



# Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities 2023 AWARDS

## Snapshots

Regional and remote community initiatives



# From the **Minister**



Western Australia's regional communities have once again entered outstanding projects in support of Keep Australia Beautiful Council's Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards.

The Tidy Towns awards have been synonymous with community pride, cohesion and above all action, and this year is no different with stand-out examples of litter prevention, environmental education and youth leadership.

Communities, volunteers and local councils should be proud of their efforts in caring for the environment and working towards sustainability.

The State Government is committed to ensuring all Western Australians live in a clean and litter-free environment.

The awards, now in their 54th year, celebrate Western Australia's top litter-free and sustainable communities.

Congratulations to all the finalists in this year's awards. Your efforts in effective litter prevention activities and sustainable projects have resulted in positive environmental outcomes for your communities.

I would also like to congratulate this year's State Winner, Pingelly. Through a collaborative approach with community groups and members, Pingelly's projects have had a visible impact throughout the community.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's awards, making regional and remote communities beautiful and unique places to visit and live.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reece Whitby'.

**Hon Reece Whitby, MLA**

Minister for Environment;  
Climate Action;  
Racing and Gaming  
24 November 2023







**Message  
from**

***His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM  
Governor of Western Australia***

**for**

***Keep Australia Beautiful Council***

*Across the great state of Western Australia, community members are stepping up to volunteer and give back to others.*

*As Co-Patrons of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council, Darrilyn and I take pride in shining a spotlight on the work of these individuals, groups, and organisations.*

*Some of the best examples of community spirit and resilience are on display in Western Australia's regional and remote areas. The Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards provide the perfect platform for recognising these efforts.*

*The awards promote positive environmental outcomes and sustainability initiatives, as well as some friendly competition between regional communities, which is part of our culture.*

*Having made a significant impact on litter prevention activities, green outcomes, and community projects, this year's finalists have truly earned the right to be recognised for an award.*

*Congratulations to the 2023 finalists for their commitment to making our regional communities both sustainable and attractive places to live and visit.*

**GOVERNOR**



# From the **Chair**

Keep Australia Beautiful Council's iconic Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards recognise and celebrate the achievements of regional and remote communities.

The awards highlight communities that demonstrate effective litter prevention activities, positive environmental outcomes and projects that reflect the heritage, culture, youth leadership and engagement of their community. For more than 50 years the awards have contributed to the sustainability of regional and remote communities.

Regional and remote volunteers and councils across Western Australia are doing great things to foster sustainable behaviours. Earlier this year our State Winner for 2022, Gascoyne Junction, won the 2023 National Title at the Tidy Towns Awards in King Island Tasmania. It was presented by the Governor General of Australia, Hon David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), and in May 2024 Gascoyne Junction will host the National Awards, giving all state winners from this year an outback experience that they won't forget.

I had the pleasure of attending the launch of the Western Australia Tidy Towns awards 2023 in Williams this year. The Williams Wildlife Warriors project, a free after-school program run by the Community Resources Centre, won the Environmental Education Award in 2022.

In September judges travelled across the state to visit entrants all keen to showcase their projects. They reported on the impacts of these projects to the communities and highlighted how even small projects can have incredible outcomes.

This *Snapshots* publication captures the judges' impressions and details the finalist communities' projects. It is a wonderful keepsake for all.

## Congratulations to the overall State Winner for 2023 ... Pingelly.

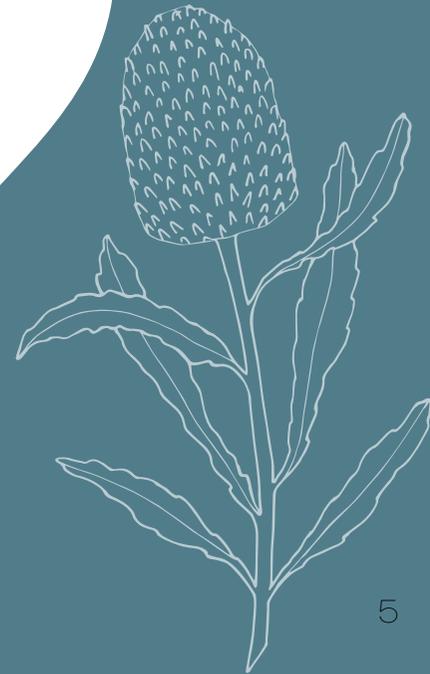
Thank you to all sponsors who have provided support for the awards. I also want to thank WA Return Recycle Renew Limited (WARRRL) for their sponsorship of the Community Containers for Change Award for the third year. This demonstrates KABC's growing partnership with WARRRL and assists our own vision of a litter-free Western Australia.

Well done to all 2023 entrants, finalists and category winners. You should be proud of your efforts to reduce litter, embrace the concepts of sustainability and take positive action to protect and enhance your environment and the place you call home.



