



# Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Tidy Towns Awards 2024



THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 AWARDS AND EVENT SUPPORTERS



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## Keep Australia Beautiful NSW

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## Disclaimer

The information in this booklet has been provided by the Award nominees and referees chosen by them. Every effort has been made to present all the information contained in this booklet as accurately as possible.

Cover image: 2024 Overall Tidy Towns Award Winners - Parkes



Message from

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC  
Governor of New South Wales, and Mr Dennis Wilson**

For 49 years Keep Australia Beautiful NSW has been a leader in transforming behaviour to create a less littered and more environmentally sustainable New South Wales.

As Patrons, Dennis and I are proud to be associated with an organisation with a such legacy of significant contribution to our State. KAB NSW's engagement with councils, communities, individuals, industries, and schools, has helped New South Wales become an even more beautiful and sustainable place to live.

Already ahead of its time in 1975, KAB NSW continues to be on the front foot promoting dialogue and encouraging innovation in response to evolving issues including climate change and mitigation, the circular economy and waterways and marine protection.

Through its flagship Tidy Towns and Sustainable Cities programs, running since 1981, KAB NSW recognises and rewards outstanding achievements in sustainability and beautification throughout NSW. It has been our pleasure to support these events over recent years, including attending the Tidy Towns awards in Singleton in 2022.

The entries this year in both the Tidy Towns and Sustainable Cities programs have again demonstrated an unwavering commitment to protecting and enhancing our environment. We have no doubt that as you read through this document you will be impressed with the range of projects featured in the program's 13 award categories.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all entrants. Your efforts make a meaningful difference with impacts that benefit current and future generations.

And thank you, Keep Australia Beautiful NSW, and supporters and sponsors for helping us to create NSW communities and environments that are clean, green, engaging and beautiful places in which to live.

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC  
Governor of New South Wales**

**Mr Dennis Wilson**

# About the Tidy Towns Awards



Since 1981, the Tidy Towns Program has been rewarding and recognising projects around litter, waste management, recycling, heritage, community spirit and other environmental areas in towns across the breadth of NSW.

Winning the title of the “State’s Tidiest Town” has become a much sought-after honour and is highly contested by small and large towns alike.

All regional towns, councils, community groups, businesses, schools and individuals are invited to take part in this program by submitting an entry in one of the nine categories or the Overall Award. The State Overall winner has the potential to become a finalist for the National Keep Australia Beautiful Awards and may also host the awards weekend for the year following their win.

## AWARD POPULATION CATEGORIES

- Population category A: up to 1,500
- Population category B: 1,501 - 5,000
- Population category C: 5,001 - 12,000
- Population category D: 12,001 - 23,000
- Population category E: > 23,000

# About KAB NSW



Keep Australia Beautiful NSW is the premier non-profit organisation leading behaviour change by engaging the community to continually improve our local environment.

Over our 40-year history we have built a state-wide network of dedicated businesses, community groups, councils, schools and individuals assisting our causes.

We deliver many programs throughout the state to promote sustainability and reduce litter:

- Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards (regional)
- Sustainable Cities Awards (metropolitan)
- EnviroMentors® environmental education program
- Annual Congress







## Message from the CEO

Since its inception in 1981, the Tidy Towns Awards Program has been recognising and rewarding regional councils and towns, businesses, communities, schools and individuals that are pioneering the path towards a sustainable future and building stronger rural communities. Their initiatives and projects not only enhance the environment but improve the quality of life and well-being of regional communities.

This publication highlights some of the outstanding entries of 2024 and recognises the remarkable efforts and commitment to keeping Australia beautiful. By showcasing these projects, we hope that others will find inspiration and ideas for new initiatives and activities in their own communities.

On behalf of KAB NSW, I would like to thank our partners for their support, extend our sincere thanks to the judging panel for their commitment to the unenviable task of selecting the winners and congratulate all of the featured individuals and projects for their inspirational work.



Warm regards,

Val Southam  
Chief Executive and Executive Director  
Keep Australia Beautiful NSW

## Thank you to our 2024 Tidy Towns Awards Partners and Sponsors



# Awards Categories

## Circular Economy



Sponsored by



The Circular Economy Award is for any operationally viable projects in the circular economy which do, or could potentially, divert solid materials, fluids or energy from waste streams and return them to the productive economy.

## Litter Prevention



Sponsored by



The Litter Prevention Award is for a project or program that reduces or prevents litter, through education, enforcement, infrastructure, clean ups and partnerships.

