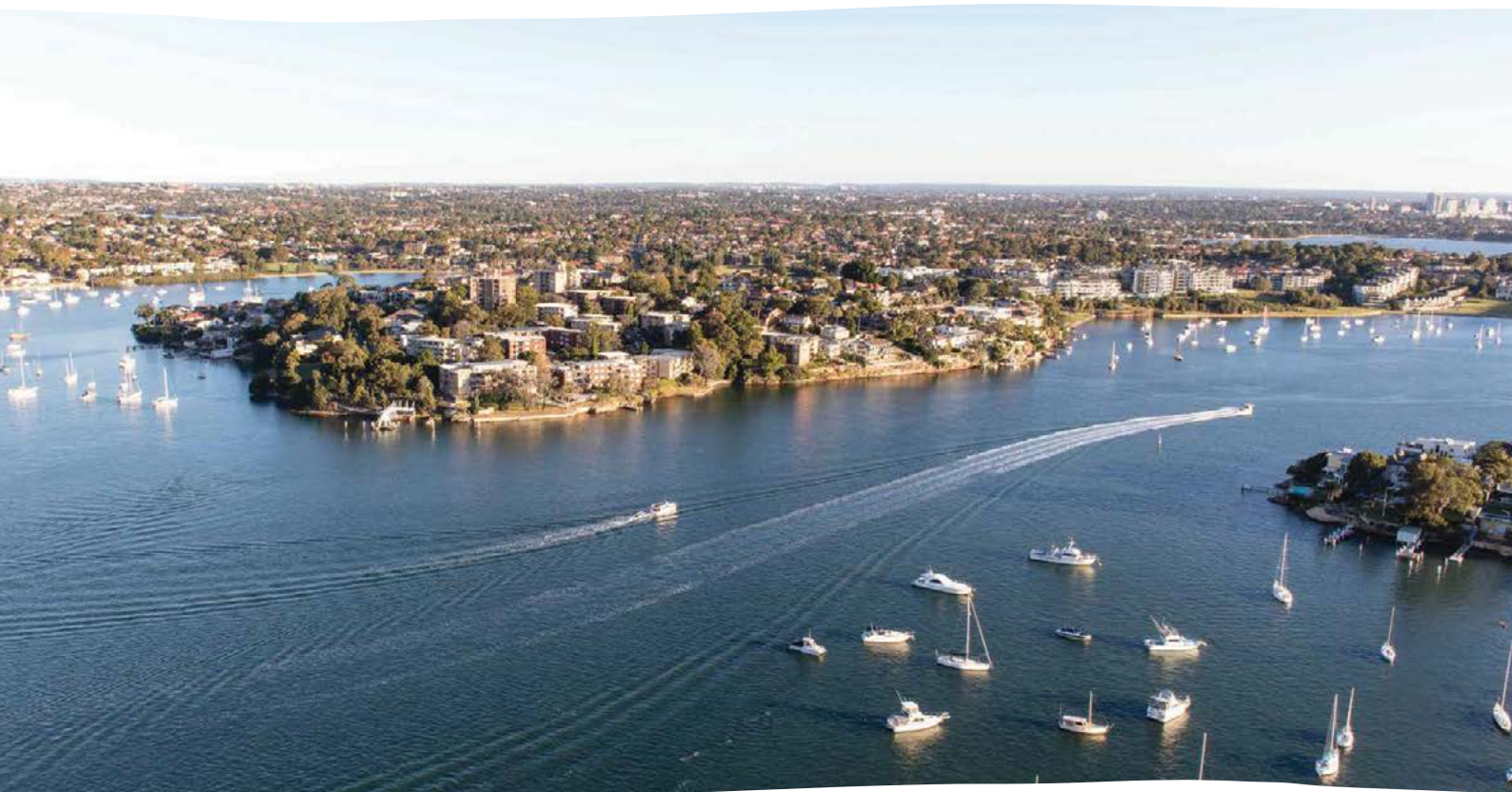




Sustainable Cities Awards 2021



Thank you to our awards supporters



Keep Australia Beautiful NSW

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Newtown NSW 2042
www.kabnsw.org.au

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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: 2021 Overall Sustainable Cities Award Winner - City of Canada Bay

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ABOUT KAB NSW



Keep Australia Beautiful NSW (KAB NSW) are the leaders in transforming behaviour to create a less littered and more environmentally sustainable New South Wales.

With a legacy of successful community engagement since 1975, our programs inspire individuals, students, organisations, businesses and government to actively care for their local environment.

Our flagship Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns and Sustainable Cities awards programs have been running since 1981 and 1994 respectively. They encourage, recognise and reward local communities, councils, businesses and schools for their outstanding efforts to reduce litter, increase recycling and beautify and improve their local environment.

Our Annual Litter Congress is Australia's only dedicated litter conference that shares successful projects, research, knowledge and best practice in area of litter prevention, management and anti-littering strategies.

Our hugely popular EnviroMentors® sustainability education service is a mobile service to schools, reaching every corner of NSW and covering a full suite of environmental modules.

KAB NSW is an apolitical organisation – we are not activists, we work in partnership with local and state governments, industry, schools and the community to protect and improve our state environment.

We work closely with the NSW Government and partner with them on a range of programs to connect with communities across NSW at a grass-roots level. Every year the NSW Premier hosts an annual charity dinner for KAB NSW which brings together business, local government, corporates, community groups and industry.



Message from
Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC
Governor of New South Wales
and Mr Wilson

Encouraging and assisting communities to create sustainable and beautiful places to live has been the mission of Keep Australia Beautiful NSW for the past 46 years. Its success can be readily seen through a visual assessment of our cities, towns and urban and natural environments and by an appreciation of the outstanding initiatives throughout New South Wales to reduce waste, conserve energy and recycle resources.

Many of us have 're-discovered' our local communities over the past two years of the pandemic with significant, positive outcomes:

- The confinement to local government boundaries has encouraged people to reconnect with each other, promoting community spirit and an interest in sustainability initiatives
- Innovative techniques and solutions have been developed to resolve pressing problems
- Entries are up by 22% and 39%, respectively, for this year's *Sustainable Cities* and *Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Awards*, reflecting the initiatives undertaken by councils, businesses, communities, students and individuals to improve local communities.

