



Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards 2020



Thank you to our awards supporters

nsw



Keep Australia Beautiful NSW

Level 1, 268 King St
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.

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About Keep Australia Beautiful 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:

- Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Awards
- Sustainable Cities Awards
- EnviroMentors®
- Annual Litter Congress

To find out more visit www.kabnsw.org.au

KAB NSW wishes to sincerely thank the 2020 Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards Judging Panel

Brian Birkefield

Danyelle Carter

Peter Clark

Ana Corpuz

Patrick Denvir

Hailey Durham

Marc Harper

Tasneem Kanpurwala

Doug MacDonald

Layla McNeil

Lynda Newnam

Nicole Palmer

Peter Ryall

Syd Smith

Jo Taranto

Matthew Taylor

Dr Trevor Thornton

Chris Tola



GOVERNMENT HOUSE
SYDNEY

Message from

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

Keep Australia Beautiful NSW has been encouraging and assisting communities to grow into sustainable and beautiful places to live for just on 45 years. Instrumental to their very visible achievements in our cities and our regional areas has been a successful program of community engagement that has led to a more 'environmentally responsible and beautiful New South Wales'.

On 18 May 2020, Dennis and I, as Patrons of Keep Australia Beautiful Council NSW, met virtually with Ms Val Southam, who brought us up to date with the 2020 Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Awards Program.

This year's awards, in two categories: *Sustainable Cities* and *Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns*, recognise the initiatives taken by councils, businesses, communities, students and individuals to improve their local communities. Due to the impact of the drought, bushfires, floods and COVID-19, now more than ever, our community is aware of our environment and the need to reduce pollution, waste, litter, water and energy use, and to increase the uptake of recycling and conservation efforts to enhance the environment, heritage and culture.

On behalf of the people of New South Wales, we congratulate all this year's entrants and the winners on their outstanding contributions to building sustainable cities and sustainable communities. Your achievements are especially appreciated and noted in a year in which we have all spent so much more time in our local communities.

This Program is a welcome recognition and reminder of the community spirit that continues to sustain us.

Warm best wishes for the annual Awards.

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

Mr Dennis Wilson



Welcome to the 2020 Keep Australia Beautiful NSW (KAB NSW) Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Awards.

Keep Australia Beautiful NSW is proud to carry on a legacy of running successful community programs, since 1981. This annual awards program recognises and celebrates the efforts and achievements of NSW regional towns and councils, community organisations, schools, businesses and individuals towards making regional NSW more sustainable.

Projects that not only enhance the environment but improve the standard of living and well-being of urban communities has been a hallmark of the activities that have been recognised through this program. The Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Awards inspires councils and their communities to make a genuine and lasting contribution to their area. Partnerships between local authorities, businesses, community groups, schools and individuals are paramount to the success of many of these projects.

This booklet profiles the 2020 winners 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 supporters



About the Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards



Since 1981, the Sustainable Communities – Tidy Towns Program has been rewarding and recognising projects around litter, waste management, recycling, heritage, community spirit and other environmental areas in towns both large and small 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 16 categories or the Overall Award. There is no fee for entries to the awards.

The State Overall winner has the potential to become a finalist for the National Keep Australia Beautiful Award, and may also host the awards weekend for the year following their win.

AWARD POPULATION CATEGORIES

- Population category A: up to 2,000
- Population category B: 2,001 - 6,000
- Population category C: 6,001 - 12,000
- Population category D: 12,001 - 20,000
- Population category E: > 20,000

Overall Award – NSW’s Most Sustainable Community



The Overall Award is awarded to a community in a town, village or regional centre that has successfully undertaken projects or actions in at least four areas of environmental sustainability and social inclusion.

**Waste Less, Recycle More
Waste Minimisation
Sponsored by NSW EPA**



The Waste Less, Recycle More Award 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.

**Don’t be a Tosser!
Litter Action
Sponsored by NSW EPA**



The Don’t be a Tosser! Litter Action Award 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
Sponsored by Return and Earn**



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.

**Habitat and Wildlife
Conservation**



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



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.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage



The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Award is for community projects that enhance and protect Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in a local area or region.

**Young Legend’s
Environmental**



The Young Legend’s Environmental 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.

**School’s Environmental
Achievement**



The School’s Environmental 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.

Environmental Communication



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

Coastal and Waterways Protection incorporating Clean Beaches



The Coastal and Waterways Protection Award 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.

Community Spirit and Inclusion



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'.

Recycled Organics



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.

Circular Economy



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.

Response to Climate Change



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.

Renewable Energy



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

Sustainable Projects



The Sustainable Projects Award recognises innovations in, and the application of technology to achieve improved environmental performance, within their spheres of influence.

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 three 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.

Patrick Denvir

Co-CEO, 100% Renewables



Patrick has 25 years' experience in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and carbon management consulting across strategic, policy and technical areas.