The Litter Prevention Award has two-subcategories:

- Land-based litter prevention
- Water-based litter prevention

## Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation



Sponsored by



The Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Award is for projects that strengthen resilience to the impacts of climate change, reduce emissions, or sequester carbon from the atmosphere.

## Heritage & Culture



The Heritage and Culture Award is for community projects that enhance and protect either our built heritage, natural heritage or indigenous cultural heritage.

## Liveable Towns



The Liveable Towns Award is for projects that contribute to the liveability of a particular area addressing areas such as accessibility, public spaces, social equity, health and wellbeing.

## Resource Recovery



The Resource Recovery Award is for projects or programs that conserve, recycle or minimise wastage of our everyday resources, which include water, food & organic materials, and waste materials.

## Local Heroes



The Local Heroes Award recognise individuals who demonstrate leadership and an outstanding commitment in any of the awards categories.

## Biodiversity Conservation



The Biodiversity Conservation Award is for projects which regenerate, conserve, or advance scientific understanding of biodiversity in terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

## Communication & Engagement



The Communication and Engagement Award is for programs and projects that inspire environmental action through education, media and community engagement campaigns.

## Community Spirit & Inclusion



The Community Spirit and Inclusion Award is awarded to communities that successfully demonstrate strong community spirit and inclusion in the face of ongoing challenges. This award is given to communities that refuse to 'give in' when facing a challenge.

## Waterways & Marine Protection



The Waterways & Marine Protection Award is for programs and actions that create, restore and/or enhance our natural waterways and beaches,

## Waste Avoidance



The Waste Avoidance Award is for projects or programs that address waste prevention or reduction and education.

## Young Legends (≤ 25)



The Young Legend's Award is for an individual, school (including classes or groups) or a group of individuals (25 years and under) who demonstrate outstanding commitment to their environment and show leadership in pursuing environmental outcomes in any of the awards categories.

## Overall Award



The Overall Award is awarded to regional town that has successfully undertaken projects or actions in multiple areas of environmental sustainability and social inclusion.

# Awards Judges and Assessors



**Doug MacDonald**

Doug is an Urban Designer, specialising in the planning, design and building of sustainable and resilient communities.

He brings to the Tidy Towns Competition expertise in environmental management, heritage, architecture, civil engineering, landscape architecture and public sector management. He has been on 'both sides of the fence', working with specialist consultants, councils and property developers.

Doug has a deep understanding of Torres Strait Islander & Aboriginal culture and an affinity with rural Australia having grown up in the Torres Strait Islands and Papua New Guinea and attended boarding school in rural Australia.



**Paula Clasby**

Senior Manager, Business Development,  
TerraCycle ANZ

Paula is a creative, marketing, and business development professional with extensive experience supporting businesses to advance positive environmental and social change. She has worked in various sectors including health, marketing, design, print, hospitality, and over 10 years within sustainability and the built environment. Prior to TerraCycle, Paula worked with GECA (Good Environmental Choice Australia), helping individuals and businesses to advance the circular economy.

Paula prioritises purpose in all her work, drawing on her passion to drive TerraCycle's mission in Eliminating the Idea of Waste®.



**Ana Corpuz**

Senior Operations Policy Officer with  
Major Programs,  
NSW Environment Protection Authority

Ana has over 25 years experience in strategic and operational policy and planning, regulatory review, project management, technical analysis, research and reporting, communication, stakeholder engagement, organisational systems, benchmarking and process improvement, governance framework setting and compliance monitoring.

Her focus areas are on environment and sustainability, water and catchment management, air quality, climate change, waste management, mining and exploration, land use, zoning and redevelopment, transport, contract management and mentoring.



**Jeanne-Vida Douglas**

Marketing and Communications  
Manager,  
TerraCycle ANZ

As an award-winning marketer, business journalist, and author, JV spent the first half of her career advocating for sustainable solutions within software start-ups, the media, and professional services. She transitioned to work directly for companies focussed on sustainability after witnessing the devastation caused by the 2019-20 bushfires.

JV worked in innovative renewable energy companies Nectr and 5B prior to joining TerraCycle, and is passionate about increasing access to, and awareness of, recycling solutions throughout Australia and New Zealand.



**Mark Glover**

Director,  
Renewed Carbon

Mark is a principled thought leader and business developer in the circular economy, sustainable resource use and application, and emerging bioeconomy sectors.

With expertise in renewable resource use, waste infrastructure planning, and policy development, he has made significant contributions to promoting sustainable practices and advancing the circular economy agenda.