While there is always more to be done to create the 'environmentally responsible and beautiful New South Wales' in which we all wish to live and work, we can take encouragement from this year's exceptional entries.

On behalf of the people of New South Wales, as Patrons, we congratulate this year's entrants and winners on their outstanding contributions to building sustainable cities and communities.

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

Mr Dennis Wilson

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Welcome to the 2021 Keep Australia Beautiful NSW (KAB NSW) Sustainable Cities Awards.

The Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities Awards Program is an environmental and community program for local councils and their communities.

Projects that not only enhance the environment but improve the standard of living and well-being of urban communities have been a hallmark of the activities that have been recognised through this program since 1994. The Sustainable Cities Awards inspire councils and their communities to make a genuine and lasting contribution to their area, with partnerships between local authorities, businesses, community groups, schools and individuals.

This booklet profiles the 2021 entries and acknowledges their exceptional efforts and commitment to keeping Australia beautiful.

On behalf of KAB NSW, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the judging panel for their commitment to the unenviable task of selecting the winners and congratulate all who are profiled here for their inspirational work.

Val Southam
Chief Executive Officer
Keep Australia Beautiful NSW

Thank you to our awards program, category and event supporters



northern
beaches
council

ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE CITIES AWARDS



The Keep Australia Beautiful NSW (KAB NSW) Sustainable Cities Awards Program has been recognising and rewarding projects and actions in NSW since 1994 for metropolitan Sydney Councils, community groups, businesses, schools and individuals. The awards recognise projects that not only enhance the environment but improve the visual amenity and well-being of urban communities.

The Sustainable Cities Awards inspire councils and communities to make a genuine and lasting contribution to their area, with a broad range of award categories with emphasis on partnerships between local authorities, businesses, community groups, schools and individuals.

FURTHER INFORMATION + CONTACTS

For further information about the awards please visit <https://www.kabnsw.org.au/sustainable-cities/>

Alternatively, please contact Keep Australia Beautiful NSW on
E: awards@kabnsw.org.au or T: 02 8594 4000

AWARDS CATEGORIES

Resource Recovery and Waste Minimisation Award



The Resource Recovery and Waste Management Award (**sponsored by the NSW EPA**) is for a project or program that tackles a range of waste and recycling problems through waste minimisation and reduction; effective and innovative waste and recycling programs or incentivising behaviour change.

Litter Prevention Award



The Litter Prevention Award (**sponsored by the NSW EPA**) is for a project or program that reduces or prevents litter. This could involve behaviour change techniques, the creation of partnerships or networks or the development of effective infrastructure and place design.

Return and Earn Litter Prevention Award



The **Return and Earn** Litter Prevention Award is for a program or project that provides for and encourages the use of the Return and Earn Scheme in a local area through development and promotion of facilities, community engagement or innovative use of the Scheme to benefit a particular community or group.

Circular Economy Award



The Circular Economy Award is for 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.

Communication and Engagement Award



The Communication & Engagement Award is for programs and projects that inspire environmental action, through raising awareness, developing and building partnerships to share resources and creation of spaces and places for environmental education.

Community Spirit and Inclusion Award



The Community Spirit and Inclusion Award recognises communities successfully addressing challenges through proper planning, community partnerships and real outcomes. This award is given to communities that refuse to 'give in'.

Habitat and Wildlife Conservation Award



The Habitat and Wildlife Conservation Award is for projects which create, restore and sustain biodiversity of our native flora and fauna in urban environments, creating wildlife corridors and encouraging habitat conservation.

Heritage and Culture Award



The Heritage and Culture Award is for community projects that enhance and protect our unique, and built heritage, including celebration of a region's heritage.

Recycled Organics Award



The Recycled Organics Award is for projects and programs that minimise the loss of organics to landfill and supports the community to avoid, reduce and recycle organics.

Renewable Energy Award



The Renewable Energy Award is for progress and achievements in developing products or services associated with renewable energy.

Response to Climate Change Award



The Response to Climate Change Award recognises actions taken by communities to tackle climate change through practical, long-term solutions and educating the public about the causes and effects of climate change and what individuals can do to take action.

School's Achievement Award



The School's Achievement Award is for New South Wales schools that can demonstrate outstanding sustainability achievement, sustainable practices, reducing their environmental impact and leading the community by example.

Waterways and Marine Protection Award



The Waterways & Marine Protection Award (**incorporating Clean Beaches**) is for programs and actions that create, restore and enhance our natural waterways and beaches by advocating for coast and waterway protection, encouraging community participation in the protection of waterways and beaches and sustainable management of water resources.

Young Legend's Award

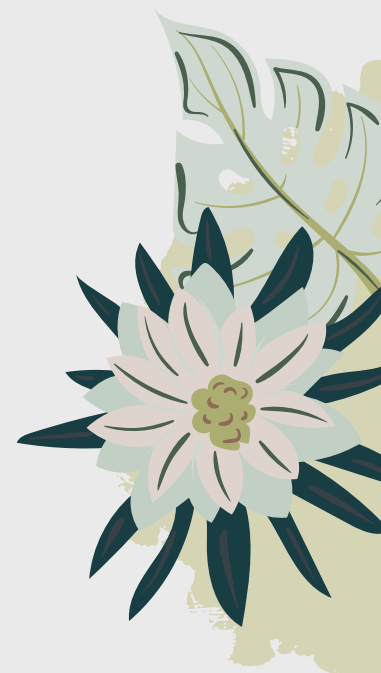


The Young Legend's Award recognises individuals or groups of people 25 years and under who demonstrate outstanding commitment to their environment and show leadership in pursuing environmental outcomes.

Overall Sustainable Cities Award



The Overall Award is presented to a metropolitan local government area within Greater Sydney that has successfully undertaken projects or actions in multiple areas of environmental sustainability and social inclusion.



AWARDS JUDGES & ASSESSORS

Brian Birkefield

Brian hails from Taree in NSW.