Patrick co-founded 100% Renewables in 2015 to help leading organisations transition to clean energy and net zero emissions.

100% Renewables has worked with many local governments to help them set targets, develop plans and implement efficiency and renewable energy projects.

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.

Doug MacDonald

Doug has experience across a broad range of fields, including Civil Engineering, specialising in design and construction, as well as Landuse Planning.

He has also specialised in sustainable urban development, with a focus on low impact development, energy efficient transport and waste management and recycling.

Additionally, Doug has lent his professional dexterity streetscape improvements and bushland management and maintenance, including bushfire mitigation and rehabilitation.

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, a Master's in Environmental Management, and is currently writing a doctoral thesis on the potential role of citizen science within the planning regime.

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.

Nicole Palmer

Visitor Information Officer & Library Assistant, Water NSW & Camden Council



Nicole works at the Warragamba Dam, educating members of the public and schools about water catchments, water wise activities and the history of Warragamba dam.

She is a community advocate for better waste facilities and litter reduction in her local area and is the former Secretary for Buxton Community Association (2017-2020), which implemented waste free community events and a food waste collection system at the local community hall.

Nicole is the Winner of Wollondilly Councils Australia Day award for Environmental Citizen of the Year in 2019.

Peter Ryall

Casual Academic, University of Newcastle



Peter is a retired secondary school history teacher, having taught in NSW state high schools, South Africa, Brazil and Canada.

Currently, Peter works as a casual academic at the University of Newcastle's School of Education.

He is a community volunteer for various local organisations, including past secretary of Halliday's Point Landcare Group. A special interest and experience in heritage and indigenous issues gained from over 30 years' teaching these facets of history.

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.

Joanne Taranto

Director, Good for the Hood



Joanne is a sustainability communicator and litter and waste reduction educator. She co-founded community waste campaign, '5 for Ryde' in 2017 and now works as Director of Good for the Hood.

Good for the Hood has worked on behaviour change campaigns with ABC television, not for profits, corporates and a large number of councils around Australia. Jo's passions are community development, thrift shopping, sustainability engagement, litter management, communications and coffee.

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.

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 organisations such as Surfrider Foundation, Take 3, the Australian Coastal Society, Keep Australia Beautiful NSW, the Australian Radioactivity Protections and Nuclear Safety Agency, Coastcare, National Parks and Wildlife and the EPA.

Currently, Chris holds the role of Grants Officer with the City of Newcastle and is the Publisher of Surfing Roadies.

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).



Albury POPULATION CATEGORY E

Albury City is forthright in stating that it has a ‘two city, one community’ culture.

There is strong evidence of proactive engagement by Council with the community, and a comfortable willingness of the community to ‘have their say’ in decision making.

Having identified in 2009 that the Albury Waste Management Centre would reach full capacity by the end of 2020, AlburyCity Council embarked on a longevity strategy.

The importance of getting waste management right was critical as the Centre processes waste from six different local government areas in the region and is the fourth largest operation in NSW.

By engaging and working closely with the community, Council has developed and implemented many commendable strategies dealing with waste.

Additionally, Council has developed of note the Albury Climate Projections study of the Murray and Murrumbidgee region, which is critical to guide the community in adapting to the effects of climate change.

Community and political pressure to effectively manage the environment is increasing, and Council has achieved good results in these, often competing, arenas.

Council has an effective strategic planning process with adoption of the overarching Albury 2030 Strategic Plan, and subsequent Sustainability and Environmental Reports, Action Plans, Projects and Monitoring Programs.

Broken Hill

WINNER

Population Category D



Like many communities and towns in NSW, Broken Hill has been badly affected by the drought, and more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to these, Broken Hill was experiencing serious and unique threats to its viability caused by climate change, a decline in mining activity, isolation and a decline in population.

The City Council resolved to address these threats and embarked on a plan to strengthening the City's resilience.

The subsequent Sustainability Strategy 2018-2023 was adopted in June 2019 highlighting the Council's high level of commitment, with strong enthusiasm by the community supporting a carefully planned program of projects.

Council is to be commended for a long term and unwavering commitment to survival.

Central Coast

FINALIST

Population Category E



Within the Central Coast area there is significant and a growing pressure on open spaces and waterways due to the extensive length of interface between urban development and these areas consisting of three-lake systems, one ocean coastline and estuarine system, and three national parks.

The Central Coast Council has taken a strong lead in protecting and managing the overall environment with a comprehensive Environmental Program, which is structured in four streams: Pests and Weeds, Coastlines, Bushfires and Flooding, and Environmental Programs.

Communication on environmental matters between Council staff, elected representatives, and the local community was best described on the assessment visit as being like a spider's web: strong, wide and deep.

Orange

FINALIST

Population Category E



Orange has been an active participant in the Sustainable Communities – Tidy Towns competition for many years, winning the Overall Award in 2017 and Population Category E in 2019.