**Jemima Lindsay**

Marketing Manager,  
TerraCycle ANZ

Jemima Lindsay is an accomplished marketing professional experienced in driving impactful campaigns for globally recognized brands, including The Body Shop and Sainsbury's. Her career is defined by a deep commitment to sustainability and environmental advocacy, both professionally and personally.

Currently, as a key player at TerraCycle, Jemima spearheads initiatives across Australia and New Zealand that focus on recycling materials traditionally destined for landfills. She collaborates with businesses to implement circular economy solutions and engages communities to embrace recycling practices.





### **Anna Lei**

Senior Associate, Communications,  
TerraCycle ANZ

Anna Lei is a public relations professional with experience across a range of industries. She began her career at award-winning agency Ogilvy, specialising in consumer PR and influencer marketing, working with global clients such as Netflix, Xbox, eBay and American Express.

In 2023, Anna joined the TerraCycle marketing team hoping to incorporate purpose in her work and combine her passion for environmental advocacy with her professional expertise to champion sustainability and inspire positive change.

Anna drives media relations, publicity, and community outreach to inspire and educate on sustainable practices at TerraCycle.



### **Lynda Newnam**

Principal,  
Citizen Science Partnerships

Lynda has extensive project management experience in higher education as well as environment and 25 years in volunteering, from environment to heritage and tourism.

She is qualified in primary school teaching, has undergraduate degrees specialising in linguistics, anthropology and politics, and a Master's in Environmental Management.



### **Tasneem Rangwala**

PhD Aspirant, ISF UTS –  
*Developing Adaptive Planning Framework*

Tasneem is a 2020 National Council of Women NSW Australia Day Award winner for research achievements.

She is a dedicated leader driving change towards environmental enhancements. Her skills include environmental impacts assessments, project management, overseeing strategic regulatory programs, compliance audits and driving efficiency via enhancing quality of processes.

Tasneem has over 25 years' experience working across a range of industries including Environmental Consultancy, State Government Regulatory Authorities and the Biomedical Engineering field.



### **Nick Rutherford**

Senior Marketing & Communications  
Advisor, NSW EPA

Nick is a communications professional with a passion for sustainability and a decade of experience across media, advertising, and environmental sectors. Currently, he serves as a Senior Marketing & Communications Advisor at the NSW Environment Protection Authority, where he leads campaigns such as "Don't be a Tosser" to drive behavior change and reduce environmental waste.

Previously, he was the Marketing Manager at TerraCycle Australia & New Zealand, promoting innovative recycling solutions. His background in media and advertising includes roles at Slingshot Media Ventures and Universal McCann, where he was the planning and client lead for a number of major Australian and global brands.



### **Dr Trevor Thornton**

Senior Lecturer – Hazardous Materials  
Management, Deakin University

Trevor is currently employed as a Senior Lecturer at Deakin University and also consults widely on processes to develop and implement programs to reduce environmental impacts for a broad range of industry sectors.

Trevor has a wealth of experience, particularly in areas associated with waste management.

Trevor has been working in various aspects of the waste management industry for over 30 years as a regulator and consultant.



### **Chris Tola**

Manager, Skilled Workforce Program,  
Regional Development Australia &  
Publisher, Surfing Roadies

Chris has had an active involvement with many organisations including Surfrider Foundation, Take 3, the Australian Coastal Society, the Australian Radioactivity Protections and Nuclear Safety Agency, National Parks and Wildlife and the EPA.

Since 2002, Chris has periodically been the Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Beach Challenge National Assessor and State Judge, and the Tidy Towns Assessor; and was the Keep Australia Beautiful (NSW) Program Manager for Clean Beach Challenge and the Tidy Towns Program (2002 – 2005).

2024 Overall Winner

# Parkes

Population Category C



The town of Parkes is a shining example of sustainability and community spirit, with a long history of prioritising environmentally friendly projects and initiatives. From ecotourism to planned growth and economic development, Parkes showcases resilience through past projects and a strong culture of sustainability among council staff.

The town's commitment to biodiversity conservation is evident in initiatives like the Lake Endeavour project, which provides recreational opportunities while protecting local wildlife. Additionally, the Waders & Wetlands project serves as a habitat for wildlife and migratory birds, as well as an educational and research platform.

Community spirit and inclusion are paramount in Parkes, with initiatives like Home Grown Parkes fostering togetherness through food, crafts, and knowledge sharing. The town is also proactive in climate change mitigation and adaptation, with innovative approaches to water management and emission reduction. Parkes is truly a model of sustainable living and environmental stewardship.