After attending the University of Newcastle, Brian accepted a position with the institution and remained there for many years. Currently, he works in sales as a spare parts interpreter.

Brian has been a Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities Tidy Towns assessor for more than 10 years, and a judge for four years.

For a number of years, Brian also served as a judge for the Clean Beaches Awards.

Danyelle Carter

Manager Local Government Programs, NSW EPA



Danyelle has nearly 30 years' experience in the environment sector in State and Local Government. Danyelle works in Circular Economy and Resource Management at DPIE to drive the implementation of the Waste Less, Recycle More initiative.

In 2018, Danyelle won a Premier's Award for outstanding service in Keeping the Environment Clean. Danyelle has worked with Aboriginal communities and works closely with local councils in remote and regional NSW.

Peter Clark

Managing Director, Calleo Green



Peter operates a consultancy that offers services across a diverse range of areas including emergency management, incident training, bushfire risk assessment and environmental protection and assessment.

For almost two decades, Peter has served as an assessor for the long-running Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Tidy Towns program, and more recently the Sustainable Cities program.

For a number of years, he has also acted as an assessor and judge for the internationally renowned annual open space awards program, Green Flag Award.

Ana Corpuz

Policy Officer, Environment Protection and Land Management Branch, DPIE



Ana has almost 20 years' experience in technical, policy and operational work in State Government, local government, industry and the academe in the areas of environment, sustainability, natural resources, waste, water, air quality, land use, zoning, and development and regulatory and legislative review.

Dr Mark Jackson

Director and Principal Consultant, Jackson Environment and Planning



Mark is a nationally recognised waste management specialist and has 26 years' experience in the field. He is the Director of Jackson Environment and Planning, a consulting firm dedicated to supporting the waste and recycling industry with planning approvals, EPA licencing and regulatory support. Previous to this, Mark over a 12-year period held senior management positions in the NSW Environment Protection Authority, leading some of the largest recycling industry development, regulatory support and infrastructure investment programs in the country's history.

Angus Johnston

Director, BioCarbon Soil & Principal Consultant, Jackson Environment and Planning.



Angus has 20 years' experience working in the waste management and resource recovery field for government and the private sector. This includes six years as the National Project Manager for Compost Australia, the predecessor of AORA.

Prior to joining Jackson Environment and Planning, Angus was the Principal Consultant Waste & Resource Recovery at KMH-Pitt&Sherry.

He also spent over two years working at the NSW EPA to design resource recovery infrastructure grant programs and evaluate infrastructure proposals.



Tasneem Kanpurwala



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

She is a dedicated leader driving change to support the public good to develop and enforce policies and procedures designed for environmental protection.

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

Layla McNeil

Environment Advisor,
Sydney Trains



Layla has experience in environmental strategic policy development, project and contract management, program delivery, EMS auditing, stakeholder facilitation.

She has knowledge and expertise in developing and delivering strategic environmental and communication plans, cooperative agreements and contracts with multi stakeholders; educational and behaviour change campaigns; environmental auditing, waste and resource management planning; to creating, implementing, reporting and evaluating a variety of sustainability programs.

Luciano Mesiti

CEO, Primary Industries
Education Foundation
Australia.



Luciano is the CEO of Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia, whose aim is to promote food and fibre education in schools nationally. Prior to his appointment he was a high school teacher, teaching agriculture and technology.

Luciano has extensive experience in curriculum development in agriculture and technology and is a very passionate advocate of Landcare and sustainable land manage curriculum in schools. He has been a Tidy Towns judge and assessor for over 15 years and a great supporter of Keep Australia Beautiful.

Vanessa Seaton

Contracts Manager -
Municipal Treatment &
Collection, Veolia



Vanessa Seaton is the Municipal Contracts Manager - Collection & Processing for Veolia Environmental Services (Australia) Pty Ltd (VANZ) and has worked extensively with the private sector, local government and local communities in the waste and recycling industry for 25 years.

Vanessa has been a 'Tidy Town' judge for many years and happily supports programs rewarding and highlighting the fantastic contribution individuals and community groups are making for the betterment of the environment.

Syd Smith BA MEd MACE



Syd is a private education consultant who has taught in primary and secondary schools, served as a curriculum consultant with the NSW Department of Education and was promoted to a Director's position on the NSW's Central Coast.

He now specialises in Environmental and Sustainability Education.

Matthew Taylor

HR Manager, Kleinfelder



As a former CEO of Keep Australia Beautiful NSW, Matthew brings over 7 years' experience from his time managing the organisation, including the Tidy Towns program.

Since leaving KAB, Matthew held a number of roles but his passion for the environment has remained.

Currently, he works for an environmental consultancy involved in both ecology and contaminated land issues.

AWARDS JUDGES & ASSESSORS

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

Grants Officer, City of Newcastle, Publisher - Surfing Roadies & Yahoo! Surf Awareness School



Chris has had an active involvement with many organisations including Surf rider 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).

Kristen Tola

Heritage Coordinator, RPS Group



Kristen Tola is a heritage professional, drawing on experience working in local government and museums combined with administration, financial management and stakeholder relationships, to deliver on heritage consulting projects throughout NSW. Kristen's recent experience is in supporting a team of consultants with Aboriginal and historic archaeological assessments and project management. Qualified with a Master of Cultural Heritage and Museums Studies (Heritage Practice), she understands conservation management plans, significance and heritage impact assessments, heritage interpretation, and heritage planning.

Mike Ritchie

Managing Director, MRA Consulting



Mike has over 30 years' experience in the waste management and recycling industry. He has worked with all levels of government and the private sector.

Mike's roles have included Managing Director of MRA Consulting Group, Group General Manager SUEZ Australia, General Manager WSN Environmental Solutions and State Manager of VISY Recycling. He was also a Director of a local government and Senior Advisor to the Mayor of Brisbane.

Jen Walker

Head of PR, Marketing & Communications, TerraCycle Australia & New Zealand



Jen has more than 30 years' experience in the communication industry, working in media, consultancies and in-house. Wanting to use her skills to help protect the planet, Jen joined global recyclers TerraCycle in 2019 and heads a team comprising marketing, PR, customer service and Zero Waste Boxes for Australia and New Zealand.