The community has consistently demonstrated each year that communication is wide and effective, submitting projects that are well planned and managed, innovative and grounded strongly in community needs.

Award Category Sponsored by:



WINNER

Population Category B

*The Kyogle Resource Innovation Collective (KRIC)
Kyogle Together*



The Kyogle Resource Innovation Collective (KRIC), operators of the Tip Shop, commenced operations in November 2019 with a significant amount of goods and materials finding a new home.

Household appliances, tools and gardening equipment, toys, bikes, sporting equipment, home decoration items, building and construction materials and many other items have been diverted from landfill and have been reused or repurposed.

From February 2020 until March 2020, more than 2763kg in total weight of items was sold from the KRIC Tip shop. This is a significant positive contribution to the environment and local ecology of Kyogle.

The tip shop is staffed and operated entirely by passionate volunteers and strives to function as project for community development.

WINNER

Population Category D

*Lifeline Tip Shop Recycling Centre
Lifeline Country to Coast (Broken Hill)*



Lifeline Broken Hill Country to Coast provides a recycling and repurposing service for the community of Broken Hill to fund its Suicide Prevention services through a number of retail stores which are mostly staffed by volunteers who sift through many donated items.

The aim during sorting is to recycle, repurpose and salvage as much as possible to reduce landfill. Items that cannot be sold are turned into scrap for further repurposing.

WINNER

Population Category E

Education and infrastructure recovering resources AlburyCity Council



The Albury Waste management Centre (AWMC) is the fourth largest landfill in the state.

Over the last decade, AlburyCity Council has become one of the leading regional councils in Australia in waste recovery. The region set an aim of 50% reduction in waste landfilled by 2020 to be achieved through a combination of community engagement and investment in waste management infrastructure, which was supported by the NSW Government in the form of almost \$5 million in grants for various projects.

These grants, along with matched funding from AlburyCity Council, have enabled the waste and recycling infrastructure improvements at the AWMC. In addition, to drive community engagement and education the Halve Waste program was funded through a small levy on waste received at AWMC. It is this combination of education and infrastructure that has achieved substantial waste reduction in the greater Albury Region.

Award Category Sponsored by:



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category C

Protecting Tilligerry Heritage 2020 Tilligerry Community Association



Albeit comprising of mostly seasonal population, the Tilligerry Peninsula's permanent residents proved to be a very active community in reducing litter in their local area and water catchments.

In 2020, residents of the Tilligerry Peninsula took part in Clean Up Australia Day, with 42 volunteers collecting litter in the area as well as organising a number of working bees to clear stretches of roadside from litter and lantana.

By creating litter focused signage around the area, encouraging active involvement in litter education and by engaging the local media in bringing the issue of littering to the community's attention, the group is able to create a sense of ownership, especially with the non-permanent residents.



OVERALL CATEGORY WINNER & WINNER NOT FOR PROFIT

Population Category A

Wilcannia Aboriginal Waste Management Project

Wilcannia Local Aboriginal Land Council



The Wilcannia Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) established an over-the-counter container collection facility in Wilcannia and have collected more than 175,000 containers in the first 10 months of operation.

The centre employs two part-time two local Aboriginal men in a town where employment is difficult to find, and no recycling exists. Establishment of the centre in May 2019 has led to a 60% reduction in littered drink containers.

The centre was established as part of a project funded by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Aboriginal Communities Waste Management Program (ACWMP). The project has delivered a range of waste activities to promote waste behaviour change across the town including running regular re-use workshops, establishing worm farms across town for food scraps, creating a local litter collection team and running professional development training for staff at Wilcannia Central School.

WINNER - LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Population Category B

Narrandera RVM

Narrandera Shire Council



Narrandera is situated on the Murrumbidgee River at the junction of the Sturt and Newell Highways. The extremely busy transportation route brings many interstate and intrastate travellers to the town and environs, along with too many disposable and recyclable containers being thrown on the roadside by passing motorists.

Lacking an RVM, Narrandera locals would take their empty containers to a nearby town where they redeemed them for vouchers in the local supermarkets. This shopper shrinkage deprived Narrandera of significant economic benefit.

In 2019, Narrandera Council decided to negotiate with Tomra/Cleanaway for the installation of a four-point RVM in the town.

Since installation, the Narrandera RVM has been a resounding success with voucher redemptions to the value of many thousands of dollars resulting in increased local spending, which contributes to the security of local jobs and economic benefit. Additionally, there has been a significant noticeable reduction in bottle and can litter on the roadsides of the two highways at the town entry points.

Award Category Sponsored by:



WINNER - COMMUNITY GROUP Population Category B

Community Support to Return and Earn

1st Braidwood Scout Group



Through the Return and Earn Scheme, the 1st Braidwood Scout Group has developed a system for collecting empty cans and bottles at various community events for recycling by purchasing a number of garbage bins to be designated as collection points.

