more sustainable, resilient, and beautiful Australia.

Nestled amidst the picturesque Victorian highlands, Beechworth, renowned for its historic charm, clinched the title after securing the Victorian State awards in 2023. This marks Beechworth's third triumph at the national level, whilst facing fierce competition this year from contenders including Pingelly, Bridgewater, Bathurst, and Hermannsburg.

Olivia Lynch, CEO of Keep Australia Beautiful National Association, expressed her admiration for Beechworth, stating, "Beechworth epitomises the transformative power of community-driven environmental endeavours. The relentless dedication and perseverance exhibited by these communities serve as a beacon of inspiration, urging all Australians to proactively engage in safeguarding and enriching our natural and urban landscapes, thereby fostering stronger, more resilient communities."

"Beechworth has undeniably emerged as frontrunners in environmental stewardship, illuminating the path for communities nationwide. KAB extends heartfelt congratulations to Beechworth and all participants, finalists, and category champions, applauding their well-deserved victories and urging other towns and cities to emulate their exemplary efforts," Lynch added.

The 2024 National Tidy Towns Awards Weekend, held from 3 to 6 May, 2024, took place in Gascoyne Junction, WA — a remote outback community boasting a population of 72, which clinched the 2023 National Tidy Town title. The weekend saw participation from all state finalists, converging for a dynamic blend of networking opportunities, project showcases, outback hospitality, and the much-anticipated awards gala.

For further details regarding the Keep Australia Beautiful National Tidy Town Program and avenues for involvement, please visit: www.kab.org.au/tidy-towns/

Tidy Town State Finalist Details:

1. Beechworth, Victoria: Nestled in the picturesque countryside of Victoria, Beechworth captivated judges with its commitment to preserving its historical charm while embracing modern sustainability practices. The town's meticulous attention to detail in maintaining its heritage buildings and lush green spaces impressed judges. Additionally, Beechworth's active community engagement in recycling initiatives, renewable energy projects and their inclusivity with the Drag'd Out Beechworth festival played a significant role in clinching the Tidy Town award for Victoria.

2. Bathurst, NSW: Bathurst, renowned for its rich history and vibrant community spirit, claimed the Sustainable Community of the Year award for New South Wales. The town's innovative approach to waste management, including composting programs and reduction of single-use plastics, garnered attention from judges. Bathurst's dedication to environmental education through community workshops and school programs also contributed to its recognition as a leader in sustainable living.

3. Ntaria (Hermannsburg), NT: Ntaria, formerly known as Hermannsburg, stood out as an exemplary sustainable community in the Northern Territory. With its deep connection to Indigenous culture and land, Ntaria impressed judges with its traditional land management practices and conservation efforts. The town's initiatives to preserve local flora and fauna, along with its commitment to renewable energy solutions, earned it the prestigious award for sustainable practices in the NT.

4. Pingelly, WA: Tucked away in the Wheatbelt region of Western Australia, Pingelly captured the Tidy Town award for its dedication to cleanliness and environmental stewardship. The town's community-led initiatives, such as tree planting campaigns and litter clean-up drives, showcased Pingelly's commitment to preserving its natural surroundings. Pingelly's embrace of sustainable agriculture practices and water conservation strategies contributed to its recognition as a leading example of environmental responsibility in WA.

5. Bridgewater, TAS: Situated amidst the stunning landscapes of Tasmania, Bridgewater charmed judges with its dedication to sustainability and community cohesion. The town's emphasis on organic gardening, community gardens, and locally sourced produce highlighted its commitment to environmental conservation and supporting local businesses. Bridgewater's proactive approach to reducing carbon emissions and promoting active transportation options also played a significant role in securing its title as Tasmania's Sustainable Community of the Year.

Category Winners:

Category	Project Name	Town Name	State/Territory
Behaviour Change Campaigns & Education	Bee School by Beechworth Honey	Beechworth	Victoria
Community Health & Wellbeing	Pingelly Somerset Alliance	Pingelly	Western Australia
Waste Prevention & Reduction	Bin to Win' (Centacare Evolve Housing & Brighton Council)	Bridgewater	Tasmania



Dame Phyllis Frost	Joselle Griffin (Australian Red Cross Tasmania)	Bridgewater	Tasmania
Young Legends	Indigo Future Proof Action Group	Beechworth	Victoria
Young Legends (Highly Commended)	Brighton Youth Action Group	Bridgewater	Tasmania
Litter Prevention	Banishing Bathurst Butts	Bathurst	New South Wales
Heritage & Culture	The People of Beechworth Exhibition by Burke Museum	Beechworth	Victoria
Environmental Sustainability	Hermannsburg Environmental Sustainability	Hermannsburg	Northern Territory

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