Richard Wiesel

Senior Coordinator City Image, Blacktown City Council



Rick has had a varied career in the registered club industry, community development sector and local government. Rick currently leads Blacktown City Councils public place cleansing programs, street cleaning and graffiti removal teams and works in partnership with colleagues and agencies to deliver major street art and public place improvement projects. Rick lives in the Lower Blue Mountains with his family and enjoys playing guitar, golf and volunteering for Keep Australia Beautiful and junior rugby league.



2021 OVERALL WINNER - CITY OF CANADA BAY

City of Canada Bay has set new benchmarks for sustainability, especially in engaging and empowering community to work collaboratively with Council to enhance the entire Canada Bay Local Government Area (LGA).

A range of diverse, well considered and executed programs that actively engage the community enables Council to effectively manage the myriad of sustainability and environmental challenges for decades to come. Benchmark targets to enhance waste management, emissions, efficient water use management, litter reduction, environmental protection, heat management amongst many others are clear, well communicated and achievable given the commitment and exceptional dedication demonstrated by Canada Bay this year.

Through its excellent initiatives and programs, the City of Canada Bay continues to showcase the importance of communities and Council working collaboratively to achieve common goals and connections across diverse and important range of issues.



2021 OVERALL FINALISTS

Bayside Council

Bayside Council has again met the sustainability challenge with several new and innovative programs.

The Council has demonstrated its commitment to enhancing sustainability across its operations, strategic planning and direction, whilst motivating the community to live as sustainably as possible.

Bayside Council continues to support residents with a diverse array of programs that encourage, enable and empower them to live sustainably and in balance with their natural surrounds.

Council's Illegal Dumping Smart Data & Technology program received particular mention from the judging panel for its innovative approach in managing illegal dumping.



Blacktown City Council

This year, Blacktown Council has presented an exciting and diverse set of programs clearly designed to enhance community awareness and increase sustainability options through several clearly defined, well-considered and well-communicated strategies.

Council continues to actively implement a number of exciting and significant programs especially concerning litter reduction, composting and enhanced recycling options.

The BINder Recycling Quiz, for example, is an excellent program that combines innovation, engagement and education.



City of Canterbury Bankstown

Canterbury-Bankstown Council have excelled in 2021 with a diverse and innovative range of programs all designed to enhance Council's already significant sustainability outcomes.

Council's community engagement and empowerment focus is outstanding and provides a benchmark for other councils. The Garden to Compost Series and the highly innovative and successful City Chickens program have been highly commended.

Overall, building upon already well established and successful sustainability programs, City of Canterbury Bankstown have demonstrated an outstanding series of diverse programs that will certainly enhance sustainability across this very large LGA.



Hawkesbury City Council

Hawkesbury Council, tucked neatly on the edge of Greater Sydney's urban sprawl, is a delightful mix of modern and highly urbanised suburbs, lush farmlands, industry, hobby farms and orchards, Defence establishments, National Parks, rivers and floodplains.

One of the many excellent Council initiatives and programs is the Disaster Emergency Dashboard that allows the collation of data and information required to effectively respond to unplanned and unexpected natural disaster events.

A range of other sustainability focused initiatives involving community and environmental groups, schools and individuals are evident across the LGA.

Hawkesbury City Council can be justifiably proud of its and the community's hard work in meeting sustainability and environmental objectives.



2021 OVERALL FINALISTS

Hornsby Shire Council

Hornsby Council presented a diverse and effective range of sustainability strategies and actions, whilst working with a broad range of partners who have very strong focus on community engagement and support.

The Nursery is an excellent example of Council and the community working together to enhance the environment and build on sustainability strategies being implemented daily.

Additionally, Council's work and engagement with the school community is highly effective and builds upon a range of strategies and actions developed specifically for young people to enhance understanding and a passion for sustainability management into the future.

The Council's collaborative program focused on the critical protection and rehabilitation of mangroves in its precious estuarine waterways was highly noted by the judging panel.



Inner West Council

Inner West Council has been a leader in sustainability excellence for several years.

The Council's focus and ongoing commitment to sustainability is demonstrated again in 2021 with a diverse and exciting range of continuing and new programs.

The Addison Road Community Organisation has once more excelled in this space providing a few excellent sustainability initiatives and outreach programs.

Inner West Council has also developed and is actively implementing an excellent Zero Waste Strategy, notably its cooperative Food Recycling in Apartments program.



Ku-ring-gai Council

Qualifying for the first time in 2021, Ku-ring-gai Council presented projects across a broad range of sustainability disciplines.

Situated just 16 kilometres from the city on Sydney's leafy North Shore, Ku-ring-gai is known for its natural beauty and urban villages and is bound by three national parks: Garigal National Park, Lane Cove National Park and Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park.

Ku-ring-gai Council has a strong focus on the next generation as demonstrated by two projects of note: The Gers Bottle Project established by the Gers siblings who collaborated incredibly well to recycle bottles for community causes; and the Wildflower Garden Nature Play Strategy, which has reinvigorated environmental education programs especially with a focus on Nature Play for ages 0-5.



Randwick City Council

Randwick Council continues to effectively respond to sustainability challenges, upholding the excellent work seen over the years.

Council have further developed, enhanced and strengthened innovative sustainability positive programs backed by excellent strategies giving sound direction and actions to meet today's challenges. Of particular note is the Council's excellent FOGO program and its generous rebate scheme for sustainable energy saving options.

Council's commitment to setting high standards within its own use of resources and visionary commitment to tackling sustainability issues head on once again impressed the judges in 2021.



2021 OVERALL FINALISTS

Strathfield Council

Strathfield Council continues to develop programs that enhance sustainability and build on a range of impressive and successful initiatives developed over several years.

Council is focused on litter reduction and elimination, enhancing and protecting natural environments and are taking their stewardship role very seriously.



LITTER CONGRESS

2022 | LESS LITTER. LIVE BETTER.

Hosted by:



Congress Partner:



5 & 6 April 2022
Aerial UTS, Sydney

littercongress.com.au

Join the conversation

Tap into the expertise of thought leaders, policy influencers and those with on-the-ground experience influencing litter habits in New South Wales and beyond at Litter Congress 2022.