The local council – Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) – acknowledged the success of the group's endeavour by supplying extra bins with Return and Earn signage.

The Scout Group have also advertised through social media and used the power of the word to promote their designated collection point at the Scout Hall, where members of the community can drop off their empty cans and bottles for recycling.

Youth members from the Group have assisted in organising the regular collection of empty cans and bottles from the local retirement village, thus assisting their overall reduction in waste.

WINNER - SCHOOLS Population Category C

Recycle, Our future is in your hands!
Glendore Public School (Maryland)



Through teaching students across the K-6 curriculum of Science and HSIE, the school students identified a way they could reduce their impact on the environment by recycling containers through Return and Earn initiative.

In 2018, the school implemented the program in Term 3, and have to date recycled almost 35,000 containers.

An unexpected outcome from this initiative has been having money available to fund a breakfast club at school, an arts program for students at risk and cultural workshops for Indigenous girls.

The school was able to meet both environmental and social outcomes allowing the school and students to contribute greatly to making a difference in the local community and behaviour change.



WINNER - NOT FOR PROFIT

Population Category C

Young Hospital Auxiliary Benefits from Return and Earn

Young Hospital Auxiliary



Young Hospital Auxiliary saw Return and Earn as a great additional way to raise funds to help purchase equipment for the Hospital.

Young Hospital Auxiliary is a small group consisting predominantly of elderly community members who work diligently to raise funds for the hospital. Over the last 10 years, the group has bought an average of \$30,000 worth of equipment for the hospital every year.

Entry in Return and Earn has aided the group in raising money, as well as awareness of Auxiliary activities, and giving the general community an opportunity to contribute to the Hospital, no matter how small – even one bottle at a time.

All money raised through Return and Earn will go towards helping to pay for a 'Sarah Stedy', which helps Staff safely transfer patients.

WINNER - SCHOOLS

Population Category E

Warilla High School Student Earn and Return

Warilla High School (Shellharbour)



Student Return and Earn was a Student Representative Council initiative that was delivered by the students for the students.

Students liaised with the school community to establish better practise around sustainability and then in partnership with MyTOMRA and Return and Earn, set up school recycling venues at Warilla Bowling Club and Woolworths Shellharbour.

The Student Representative Council's strong commitment to reducing the schools environmental impact meant that all funds raised by any green initiatives, both within the school and community contributions, had to be fed back into improving the school environment and focusing on long-term sustainability for the future.

WINNER**Population Category A*****Wollombi Cemetery***
Wollombi Tidy Valley

Wollombi, on the convict built Great North Road (GNR) has an historic listed Cemetery with earliest known graves dated from 1846, 10 graves between 1846 and 1850 and a total of 350 in the first 100 years from the arrival of the GNR at The Wollombi in 1850 where it met the GNR built by convicts from Newcastle, completed four years earlier.

The cemetery opposite Wollombi School (1850), overlooks the Millpond, formerly a seasonal wetland used by Aboriginal people as a source of food for thousands of generations, closed off from Wollombi Brook by colonials to service the flourmill.

The Cemetery is visited by the community, tourists and visitors (many International) to attend family graves, research convict/colonial histories and trace family trees.

HIGHLY COMMENDED**Population Category A*****Oldbury Cottage***
Oldbury Cottage (Berrima)

In 2015, The National Trust proposed a Berrima Heritage Weekend and asked if Oldbury Cottage could be opened for public viewing. The owners consented, cleaned up the buildings, and the public response over the course of that weekend was so encouraging that it was decided to fully restore the cottage.

Commencing in winter 2016, modernisation of the restoration was kept to a bare minimum and was entirely restricted to new wiring, plumbing, and an electrically heated concrete slab floor in the bathroom. All other original features were retained.

Oldbury Cottage opened for guests in the spring of 2017 and its restoration has secured the viability of the structure for future generations, while also making a heritage attraction accessible to the general public for the first time in its history.

WINNER**Population Category E***Local History at Cessnock Library*
Cessnock City Council

The Local Studies collection at Cessnock Library is an active vibrant centre of local history collecting material in every format related to the history of the Cessnock Local Government Area. It contains original records documenting the lives of local people, organisations and community groups. Holding material in every format: paper documents, photographs, maps and plans, objects, images and graphics, art works, oral histories and audio-visual material.

The collection is shared through researching and producing two major original exhibitions every year on an aspect of Cessnock's history. These exhibitions are on show in the Cessnock Library foyer and in a large display case in Kurri Kurri Library. These exhibitions have public programs associated with them including talks, film showings and hands-on workshops bringing the exhibitions to life.

WINNER

Population Category A

Rocky Knob Re-vegetation & Baiting Project
Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council (Fletcher)



The aim of the project was to revegetate the area between Sanctuary Estate and Rocky Knob for the screening of a significant Aboriginal site, using suitable swamp forest tree and shrub species.