# 2024 Overall Tidy Towns Population Category Winners and Finalists



## WINNER Population Category A



### Thredbo

Thredbo, located in the Kosciuszko National Park, is a shining example of sustainable land management and environmental stewardship in the face of commercial pressures and a challenging climate.

The dedicated staff members at Thredbo Resort show genuine passion for maintaining the delicate balance between nature conservation and visitor enjoyment. Despite the challenge of visitors often having differing sustainability values, the resort excels in litter prevention and resource recovery, even in freezing temperatures. The staff's extensive knowledge of local biodiversity threats and active engagement in biodiversity conservation efforts are commendable.

In addition to managing the ongoing decline in snow cover through sustainable land management practices, the resort also proactively addresses climate change impacts. Thredbo Resort's commitment to sustainability and adaptation to changing environmental conditions sets a high standard for the industry and serves as a model for other resort towns to follow.

## WINNER Population Category B



### Bellingen

In the picturesque town of Bellingen, a strong ethos of sustainable land use, environmental conservation, and community respect has thrived for years. The "Bower House Reuse Shop" is popular with the regional community and plays a pivotal role in diverting household items and building materials from landfills. The Bellingen Shire Council's commitment to biodiversity conservation shines through in the successful restoration of the Island, now a sanctuary for the endangered Grey-headed Flying Fox colony.

Noteworthy is the renovation of the heritage-listed Bellingen Memorial Hall, a cherished community hub for cultural events and local performing arts.

Bellingen's proactive stance towards climate change is evident in declaring a climate emergency, setting emission reduction targets, and implementing vital projects. The town's Eco Certified Destination status and "Go before you Go" campaign further showcase Bellingen's dedication to preserving culturally and ecologically sensitive areas.



# 2024 Overall Tidy Towns Population Category Winners and Finalists



## FINALIST

### Population Category C



## Tilligerry Peninsula

The Tilligerry Peninsula is a vibrant and diverse community, where the Tilligerry Peninsula Landcare Group works tirelessly to preserve and enhance the natural environment. Their dedication to biodiversity conservation has led to the completion of numerous environmentally focused projects, ensuring the area's rich flora and fauna thrive.

The Tilligerry Arts Group plays a crucial role in fostering community spirit and inclusion, organizing events and workshops that bring people together. Recent infrastructure projects, such as road realignment and foreshore footpath improvements, have transformed the town into a more liveable and accessible place for residents and visitors alike.

With a rich Aboriginal and European heritage, the Tilligerry Peninsula also boasts historical sites and heritage conservation initiatives that showcase the area's cultural significance.

## WINNER

### Population Category E



## Orange

Orange is renowned for its consistent award-winning initiatives driven by sustainability, care for people, and resilience.

The Return and Earn facility operated by Wangarang Industries Ltd. has been successful in reducing landfill waste and creating employment opportunities through its circular economy model. Furthermore, the 'Don't be Trashy' initiative at Orange High School has effectively reduced littering habits and promoted recycling practices in the community.

The town's commitment to a liveable environment is evident in the flourishing community vegetable garden, promoting wellness and connection among residents. Celebrating its rich heritage and culture, Orange pays tribute to local heroes and preserves architectural gems like the meticulously restored OCTEC building. A true testament to community spirit and inclusion, Orange United Sports Club empowers disadvantaged youth through sports, health programs, and valuable partnerships.





## WINNER

Population Category B



### Bellingen Island Restoration Bellingen Shire Council

The Bellingen Island Reserves are home to an endangered grey-headed flying fox colony and contain roosting habitat critical to the survival of the species.

The Reserves also contain two threatened ecological communities.

The Bellingen Island Restoration project involved the development of a Flying Fox Camp Management Plan and ongoing restoration works which has improved the rainforest ecosystem, restored key flying fox habitat and expanded the extent of native vegetation along the Bellinger River.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category B



### Teralba Public School Tiny Forest The Groundswell Collective & Teralba Public School

The Teralba Public School tiny forest project is a rapid regeneration initiative aimed at supporting local biodiversity and mitigating climate change impacts.

A total of 500 plants from 35 native species were planted in a 192m<sup>2</sup> area by students, staff, and the wider school community. Led by The Groundswell Collective and supported by Carbon Positive Australia, Hunter Urban Forests, and Earthwatch Australia.

The project also features a locally constructed sculptural entryway, informational signage, and outdoor seating for visitors to enjoy.