Litter Congress will provide councils, industry, community groups, and individuals with the latest in government programs and regulations, information about current innovations and will challenge participants to consider ways in which human behaviour around littering can be transformed.

Participants will have the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals whilst both learning from a spectrum of diverse communities and sharing their own knowledge about successful litter prevention tools, techniques and case studies.

For more information visit littercongress.com.au or email events@kabnsw.org.au

Follow KAB NSW



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Resource Recovery & Waste Minimisation

Award category
sponsored by:



WINNER

FOGO Stops Food Waste Going to Landfill

Randwick City Council

While developing its Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy, Randwick City Council analysed resource recovery options. The analysis identified food waste as the highest component of the waste make up within the red-lidded bin.

With a landfill diversion target of 70%, Council realised that recycling food and other organics through FOGO services could help achieve the set target.

Council implemented a FOGO collection and processing service for all dwellings within the LGA to increase diversion from landfill through recycling food waste.

Since the commencement of the FOGO service, 1,086 tonnes of FOGO were collected on average per month during March to June 2021, which represents a 75% increase on garden organics collected when comparing with 622 tonnes the same period in 2020.

Through separating and placing food organics in FOGO bins, residents contributed to the reduction of the average monthly red bin tonnage by 28% (1,696 tonnes in 2021, down from 2,361 tonnes for the same period in 2020), with low 1.5% contamination rate.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Illegal Dumping Smart Data & Technology

Bayside Council

Bayside Council needed to address illegal dumping activity within the Local Government Area (LGA), assisting the State achieve its target of 30% reduction in this activity.

Council teamed up with Sydney's Regional Illegal Dumping squad, the NSW EPA and custom design contractors to conceptualise, design, fund, construct and implement smart data, heat mapping of hotspots, custom designed infrastructure and technology to provide the community with improved alternative services.

The resulting outcome was the creation of a benchmark baseline, smart tools and implementation of custom infrastructure to reduce illegal dumping per capita by incidence and by volume from previous period.

Bayside Council has demonstrated that it is capable of implementing bespoke/custom smart solutions instead of relying on ready-to-use products that can not be fit for purpose or cost prohibitive.





HIGHLY COMMENDED Addi Road Food Pantries

Addison Road Community
Organisation
(Inner West)

Addison Road Community Organisation has been tackling inequality and waste in relation to food for many years.

The Addi Road Food Pantries, where rescued food is sold at low cost, arose from the the tragedy of rising food insecurity in the community while edible food was going to landfill.

The project benefits not only those in need, but also the whole community and the environment by redirecting food from landfill, thus, feeding the hungry and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The program, with 78 participating donors, 200 tonnes of food was rescued in 2020, equalling to a saving of 400 tonnes of CO₂. In 2021, 22,000 kilograms of food a month was rescued, providing sustenance to 8,000 people per week.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Litter Prevention

Award category
sponsored by:



WINNER

Clean-Up Eco Tour

Sydney By Kayak
(North Sydney)

Boats, picnics, stormwater drains, wind and tides all contribute to a growing litter problem in the Sydney Harbour.

Initially run as a kayak tour business, founder Laura Stone and her regular paddlers were keen to pick up any floating plastics they came across, which quickly grew into a dedicated clean-up paddle that focused solely on picking up rubbish.

The 'Clean-up Eco Tour' focusses on education on local conservation initiatives, coupled with physically picking up rubbish from Sydney Harbour with buckets and sieves.

This past year, the group has removed 1.3 tonnes of rubbish from Sydney Harbour, as well as raised \$16,500 for conservation initiatives – Seabin Project and Living Seawalls Project.

Sydney by Kayak hopes to continue introducing people to the fun of kayaking, appreciating Sydney's beautiful harbour, bringing a heightened awareness to environmental protection and supporting the local community.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Spring into Scavenge Leadership Program

Seaside Scavenge
(Inner West)

People in coastal communities feel powerless in the face of marine debris pollution. The 'Spring into Scavenge Leadership' program addressed the eco-anxiety and hopelessness coastal communities feel as a result.

Seaside Scavenge created a scalable online leadership program to empower passionate people who want to bring about change around waste reduction in their communities.

Spring into Scavenge engaged aspiring local leaders, councils, local businesses and members of the wider community, including children, First Nations people and minorities to reimagine waste as a resource through fun and unique waste education programs, introducing them to the concept of circular economy.

At the end of the program, each leader held a waste education event in their local community to educate the general public and local businesses about source reduction strategies, anti-littering behaviour and circular economy principles.

Future program iterations will include a revised program handbook that syncs with the online learning software, and a simplified evaluation process.



Award category
sponsored by:



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Return and Earn Litter Prevention

WINNER

Towards Zero Waste at our Return & Earn

SCRAP Ltd
(Liverpool)

Over the past 30 years, SCRAP Ltd has tirelessly pursued actions and programs to minimise waste at every opportunity, including using the Return & Earn machine to reinforce the message of container deposit legislation to the local community.

In the last three years, SCRAP has successfully promoted and managed the site with Tomra, achieving almost zero waste to landfill.

All non-deposit containers are recycled at kerbside by Council. SCRAP additionally recycles cardboard through HHS or repurposes it as weedmat or worm food at SCRAP and the Community Garden.

As waste to landfill is a major contributor to climate change, SCRAP believes that the program, although small, is reaching a number of people who may be considered dubious of the science or the argument about the issue. We often point out that their income in recycling is dependent upon the societal recognition of the importance of mitigating the effects of what has been irresponsible resource use in the past.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Bottle and Can Recycling Project

Lucas Heights Community
School (Sutherland)

Lucas Heights Community School has a long history of sustainability practices, with students being an important driving force behind the school's environmental success.

Through various environmental education programs and continuous involvement in sustainable practices, the school is actively creating awareness and social responsibility for the environment not only in the student population but also the broader community.

In 2018, with the support from the NSW Government's initiative Return and Earn, and in collaboration with St George Recycling Centre at Rockdale, the school introduced its bottle and can recycling project.