Vertebrate pest monitoring and control will also be undertaken to reduce the impact to local fauna in particular migratory waders. The project will also provide training and field experience relevant to conservation and land management to community members.

WINNER**Population Category A***Community working to improve habitat on the Fingal Peninsula*
Fingal Head Coastcare

Fingal Head is a small coastal community located on the Fingal Peninsula on the far north coast of NSW. The village is surrounded by native vegetation on Crown Land and land owned by the Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council.

For 34 years, Fingal Head Coastcare Inc. (FHC) has been regenerating and maintaining 33 hectares of native vegetation on the Fingal Peninsula including littoral rainforests, coastal woodlands, wetlands, heathland, dunal and headland vegetation which had been destroyed by sand mining in the 1950s and 1960s.

Since 1986, FHC has been controlling weeds and re-establishing the native vegetation endemic to the area. The expansion and restoration of native vegetation and associated increased biodiversity provides essential habitat for native flora and fauna in a region increasingly threatened by urban expansion.

WINNER**Population Category B***Kyogle Landcare Regeneration of Fawcetts Creek*
Kyogle Landcare

The Fawcett's Creek Recreation Reserve is a public area well-used by both locals and visitors to Kyogle.

In the late 1990s, Kyogle Landcare recognised the opportunity and value of regenerating Fawcett's Creek riparian zone and had been steadily working towards this goal for many years.

In 2018, Kyogle Landcare decided to cultivate a new wave of support for Fawcetts Creek to embark on the task of the site's recovery.

With a range of creative engagement actions, each step fostered renewed of motivation and attracted new members and over the last two period Kyogle Landcare has achieved a great swell of activity along the creek.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category C

Habitat action 2019-20
**Tilligerry Community Association &
 Tilligerry Landcare**



Despite drought and fires, the Tilligerry Peninsula community has worked tirelessly in caring for the local natural habitat and wildlife.

Their many achievements include community volunteers planting several thousand koala food trees, shrubs and native grasses at the Tilligerry Koala Forest during the National Tree Day. They continue being active in re-establishing biodiversity across parklands and revegetating once barren land.

Their efforts are also reflected in the near completed Port Stephens Koala Hospital, which will add a display and education potential to save Australia's native species.

WINNER

Population Category D

*Helping Nature Heal—Empowering
 Community through Education and
 Action*

Treading Lightly (Ulladulla-Milton)



Treading Lightly is a local environmental group providing an umbrella for local community initiatives and educational activities related to 'Connecting Community, Caring for Earth'.

The project Helping Nature Heal—Empowering Community through Education and Action emerged from the devastating New South Wales (NSW) 2019-20 bushfires. Treading Lightly stepped in to urgently assist the local communities with their efforts to address the critical issues of habitat loss and wildlife conservation, as well as bush regeneration, in the Manyana to Bawley Point area.

WINNER**Population Category E*****QPRC Citizen Science Platypus and Rakali Monitoring Program***
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council

The QPRC Platypus and Rakali Citizen Science Monitoring Program began in 2015. During the last couple of years, it has gained a lot more momentum, with an 81% increase in reporting from 2018 to 2019 and a 463% increase in reporting in the first half of 2020.

Community members report their sightings in the local waterways using a dedicated email address and are updated throughout the year with sighting locations and information taken from collected data.

This program also offers several platypus/rakali hikes during peak season, in conjunction with the local Waterwatch group.

The information from this program is shared with the Australian Platypus Conservancy.

WINNER

Population Category A

Catchment caring creates community

Brogers Creek Land Care (Wattamolla)



Brogers Creek Land Care [BCL] has been active for the past 24 years in the tiny community of Wattamolla in a relatively isolated part of Kangaroo Valley.

Caring for Brogers Creek unites the community, with BCL being the only remaining community organisation on the catchment.

For the past 20 years, BCL has organised and run Clean Up Australia Day, and held an Australia Day picnic and community forum for the past 23 years. They are also the backbone of the 'Waste Warriors' – a group responsible for recycling and waste management at the Kangaroo Valley Show.

WINNER

Population Category E

Brisbane Water Estuary Education Program

Central Coast Council



Central Coast Council received a grant from the NSW Environmental Trust to deliver the Brisbane Water Estuary Education Program. The program was designed to raise awareness of the estuary and build capacity of residents to care for it.

The project worked with industry and local neighbourhoods to increase the community's understanding of the importance of estuaries, wetlands, the catchment and their impact on the local environment.

Council also conducted 15 estuary education events in the Brisbane Water catchment. A total of 220 people enjoyed the activities.

WINNER**Population Category E***Halve Waste Organics Recovery*
AlburyCity Council

The RAMROC Regional Waste Minimisation Strategy 2008 identified that the Albury landfill would reach capacity by 2020. This was a significant issue for the Albury landfill (AWMC) as it services a growing population of close to 170,000 people. Immediate action was required to extend the life of the landfill.