# Biodiversity Conservation

## WINNER

Population Category C



### Waders and Woodlands: Parkes Wetlands Parkes Shire Council

Since 2023, Parkes Shire Council has been working to turn old wastewater treatment ponds into a vibrant wetland ecosystem.

Specialised wetland designers, extensive earthmoving, and community revegetation efforts have been key in the transformation, along with the installation of locally sourced stag trees and root balls.

The recycled water system in Parkes plays a crucial role in sustaining the wetland, which now supports diverse native flora and fauna.

This project has the potential to become a vital biodiversity conservation area in Parkes Shire.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category C



### Keep Tilligerry Native Tilligerry Peninsula

In 2023-24, Keep Tilligerry Native focused on preserving the local native ecosystem.

Efforts included enhancing local koala habitats and removal of pine trees and lantana in the Gir-um-bit State Conservation Area.

They also made plans for the Tilligerry Environment Festival and initiatives on Lemon Tree Passage Hill including a path around Tilligerry Peninsula.

The team also worked with Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council to conduct a cultural burn, ran a community workshop on cultural burn processes, and addressed erosion and inundation with Council Coastal Management Plans.



## WINNER

Population Category E



### Queanbeyan River Corridor Rehabilitation Queanbeyan Landcare Inc

Queanbeyan River Corridor Rehabilitation project focused on restoring the ecological and recreational value of the area.

Queanbeyan Landcare collaborated with partners to plant native vegetation at key sites along the river, enhancing habitats for wildlife and improving community access.

The project involved planting a variety of indigenous plant species to enhance biodiversity.

Community involvement was integral, and ongoing maintenance will ensure the continued success of the project.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E



### Cessnock Bushcare Renaissance Cessnock City Council

A Bushcare renaissance of sorts has emerged in Cessnock with a number of community driven initiatives focusing on natural area management of public land in the LGA.

Four revegetation sites have been established by both Council and community groups, which has stimulated broader community interest in Bushcare type projects.

This has been complemented by strengthening of partnerships with key stakeholders including the Hunter Region Landcare Network.



# Circular Economy

Award category sponsored by:



## WINNER

Population Category B



### Bowerhouse Reuse Shop Bellingen Shire Council

The Bowerhouse Reuse shop, located at the Raleigh waste facility and operated by Bellingen Shire Council, helps divert waste from landfills by reselling usable items.

It offers a variety of goods, from rags to new-in-box products, and partners with MidWaste to hold workshops on upcycling and repair.

The shop plays a crucial role in the council's waste diversion and circular economy initiatives, providing educational opportunities for the community while promoting sustainability.

## WINNER

Population Category E



### Wangarang Orange Return & Earn Wangarang Industries Ltd

Wangarang Industries, a non-profit Australian disability enterprise, identified the need for a new Return & Earn depot in Orange with automatic bulk sorting capabilities.

The facility is expected to divert over 10 million containers from landfill in its first year.

The project's success is attributed to the collaboration and support from local businesses, service providers and Orange City Council.

Wangarang is contributing to the city's commitment to environmental sustainability and providing additional employment opportunities for people living with a disability.





Category Award Winners

## Young Legends



### HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E



#### ARC City to Soil Program Armidale Regional Council

Armidale Regional Council's City to Soil project, initiated in 2012, aims to divert organic kitchen waste from landfills.

The in-house operation was internally financed and remains cost-effective, utilising available land for compost processing, whilst being scalable to support population growth and has saved 13 years in landfill space to date.

Collections have expanded to include Commercial and Industrial businesses, with future plans to receive food organics from supermarkets, schools, and hospitals for improved environmental outcomes.

### WINNER

Population Category E



#### Sustainable Scallywags Bathurst Regional Council

Scallywags Long Day Care and Preschool offers early education with a focus on environmental sustainability, and cultural heritage.

Their holistic approach to education fosters social development in students, equipping them with an understanding of environmental care, sustainability, and appreciation for Australia's cultural heritage. Through various educational initiatives, workshops, and experiences, the facility aims to achieve Sustainable Development goals 3 & 4 for Health & Wellbeing and Quality Education.

# Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation

Award category  
sponsored by:



## WINNER

Population Category A



### Adaptation & Mitigation at Thredbo Thredbo Resort

Thredbo Resort operates within Kosciuszko National Park, a unique and sensitive setting. Thredbo Resort undertakes a holistic approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation through purchasing 100% renewable electricity for all its operations, as well as planning and adapting for the future through strategic planning and development.