The school's ongoing commitment to reduce waste through the Return and Earn program has been embraced by the whole school community, even extending to the wider population and businesses.

Funds earned through the program have thus far supported the school in developing other environmental programs and teacher professional development programs.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Circular Economy

WINNER

Let's Go 'Swap and Go'

Northern Beaches Council

The Let's Go 'Swap and Go' initiative was born from the Northern Beaches businesses and community's determination to continue with reusable coffee cups in a COVID-safe manner, instilling this sustainable practice into their daily operations.

The Northern Beaches Council incentivised businesses to get started with a float of 'swap and go' coffee cups and provided COVID-safety advice to implement the systems.

Four 'swap and go' coffee cup providers and over 2,200 food and beverage businesses took part, with more than 30 community groups and social enterprises playing a role in the initiative.

The program doubled 'swap and go' cafes from 30 to more than 60, delivering 550 swap cups and saving an estimated 112,000 cups from landfill.

While important to trial the systems, the Council will now use this data to deliver the program for preferred cup systems and consider future container systems.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Recycled Roads in Waverley

Waverley Council

Plastics waste is an increasingly critical issue due to the impending export restrictions. As a result, finding new end of life uses for this material is paramount.

Waverley Council worked with various stakeholders to test the feasibility of using different types of recycled materials in place of virgin materials for road base.

Conducted in consultation with South Sydney Region of Councils, NSW DPIE, NSW Roads and Traffic Authority and the Downer Group, the project incorporated 2,460 tonnes of Reconophalt (mixed plastic waste) into construction of seven roads, diverting waste from landfill and informing other circular initiatives.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Communication & Engagement

WINNER

FOGO Small Change, Big Difference

Randwick City Council

Randwick City Council's 'FOGO Small Change, Big Difference' initiative set out to raise awareness and inspire a diverse and multi-ethnic population living predominantly in units and high-rise-buildings to engage with the Council's new FOGO service.

Through a well planned and implemented communications strategy that including digital and print advertisement, social media, workshops, pop-up stalls, fun graphics and a celebrity ambassador, the Council engaged with Randwick residents to ensure a flawless implementation of the new FOGO service; high FOGO participation rates; low contamination in FOGO bins and appropriate community use of the new bin system.

A highly effective campaign pre-, during and post-implementation resulted in 28% reduction in red bin content, 75% increase in organics collection with 1.5% contamination.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Wildflower Garden Nature Play Strategy

Ku-ring-gai Council

The Nature Play strategy was a review of the environmental education programs at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden to develop regional visitation experiences for early years education.

The new Nature Play strategy completely transformed the early years environmental education programs with expanded programming, environmental education partnerships, supporting educational equipment and regional communication.

Council's Visitor Experience and Events Department and Environmental Education Rangers worked with internal (Libraries, Strategy and Environment Team) and external (Eucalypt Australia, Planet Ark) to deliver the strategy.

The Nature Play strategy delivered milestone achievements since it's implementation, excelling in the metrics of attendance and engagement as well as in sentiment and feedback.

The team is constantly adjusting and improving, becoming highly flexible in adapting to new formats such as online delivery, expanding this offering in the future.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Community Spirit & Inclusion

WINNER

Skipping the Skip

Auburn Hospital Recycling Team
(Cumberland)

As far back as 2016, a group of resourceful cleaners at the Auburn Hospital noticed an increase in the amount of useful equipment, consumables, plastic items and more being disposed of by the hospital.

The group began collecting items that could be used by other charities and organisations, and encouraged others to do the same. Their aim was to redirect as many useable items from landfill to those who would benefit from them, in the process educating and involving the rest of the Auburn Hospital staff and community in the importance of recycling.

To date, the initiative has benefited the Auburn Hospital, MedEarth, Save the Children, Sydney Zoo, Featherdale Wildlife Hospital, Koala Park Hospital, Wayside Chapel, many horticultural organisations, preschools, vets and others



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Garden to Kitchen to Compost Series

Sustainable Future - City of
Canterbury Bankstown

The 'Garden to Kitchen to Compost' series aimed to increase the skills and confidence of residents in the Canterbury-Bankstown area to grow edible gardens and cook, compost or worm farm to reduce food waste to landfill.

The series covered 15 webinars, factsheets and videos that were delivered via Zoom as part of the Keep Connected program, providing skills and confidence for residents to grow edibles at home and divert food waste from landfill through composting and worm farming.

The series was adapted to include fun, cheap and easily available recycling options (while in lockdown) to build a garden at home and to strengthen resilience and generate positive mental health by helping people feel connected at a time of community isolation.

Once the lockdown was lifted and families began returning to work and school, the program delivery was adapted to evening and weekend sessions to fit audience availability.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Habitat & Wildlife Conservation

WINNER

Mason Park Wetlands Renewal

Strathfield Municipal Council

In 2019, Strathfield Council closed Hudson Park Golf Course, transforming the land into a District Park. As part of this transformation, a lake was constructed in early 2020. Primarily built to create an aesthetically pleasing recreational lake, it's environmental value was quickly apparent to Council's Sustainability team.

The Mason Park Wetlands Renewal project sought to restore habitat for migratory birds in a wetland located in a highly developed urban area

Working with multiple stakeholders to embed the project within the community, the Strathfield Municipal Council strove towards improving water quality in the lake through solutions that created least disturbance to the native birds using the area for nesting and feeding.

The Mason Park Wetlands have been cleared of encroaching mangroves to allow migratory birds access to an endangered feeding and nesting site, with 1,000 native aquatic plants being planted on the perimeter and around the inlet of the lake – settling the water drawing up nutrients and reducing availability to algae; as well as 200 locally native Glass Shrimp and 50 Australian Freshwater Mussels were introduced to the pond to act as a base to a new ecosystem and create a natural water filter.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Valuing Our Wetlands - Pughs Lagoon

Hawkesbury Environment Network

Hawkesbury Environment Network (HEN) members have been working to preserve the floodplain wetlands over many years through environmental advocacy, education and on-ground projects.