This project demonstrates how AlburyCity Council focused on the diversion of organics to extend the landfill life for the community and the region, recognising that decreasing the amount of organic waste in landfill is crucial for the environment.

The collected food and garden organics are composted and turned into a high-quality soil amendment for use in agricultural, horticultural and viticultural applications.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category B

*Energy Efficiency Projects at
Branxton Community Hall
Cessnock City Council*

The Branxton Community Hall is located in the township of Branxton and is the only Council owned community facility located in the township.

The facility is managed by a volunteer section 355 Committee who in conjunction with Council have completed a number of energy efficiency projects at the facility in an effort to reduce our carbon footprint.

The works involve the installation of solar panels, purchase and installation of two new air conditioners, installation of LED and sensor lighting, purchase and installation of block-out blinds, window tinting and purchase of other energy efficient products.

All these upgrades have resulted in a more energy efficient community facility, decreasing utility costs and enabling the hall to create clean energy.

WINNER

Population Category C

*Solar lights along the Lake Forbes
walkway
Forbes Shire Council*

The Forbes Shire Council has installed five kilometres of solar lighting along the ten kilometres of walking track surrounding Lake Forbes.

This is believed to be the longest installation of solar lighting in the world.

WINNER

Population Category E

Solar Project
AlburyCity Council



AlburyCity Council has partnered with LMS Energy to install 4,000 solar panels on a rehabilitated part of the Albury Waste Management Centre (AWMC).

The 'Renewable Energy Hub' now boasts two energy projects. These being the solar panels installed in August 2019 along with an EV Charging unit for Council and public use and the methane gas generator which was installed in 2014.

The hub collectively powers approximately 1,900 homes.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E

Let's Go Solar, Together
Lake Macquarie City Council



Lake Macquarie City Council's collaborative 'Let's Go Solar,' project provides an innovative local solution to the global problem of climate change by supporting the uptake of community renewable energy in the region.

Community energy projects are those in which a community comes together to develop, deliver or benefit from sustainable energy.

Council partnered with Pingala, a not-for-profit organisation with the vision of fairer and cleaner energy for all. They have experience delivering a variety of community renewable energy projects; Allambi Care, a social service provider who became the project's first community-funded solar panel host site; and Lake Macquarie residents willing to financially support renewable energy in the region.

WINNER

Population Category A

Majors Creek Festival Waste Management and Sustainability Engagement Program
 Majors Creek Festival



In conjunction with its waste recovery/recycling program focusing on source-separation of organics, Majors Creek Festival runs an extensive program to educate and engage festival attendees in the Festival's waste recovery/recycling program and strategies, and more broadly on waste management, composting and soil biodiversity.

Majors Creek Festival is an annual three-day folk/blues/roots festival held in Majors Creek in rural NSW, with approximately 2000 people attending the event.

Revived in 2014 after a three-year break, the festival has run 25 times over 27 years.

WINNER

Population Category B

Eurobodalla Young Legends program
 Eurobodalla Shire Council



Eurobodalla Shire is a 136km long narrow coastal strip with small coastal villages spread along the coast, and is home to five high schools with minimal contact between them

The Eurobodalla Young Legends (EYL) program brings these students together and provides them with young, highly motivational speakers and guests to workshop their ideas and goals.

It was important to provide mentors in their 20s who were making positive environmental changes in the world. The students needed to be able to see themselves in the mentors and understand they could also be active and productive in that space now and in the future.

The Eurobodalla Young Legends experience aims to create a bond between the participants on an environmental level which will enable them to work together in the future.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category C

Waste Wednesdays
Forbes Shire Council

'Waste Wednesday' is a waste education and awareness campaign for the community.

The project aims to engage with the community and spread awareness about the ongoing resource recovery facilities available, statistics related to the waste surveys/ audits carried out by the Council, innovations and additions to the existing resource recovery programs and much more.

The program has given the group an opportunity to connect with the community at large with a click of a button.

WINNER

Population Category D

Greening the Hill Mk2 - The Call to Action
Landcare Broken Hill

"Greening the Hill Mk2 – A Role for Everyone" is a program of 15 on-the-ground projects available to the community designed to give them hope. In the face of ongoing extreme drought, that has impacted the Broken Hill community environmentally, socially and economically, A Role for Everyone will 'make a difference' by physically improving the environment.

By becoming involved, the community gain an appreciation of sustainable environmental management, empowering them and galvanising them into tangible action.

The Role for Everyone projects are about making a difference in a practical way, whilst providing opportunities for skills training and gaining knowledge. All projects are supported by public presentations at meetings, workshops and through the media as part of the GtH2 Call to Action, so that more people are encouraged to become involved.

WINNER

Population Category E

Take 3 Communication
Central Coast Council

From its humble, grass-roots beginnings on the Central Coast of NSW, Take 3 for the Sea have been communicating and educating to inspire participation in a simple act: Take 3 pieces of rubbish with you when you leave the beach, waterway or elsewhere.