Collaboration with local businesses, community, and stakeholders have assisted to drive efforts to reduce carbon footprints and enhance resilience towards climate change effects.

## WINNER

Population Category B



### Towards Net Zero Bellingen Shire Council

In 2019, Bellingen Shire Council declared a climate emergency and set targets to reduce emissions, aiming for a 45% reduction by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2040.

Progress has been made through various measures like lighting retrofits, solar installations, and energy efficiency works, achieving a 43% reduction in emissions in 2023/24.

Currently, the Corporate Carbon Plan is being updated to target emissions from waste facilities, transitioning fleet and plant to electric, and reducing energy use in top consuming facilities.



## WINNER

### Population Category C



### Raw Water Storage Lagoon - Big Battery

#### Parkes Shire Council

The Parkes Raw Water Storage Lagoon addresses critical water security challenges exacerbated by climate change.

This innovative initiative involves constructing a 20ML storage lagoon, strategically perched above the Water Treatment Plant on a hillside.

By leveraging the unique local topography, the lagoon ensures reliable, on-demand dispatchable water to the plant.

Key outcomes include enhanced system security during extreme flooding events, reduced operational costs, and integration of renewable energy through a solar farm.

## WINNER

### Population Category E



### Building Momentum Towards Net Zero

#### Bathurst Regional Council

Bathurst is making strides towards Net Zero Emissions, aiming for a 60% reduction by 2035.

They've adopted a Climate Change Response Framework, Renewable Energy Action Plan, and Emissions Reduction Plan, along with an electric vehicle transition plan and prepared for a gas transition plan.

Additional strategies will include achieving waste reduction targets and landfill gas reuse.

They have already surpassed some targets early through purchasing 100% renewable electricity, switching to LED streetlights, and installing solar PV across 19 facilities.

# Communication & Engagement

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category B



### 'Go Before You Go' Sustainability Campaign Bellingen Shire Council

The 'Go Before You Go' campaign addresses the lack of toilets in natural recreation spots outside of the Bellingen township, urging visitors to use facilities before heading into sensitive areas.

The campaign emphasises the impact on culturally and ecologically sensitive areas during peak holiday periods.

Utilising multiple platforms, the campaign advocates responsible behaviour such as leaving no trace, picking up after pets, using sunscreen wisely, and exploring responsibly.

The campaign successfully increased awareness with positive engagement and acknowledgement of the campaign amongst stakeholders.

## WINNER

Population Category E



### Wollongong's FOGO Heroes Wollongong City Council

In late 2020, Wollongong launched a FOGO service and after three years, community awareness was high, but Council's goal was to increase usage.

The Council developed an integrated behaviour change campaign with local community members as 'FOGO Heroes' addressing barriers in a lively way under the banner of 'every little bit of FOGO helps'.

The campaign directed people to a website for information, resulting in a doubling of website traffic, as well as resulting in an increase in bin presentation and weight.





## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E



### New Aussies Recycle Too! Halve Waste

The Albury Wodonga region has seen demographic changes with an influx of new migrants facing challenges in understanding recycling.

The project aimed to work with migrant support agencies to educate these individuals about waste management through tours of the Albury Waste Management Centre and culturally appropriate educational materials to not only help migrants learn 'what goes in each bin' but understand why they should bother.

To date, posters and bin stickers have been distributed to aid over 100 families on effective recycling practices.



## 2024 Local Heroes Award



### Geoff Windsor Bathurst

A member of the Bathurst community who displays exceptional leadership and unwavering dedication to fostering a sustainable future.

# Community Spirit & Inclusion

## WINNER

Population Category A



### Coomba & District Progress Association Coomba & District Progress Association

Coomba and District Progress Association has transformed the Coomba Park Community Hall and Brunch Cafe into a vibrant hub for socialising, learning, and community engagement.

Through a diverse range of activities such as masterclasses, sustainability projects, exercise classes, craft and singing groups, residents benefit from improved mental well-being and social connectedness.

The project has also had a positive impact on reducing crime, litter, and improving the overall community atmosphere, making Coomba Park a more thriving and cohesive community.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category B



### Silver Seniors Soiree Branxton Community Hall

This project aimed to improve access for seniors in rural communities by planning a Seniors Soiree, featuring young musical students from a local music school for an afternoon of entertainment.

The initiative underscored the importance of community involvement and collaboration with local authorities to ensure sustainability and long-term impact.

Future initiatives will focus on partnerships with organisations that can provide additional resources and support to further enhance the program's effectiveness.