The Hawkesbury floodplains are scattered with numerous wetlands, some of which are undervalued and in a degraded state. HEN set out to raise the profile of the area and enhance the biodiversity of the flora by replacing weeds with a diverse range of native wetland species.

Network members and community volunteers worked cooperatively with professional bush regenerators and Hawkesbury City Council staff, weeding 1.2 hectares of lagoon surrounds. Members planted 421 sedges, shrubs and trees restoring the local river-flat forest community. Additionally, four interpretive signs were installed in the area to provide a narrative that generates a positive user experience.

Hawkesbury Environment Network project managers learned to be very flexible to complete a project during a pandemic and cope with a very large flood.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Heritage & Culture

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Ku-ring-gai Heritage Festival

Ku-ring-gai Council

Ku-ring-gai Council sought to engage its community with the historical stories of its area and showcase unique elements of built, natural, cultural and Indigenous heritage.

Ku-ring-gai's Events Team engaged with key partners to develop a consultative strategy that was a 'whole destination' approach to deliver interesting heritage experiences for visitors.

A wide range of partners, working internally within council and externally on a national, regional and local level, delivered 15 unique events as part of the Festival.

The objectives of these events were both to engage and educate the local community with stories of local heritage whilst also providing partnering organisations with a platform to connect with a new audience to grow their own community-based initiatives.

The local community's desire to engage with their local history and heritage was reflected by all events reaching full capacity bookings and an overwhelmingly positive feedback.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Recycled Organics

WINNER

ShareWaste

ShareWaste
(Sydney)

With a simple desire to stop sending their organic waste to landfill, and in the process get to know their local neighbours and community, Tomas and Eliska created an online app that connects people who wish to contribute organic material to their neighbours and community groups to turn into compost.

The network of compost hosts (who accept organics) and donors (who contribute organics) – including households, community places, compost hubs, farms, community gardens and small businesses – has grown to 96,000 registered users world-wide, with 44,000 of those found in Australia.

With the introduction of 'impact tracker' in 2019 within the app – which allows users to enter the amount of organic material they have contributed/ accepted – in less than two years, users tracked 76,144 kilograms of organic material that was diverted from landfill in that time, although the true figure may be higher.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

CB City Chickens and Food Waste Trial

Sustainable Future – City of Canterbury Bankstown

Following a FOGO trial in 2017-2018, the City of Canterbury Bankstown set out to explore alternative and innovative ways to encourage household food waste diversion away from landfills.

The 'CB City Chickens and Food Waste Trial' was introduced to provide local residents with an alternative to reduce food waste going to landfill and to collect data on the effectiveness of this strategy.

Selected residents participated in the food waste reduction trial, with local businesses providing the training, knowledge and support to residents and Council during the trial period.

Participating residents gained awareness on the need to reduce their household food waste, learnt new skills and collected valuable data on innovative waste reduction strategies.

The Council gained valuable insight into resident behaviour, noting that people were willing to try new ways to reduce household food waste besides composting.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Renewable Energy

WINNER

Western Sydney Green Gas Project

Jemena
(Fairfield)

As Australia transitions to renewable energy, hydrogen could play an important role as energy storage and decarbonising the gas network with green gas.

The Western Sydney Green Gas Project provides a foundation for Jemena's decarbonisation roadmap, by demonstrating power-to-gas technology by converting renewable electricity (solar and wind) into green hydrogen gas for use across the gas network.

The project was co-funded by Jemena and the Australian Renewable Energy Agency as part of ARENA's Advancing Renewables Program.

The delivery of this project provides critical learnings and the social license to support the energy transition and investments in renewable hydrogen.

Jemena's trial will support future activities around the production and storage of renewable hydrogen at larger scales, being critical in demonstrating the advantageous position of hydrogen within the future renewable system as a key diversification opportunity.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Northern Beaches Goes Renewable

Northern Beaches Council

In 2020, a Climate Change Action Plan was prepared by the Northern Beaches Council that supported the adoption of renewable energy actions and emissions reduction targets, detailing the Council's transition to alternative energy sources.

As part of the plan, the Council implemented renewable energy actions that included a 100% renewable electricity Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) and an on-site solar and community battery trial.

The Council has managed to meet its corporate renewable electricity and emissions reductions early, saving approximately \$2.3 million over seven years.

As part of this project, Council will also monitor the effectiveness of its first battery installation – a joint trial held with Ausgrid – to support increased renewable uptake in the short-term by making solar more affordable, and the long-term by developing future community battery projects in the form of a potential wide-scale rollout.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Response to Climate Change

WINNER

A Greener Place

Strathfield Municipal Council

Following the re-purposing of an old golf course as a public recreation space, Strathfield Municipal Council set out to create a canopy cover in an area of heat island effect.

Increasing canopy cover across Sydney has been a Premier's Priority project, with the 5 Million Trees fund providing a significant contribution to the planting of 1,256 canopy plants, with a further 180 plants provided by Novo Rail to the project.

Council has successfully established all plantings, despite a major drought event, and created a cool green environment that can reduce the impacts of climate change.

Aside from some specimen trees in this planting, the majority are native trees that will encourage the return of fauna into the area.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

UV Smart Cool Playground: Memorial Park

Cumberland City Council

Cumberland City Council partnered with Western Sydney University to research and develop innovative ways to make playgrounds safer for families and children during hot weather.

Through the project, Council retrofitted its hottest playgrounds utilising four key elements: cool materials, access to water, education through signage and strategically placed trees to mitigate heat.

As a result, Council extended the safe use of an important community asset, demonstrating leadership in climate change adaptation and nation-leading urban innovation partnerships.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

School's Achievement

WINNER

Kurmond's War On Waste!

Kurmond Public School
(Hawkesbury)

Kurmond Public School's initiative 'Kurmond's War on Waste' sets out to raise awareness of sustainable practices by reducing waste at the school and the wider Kurmond community.

The school formed a committee of students in years 4 to 6 who take on different sustainability projects each year and educate other students in diverse sustainable practices.

The school has completed waste audits and have received a sustainability grant to purchase an easy to use waste system that is being rolled out in the school.