For over 10 years, Take 3 has been reaching out to local, regional and global communities on the issue of plastic marine pollution via the dynamic and diverse Take 3 Communications Program, which incorporates a variety of approaches, including social media, traditional media, website, campaigns, branding and more.

Take 3's international #Take3fortheSea campaign removed over 30 million pieces of rubbish from the environment and has inspired grassroots community action in 129 countries.

WINNER**Population Category C***Plastic Free Boy*
Byron Bay

Arlian Ecker is on a global mission to save the ocean from plastic pollution.

Since 2017, the Australian student known as 'Plastic Free Boy', has united thousands of children by sharing his inspiring and educational documentary 'Plastic Alarm' in schools internationally, showcasing the problems and solutions of plastic pollution.

He engages school children with his mission in protecting the ocean and the waterways, not only for marine animals but for future generations, by highlighting various scientific facts.

Currently, Arlian and his mum Karin Ecker, who is the professional filmmaker behind the project, are making films, promoting a healthy ocean, sharing learning content for schools and creating a pilot model for peer-to-peer education, focusing on a cross-curriculum solution project-based learning.

HIGHLY COMMENDED**Population Category D***Broken Hill Scouts Clean up their Act*
3rd Broken Hill Sea Scouts

Broken Hill's local Scout Group consists of 40 young people who are Environmental Warriors always looking for ways to improve their local environment.

The group has increased the number of environmental activities it participated in over the last 12 months, with the various projects being driven by the children who enlist the assistance of the Scout leaders to engage in partnerships which include their family members, other organisations such as the girl guides and Land Care, and the wider community.

WINNER

Population Category A

Gardening for Sustainability
Huskiison Public School



Students from K-6 participated in a whole school gardening and sustainability program.

This program has engaged the younger children in the wonders of growing vegetables from a seed, learning about gardening procedures and developing an understanding of edible plants. They examined worms in the compost, collected eggs from the school chickens and harvested carrots from the garden.

Students in Year 3 and 4 have established a compost system for the whole school to contribute to, and planned, designed and planted a pollinating habitat for pollinating insects.

The older students have investigated ways to live more sustainably, constructing water saving wicking beds from recycled.

In addition, all students from Year 3-6 were involved in the development of a bush tucker garden.

WINNER

Population Category B

Denman Public School
Environmental Area
Denman Public School



Denman Public School have established an active student-based gardening club that meets weekly.

Students recycle food scraps for composting, as well as feed and care for worm farms and school chickens. They also care for the environmental space which has been revamped to ensure it is accessible to all ages and abilities. This area assists in maintaining positive well-being and learning experiences for all students.

These experiences range from participation in environmental education learning that can be taken home and applied in the students own backyard gardens, to planting and watching the growth of the garden, as well as harvesting and using the fresh produce in the healthy kitchen programme and the school canteen.

The students are further encouraged to be a part of their community through various social and community enterprises.

WINNER**Population Category C*****Waste Reduction at Terrigal P.S***
Terrigal Public School

As a school with over 860 students, Terrigal Primary School felt a responsibility to families, local community and the planet to reduce their environmental footprint.

Following an extensive waste audit and research into the school's waste bills, procedures and systems were developed to reduce waste.

Food waste at the school was a big problem, with the school recording 40kg going into landfill. A new organic bin system was ordered to manage all food waste, which is composted at the Lake Macquarie Waste Management Centre and is used in the school's gardens.

Eligible recyclable containers are picked and taken to Return and Earn by parents, with staff also using a council 240L bin recyclable service for other items such as tuna cans, yoghurt pots and glass jars.

Soft plastics are now collected and taken to local supermarket collection points, with the school currently recycling 6 x 40 litre bags of soft plastic each week!

Blue bins have also been installed to collect paper and cardboard waste for recycling.

WINNER**Population Category E*****The Climbing for the Sun Project***
St Brigid's Catholic Primary School
(Wollongong)

In January 2019, St Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Gwynneville launched the Climbing for the Sun (CFTS) Project in partnership with Rana Environmental.

The objective of the Project was to raise community-based funds for a 35kW Solar PV System in order for the school to have the largest solar system in a primary school in the Illawarra region. More importantly, be the first electricity independent school in the region.

The Project aimed to raise a target budget of \$32,400 but proved so successful that \$36,600 was raised via 92 businesses and individuals, as well as the school community consisting of 135 families.

The Project completion was commemorated with a School community system launch event on 3 March 2020.

WINNER

Population Category D

Greening the Hill Mk2 - A Role for Everyone. Showing Australia how it can be done
 Landcare Broken Hill



“Greening the Hill Mk2 – A Role for Everyone” is a program of 15 on-the-ground projects available to the community designed to give them hope. In the face of ongoing extreme drought that has impacted the Broken Hill community environmentally, socially and economically, A Role for Everyone will ‘make a difference’ by physically improving the environment.