## WINNER

Population Category C



### Homegrown Parkes Community Events

Central West Lachlan Landcare

Central West Lachlan Landcare, Parkes Community Arts and Parkes Shire Council joined forces to bring the concept of championing and showcasing all things 'homegrown' - local produce, art and craft, demonstrations and workshops - to reality.

The event in March attracted nearly 3000 attendees of all ages and featured over 40 local stall holders, performances by local groups, and various activities including workshops on landscape design, recycling, emergency planning, and pasta making.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category C



### Connecting Tilligerry Peninsula: TAG

Tilligerry Arts Group

The Tilligerry Arts Group is working to revitalise the community by creating a vibrant space at the Gallery that engages community members, artists, artisans, visitors, and residents.

Efforts include making the Gallery more attractive and accessible, developing new partnerships, initiating social events and exhibitions, and creating a welcoming space post-COVID.

Key outcomes include a visually appealing Gallery and increased engagement by the Arts Group, community members, and visitors.



## WINNER

Population Category E



### Seniors Festival in the Cessnock LGA

Seniors Reference Group and Cessnock City Council

Council facilitated a Seniors Festival to ensure older people stay connected, healthy, and engaged.

The celebration includes opportunities for building connections, engagement with art, music, heritage, Aboriginal communities, businesses, and health and wellbeing activities.

The Seniors Reference Group, made up of volunteers, service providers and Council staff, delivered a Program of more than 50 events as well as the delivery of a Portraiture Project to share and elevate diverse stories and voices.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E



### Orange United Sports Club Orange United Sports Club

Established in 2014, Orange United Sports Club supports Aboriginal and Low Socio-economic young people and families to participate in mainstream sports.

Overcoming barriers like financial constraints and transportation issues, the Club partners with organisations to deliver programs in mental health, drug and alcohol, officiating courses, and social capital skills development.

This initiative results in transferable skills for employment, education, and community network building in Orange, fostering a stronger, more inclusive community.





## WINNER

Population Category B



### Bellinghen Memorial Hall - A Grand Design Bellinghen Shire Council

The Memorial Hall in Bellinghen Shire was in need of significant renovations - to both preserve its heritage status and cultural significance and also to meet modern standards.

With funding secured, the heritage-listed building was successfully upgraded in mid-2023.

Through collaborative efforts between the community, Hall Committee, Council, and contractors, the facility was transformed to meet modern standards while retaining its historical charm, upholding the hall's cultural significance while ensuring it remains a valuable asset for the community.

## WINNER

Population Category E



### Orange 'The Local Fallen' Orange City Council

Research by Orange City Council and community groups revealed over 200 forgotten wartime sacrifices by local residents.

To lift the profile of these men and women, street banners with faces and stories of these individuals were displayed leading up to Anzac Day, with framed copies presented to families at a special ceremony.

The campaign, featuring stories of 'The Local Fallen,' will continue in future years to honour and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.



## WINNER

### Population Category A



### Litter Prevention at Thredbo Thredbo Resort

This project aims to prevent litter through various strategies including infrastructure improvements, community engagement events, litter picking, and education.

As a popular holiday destination, litter in Thredbo mainly consists of food and beverage packaging left by visitors.

The initiative involves activities like Clean Up Australia Day, regular litter picking by staff, and improving bin infrastructure.

The goal is to reduce litter in the area and eventually decrease the sales of commonly found litter products.

## WINNER

### Population Category E



### Summer Cleansing Wollongong City Council

The Summer Cleansing project is focused on reducing litter and increasing resource recovery at sites with high seasonal visitation.

In addition to identifying the sites, the project included increasing bin capacity, exploring recycling opportunities, and implementing a community education program.

Staff conducted waste audits, leading to positive outcomes such as reduced litter, increased recycling recovery, and changed user behaviour towards recycling.

The project has also resulted in altered servicing at some locations and consideration for installing Return and Earn machines at select locations.



## WINNER

Population Category C



### **GALING GINDHAY - Water Play for Parkes** Parkes Shire Council

The new GALING GINDHAY ('water play' in local Wiradjuri language) park in Parkes has provided a unique space for the community to engage with and learn from.

It provides a unique learning experience about the local Lachlan catchment area's water story through informative signage and interactive elements to explain the physics and engineering aspects through 'dams' of stainless steel, water locks and climbing rocks.

The park also integrates local Wiradjuri culture through design and informative signage, offering a space for play and education.