By continuing with termly waste audits, the school ensures that any new problems can be addressed and resolved quickly.

Through this teaching and learning model, the students can take the sustainable practices home to their families, in turn, spreading the message into the broader community.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Bird /Bee Highway / Bush Tucker Garden

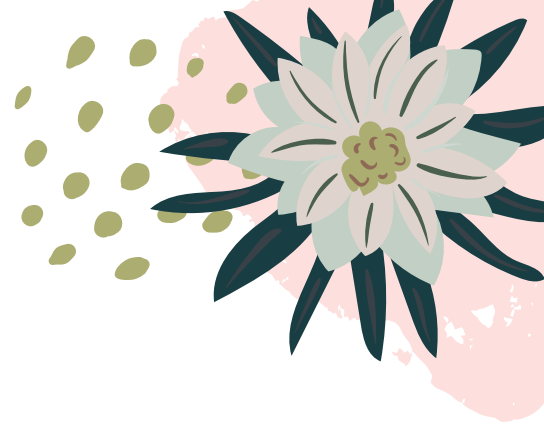
Regentville Public School
(Penrith)

The 'Bird /Bee Highway / Bush Tucker Garden' was created to bring awareness to students of the importance in providing native flowering plants and shrubs that will give food and shelter to native fauna.

The project is slowly transforming a dry and unused 'out of bounds' area within Regentville Public School's playground into a place where children can actively learn the importance of caring for their environment.

COVID lockdowns have prevented the school being onsite to continue with this project, although the Kitchen Gardens, composting and worm farming have now been established.





HIGHLY COMMENDED

Let's Go for Clean and Green!

The Hills School
(Parramatta)

For many years, the Hills School has been educating its students in the importance of being proactive in taking care of our lands, places, school, home and the community by doing the right thing.

The school endeavours to help its students develop good habits as citizens in the care of the living environment as well as the community through various educational tools and resources including YouTube videos and display posters.

The school organised a clean up day to raise awareness of the importance of caring for the environment and the planet, inviting parents to take part in the clean up of the area within the school zone.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Waterways & Marine Protection

Award category
sponsored by:



JOINT WINNER

Integrated Water Management Strategy

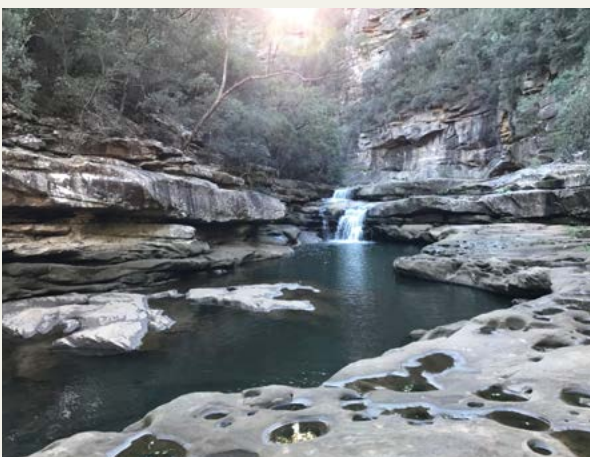
Wollondilly Shire Council

Due to increasing new urban development and changing climate, Wollondilly Shire Council identified the importance of preserving its waterways, catchments and the water cycle to maintain biodiversity value and the ability for the community to continue enjoying primary contact with the Shire's waterways in an increasingly growing urban sprawl.

After rigorous consultation, modelling and research, Council has developed an Integrated Water Management Policy, Strategy and WSUD Guidelines which aim to protect local waterways and promote community liveability, greener neighbourhoods, water conservation and using water to support industries.

Sydney Water, Department of Planning Industry and Environment, Environment Protection Authority, Water NSW, Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries), surrounding councils, traditional owners, developers and community are integral to the success of the initiative.

Learnings from this project will drive smarter water management outcomes for all new development in Wollondilly.



JOINT WINNER

A Helping Hand for our Smelly Friends

Hornsby Shire Council Natural Resources Branch

Mangroves are an essential part of the coastal environment, improving water quality, stabilising and improving soil, protecting shorelines from erosion, providing habitats for various species and contributing to global blue carbon storage.

Although legally protected, mangroves are increasingly under pressure from coastal development, pollution and increased recreational water activities.

Hornsby Shire Council Natural Resources Branch set out to trial a range of methods to propagate River Mangrove, a species notoriously difficult to work with and with very limited success in propagation attempts internationally.

The team reviewed international literature, spoke to experts, observed the biological response of local mangroves and trialed numerous approaches to replicate what nature offers, resulting in successful revegetation of 6.8 hectares of estuarine foreshore.



CATEGORY AWARD WINNERS

Young Legend's

WINNER

Vaughn's Return and Earn Fundraiser

Vaughn V. Arambatzis
(Georges River)

The Arambatzis family are motivated recyclers who are concerned about their environmental footprint. They purchase second hand when they can, repurposing as much as possible to limit their waste.

Vaughn wanted to involve more local people in mindful recycling, while raising money for a much-loved charity.

Seeking permission from the Sydney Dogs and Cats Home – his elected charity – Vaughn promoted his cause to the neighbourhood, collecting and recycling over 3,000 drink containers last year via the Return and Earn scheme. This year, he is set to double the amount of recovered containers, with all proceeds going to the shelter.



HIGHLY COMMENDED

The Gers Bottle Project

The Gers Bottle Project
(Ku-ring-gai)

The 'Gers Bottle Project' began in 2018 when Molly, now four, was hospitalised with ill health.

Her siblings, recognising that she had nothing to play with or look at whilst in her hospital crib, set out to buy her a crib mobile, which soon bloomed into purchasing mobiles for all cribs in the paediatric ward.

The children collected people's cans and bottles, then used the return and earn initiative to obtain money to organise the mobiles.

The original idea developed over the years, with the five children continuing to recycle cans and bottles for the greater good, donating proceeds to local charities.

To date, 'Gers Bottle Project' has assisted Hornsby Hospital, local animal sanctuaries, various local schools, cancer research and the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Womens shelter; receiving the 2020 Matt Kean Award for their efforts.





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