The Role for Everyone projects are about making a difference in a practical way, whilst providing opportunities for skills training and gaining knowledge. All projects are supported by public presentations at meetings, workshops and through the media as part of the GtH2 Call to Action, so that more people are encouraged to become involved.

WINNER

Population Category E

FoodCare Orange
 FoodCare Orange



FoodCare Orange is managed and operated by more than 60 volunteers and provides free and low-cost food and groceries to people living in and around Orange who are experiencing financial hardship.

FoodCare has two main objectives: to provide low-cost food and groceries to people in need and to ‘rescue’ fresh food that would otherwise go to landfill. The latter is rescued from the large supermarkets in Orange, as well as from a number of local partner businesses.

Other food and groceries are purchased by FoodCare from Foodbank NSW based in Sydney and then offered to FoodCare customers at a heavily discounted rate. There are no restrictions on who can shop at FoodCare, other than the service being for people who are experiencing financial hardship.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E

Repair Café
AlburyCity Council



The Repair Café was developed to provide a free workshop and meeting place with tools, material and experts to help community members learn skills and techniques to repair items that would otherwise be thrown away.

Participants are from a diverse range of backgrounds, including socially disadvantaged residents such as those with disabilities, lower income, widows/widowers and the elderly, with 48% of visitors representing the 60 years and over category.

The Repair Café is regarded as the largest Repair Café in Australia. The vision is to continue providing a quality monthly service, seize spin-off opportunities and provide ongoing support and guidance to new Repair Cafes.

WINNER**Population Category D**

Lifeline Broken Hill Country to Coast Tip Shop
Lifeline Country to Coast (Broken Hill)



Lifeline Broken Hill Country to Coast provides a recycling and repurposing service for the community of Broken Hill to fund its Suicide Prevention services through a number of retail stores, which are mostly staffed by volunteers who sift through many donated items.

The aim during sorting is to recycle, repurpose and salvage as much as possible to reduce landfill. Items that cannot be sold are turned into scrap for further repurposing.

WINNER**Population Category E**

Plate to Paddock
Plate to Paddock (Central Coast)



The Plate to Paddock movement is a revolutionary approach to food waste which engages individuals and businesses throughout the full cycle of the supply chain. The program is designed to raise awareness, avoid, minimise and provide opportunity to close the loop on food waste.

By bringing people along that journey through practical application and enjoyable activities, skills and knowledge are increased, encouraging responsible food practices. There are two components of the movement: The Plate to Paddock Sustainability Challenge, which is a four-week competition focused on reducing food waste; and The Plate to Paddock Chicken Farm, where food waste is utilised to supplement the feed of chickens.

WINNER**Population Category B*****Mulloon Rehydration Initiative – Stage 1*****The Mulloon Institute (Bungendore)**

The 'Mulloon Rehydration Initiative – Stage 1' project was implemented by the Mulloon Institute to re-naturalise creek flow patterns within the floodplain of lower Mulloon Creek in southern New South Wales. The project focused on three properties along the creek, installing leaky weirs to control erosion and slow the water flow..

The 'MRI – Stage 1' project spans 1000 hectares across three neighbouring properties with a focus on creek repair and erosion control using small interventions to rehydrate the adjacent floodplains and create stable habitat for flora and fauna.

It is anticipated that the 'MRI – Stage 1' project will have a significant impact on the local waterway and landscape health and will lead to more reliable stream flows, improved ecosystem functioning and enhanced agricultural productivity.

WINNER

Population Category E

Plate to Paddock
Plate to Paddock (Central Coast)



The Plate to Paddock movement is a revolutionary approach to food waste which engages individuals and businesses throughout the full cycle of the supply chain. The program is designed to raise awareness, avoid, minimise and provide opportunity to close the loop on food waste.

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HIGHLY COMMENDED

Population Category E

*Queanbeyan Riverside Tourist Park-
 Sustainability Upgrade*
**Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional
 Council**



In August 2018, Council resolved to support an upgrade of amenities and refurbishment of the Queanbeyan Riverside Tourist Park to help meet the growth in demand for self-drive accommodation in Queanbeyan and support target markets identified in the QPRC Tourism Plan. A key goal of the upgrade was to improve the sustainability of the park with an intention of delivering one of the most environmentally friendly and sustainable parks in NSW. This was done through energy and water efficiency upgrades, tree plantings and renewable energy installations.

Upon completion it is estimated the project will save Council 45,000kWh per annum which has an equivalent greenhouse gas saving of 17,000-20,000kg per annum. Financial savings are estimated to be between \$9000-\$12,000 per annum.

The refurbishment will also provide for the extension and completion of the Queanbeyan River Walk.

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Level 1, 268 King Street
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T 02 8594 4000
info@kabnsw.org.au
www.kabnsw.org.au

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