## WINNER

Population Category C



### **Lake Endeavour Places to Swim Project** Parkes Shire Council

The Lake Endeavour Places to Swim Project utilised a \$1 million grant from the NSW Government's Places to Swim Program to transform the largest dam in Parkes Shire into a safe and eco-friendly and accessible recreational space.

The initiative transformed the dam into a safe, multi-purpose site through the installation of an incredible 90m floating walkway extending directly out into the lake, accessible facilities, off-grid operations, telecommunications infrastructure, CCTV, and swimming buoys.



## WINNER

Population Category E



### Orange Community Vegetable Garden Orange City Council

The Orange Community Garden project has transformed an unused area into a vibrant space filled with life and stories, offering significant health benefits to the local community.

The Garden plays a vital role in engaging people from diverse backgrounds, promoting physical and mental health, fostering knowledge and connections.

From community groups to cultural tours, the Garden is a hub that fosters knowledge and connections, supporting the well-being of all involved.

Through volunteer hours and donations, the garden continues to expand, creating lasting benefits for the community.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E



### Machattie Lane Ecological Greenspace Bathurst Regional Council

Machattie Lane, a former road turned pedestrian thoroughfare in the Bathurst CBD, was transformed as part of the Streets as Shared Spaces initiative funded by Transport NSW.

In warmer months, the area becomes excessively hot due to the volume of hard surfaces, prompting a project to transform it into a greenspace.

The initiative uses three ecosystem garden beds to decrease urban heat island effect, provide a useable greenspace, and educate the Bathurst community about the local environment.





## WINNER

Population Category A



### Resource Recovery at Thredbo Thredbo Resort

Thredbo Resort's food organics collection and recycling initiative, launched in 2018, aims to reduce landfill waste and promote sustainability by collecting food waste from operations, local businesses, and the Village community, processing it into compost on-site.

Through community engagement and education, the initiative has reduced food waste to landfill, generated circular economy benefits, and set a model for environmental stewardship.

Thredbo also recycles materials like cardboard, paper, plastic, and metals, paving the way for future resource recovery opportunities.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category A



### Coomba Park Sustainability Coomba & District Progress Association

Coomba Park, a small community on the Mid North Coast of NSW, established a recycling hub in November, spearheaded by a group of local women wanting to address waste.

This hub accepts various recyclable items that are not included in the regular council recycling collection such as coffee bean packets, bottle caps, blister packs, skincare packs, and dish care packs.

To date over 35kg of packaging has been sent to TerraCycle for recycling, diverting them from landfill.



## WINNER

Population Category C



### Landfill to Circular Hub: Moss Vale RRC

Wingecarribee Shire Council  
Waste and  
Resource Management

The Moss Vale Resource Recovery Centre transformed a former landfill site into a Circular Economy Hub, addressing the challenge of excessive waste generation and landfill reliance.

Innovative initiatives such as organic waste processing, inert waste sorting and community recycling facilities engage residents, businesses, and waste organisations, leading to significant waste diversion, higher resource recovery rates, and heightened community awareness.

## WINNER

Population Category E



### Residential Bin Assessments AlburyCity Council

AlburyCity introduced a three-bin system in 2015, with larger general waste bins available for families with nappies and residents with medical issues.

These 'upsized' bins gradually increased in number over the past decade, leading to declining diversion rates.

To combat this trend, Council implemented Bin Assessments for residents requesting an upsized bin to help them understand how to sort their recycling better.

The result has been improved recycling behaviour, a reduction in bin upsizes and a greater diversion of residential waste.



## WINNER

Population Category E



### Orange High School - Don't Be Trashy Orange High School

Orange High School's "Don't Be Trashy" initiative focuses on turning waste into a resource, reducing landfill waste and promoting sustainability.

The program engages students in recycling efforts, empowering them to take action for a greener future. Funds generated from recycling activities are reinvested into the initiative and school for environmental stewardship.

This self-sustaining model ensures ongoing impact and reinforces the importance of waste reduction and recycling in the school community whilst encouraging everyone to start to make small changes to make a big difference.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E



### Bathurst Waste 2 Art Bathurst Regional Council and NetWaste

Waste 2 Art is a community competition and exhibition promoting creative pieces made from recycled waste.

The program aims to educate and challenge perspectives on waste while addressing community waste issues.

This program is an initiative of NetWaste, with Bathurst participating since 2010.

In Bathurst, the program has received over 1,200 submissions since its inception and has become a significant educational event on the council's annual calendar, showcasing community commitment and artist involvement.





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