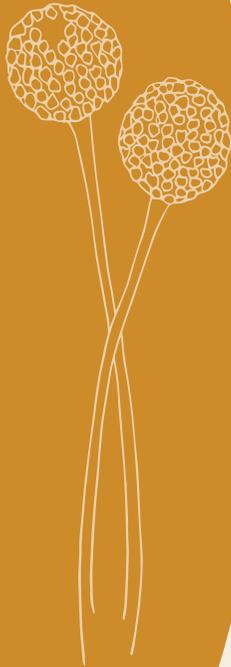
**Michael Aspinall**

Chair, Keep Australia Beautiful Council  
of Western Australia





# State Title winner Pingelly



Pingelly is a connected and innovative community – environmentally, socially and historically. The Shire of Pingelly has collaborated extensively with community groups and members, resulting in a positive and focused framework covering arts, heritage and sustainability. The projects that have resulted are outstanding and are having a visible impact within the community. This small town is a leading example to others of positive community action, with projects started in Pingelly replicated across Western Australia.

The Pingelly Somerset Alliance Inc, led by the Community Resource Centre, has revolutionised the healthcare system in the town, changing the funding for care and providing local employment. It has transformed lives, enabling people to stay in their community, and has provided a model that 19 other regional communities have taken up. The Age is Not a Number project, connecting schoolchildren to older people in the community, has proved a hit and is continuing to enable social connection.

The litter project was designed to minimise cigarette butts in town and included Aboriginal art on cigarette disposal poles along the main street. After one year, indications are that there is less littering. 'Pocket Park', Gnalla Wangkiny Park, has been transformed from a disused space in the centre of town to include a green area, space for events, yarning circle and fire pit. The naming of the park holds cultural significance and represents a commitment to the recognition of Aboriginal heritage. 'Gnalla' means 'us/our' and 'Wangkiny' means 'language, speaking, or talking'. This community space offers a place for laughter and meaningful conversations that can be shared around the fire.

The Town Hall has been repurposed, enabling the Heritage and Museum Group to research and display local heritage. The Pingelly Honouring History project includes a collection of sulkies and buggies, while Lost Pingelly and People of Pingelly display stories at the hall. The hall now also hosts a driver reviver unit with free refreshments for travellers.

Young Legend Dylan Cheney is an outstanding role model who is a youth representative on the council and has adopted a spot at the cemetery to keep it clean. The Pingelly Green route to encourage cyclists, water catchment projects and a solar installation indicate the town is moving towards sustainable options.

*"Pingelly's projects have created an amazing impact within the town. It was beautiful to see the amount of passion community members have for their community."*

Cydney Williamson-Smith,  
Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards judge



# State Title finalists



## **Albany**

Albany is a vibrant and progressive community. Many long-reaching projects are the result of collaboration between the community, the City of Albany, Keep Albany Beautiful committee, schools and business. The connection between these groups, including the strong support of the local government, makes Albany a special place to live.

Numerous projects that continue to 'green' the town include street trees and waterwise plantings, as well as the Tree Festival. The Renewable Power Plan guides the transition to 100 per cent renewable energy for the city's owned and operated facilities by 2030.



## **Greenbushes**

The Greenbushes Tidy Towns Committee is a driving force for good, regularly organising community events. The proactive management of the Go2Garden has created a positive impact, utilising the garden for workshops, events and education. It includes the successful replanting of balgas (grass trees) from the Talison mine.

The skate park is a great community facility. Combined with other projects, such as the beautification of the town car park, waste recycling and clean-ups, and nesting boxes at Schwenk's Dam, it was easy to determine there is a strong sense of innovation within the town.



## **Karratha**

The enthusiasm shown by the entrants is commended and the projects entered are just a snippet of activities that are taking place. The community garden in Dampier is a notable example of vision, reach and activity across an engaged community.

Rehabilitation and restoration of environmental spaces, energy savings and the development of recreational sites has been a focus this year. The popular Red Arts Festival is a marine-themed four-day event encouraging community engagement.



## Port and South Hedland

Many diverse activities are occurring and planned for the future. The greening project of tree-lined streets across South Hedland is transforming the area. The community garden is a biodiversity champion winner which provides food security for produce not easily obtainable in shops, and a space to deliver sustainable workshops. Heritage and cultural recognition is evident throughout the community, with a focus on diversity and people's stories of Hedland.

Care for Hedland's Containers for Change depot continues to reach impressive milestones. Funds collected at Eight Mile Caravan Park were provided to the Flying Doctor Service. Turtle monitoring, clean-ups and care for the environment are strong. The forming of a new partnership between the town and Care For Hedland emphasises this focus on environmental stewardship.



## Walpole

Walpole's community projects are at the forefront of technology, innovation and creativity. The focus on the environment that surrounds Walpole, the Walpole Wilderness, is central to most of the projects and reflects residents' strong connection to the area.

The BioBlitz, Tale of Two Trees and eco-tourism workshop are proof of a passion for the local environment and the commitment to educate the broader community about environmental protection. The investment towards a pumped hydro power source and alternative water sourcing also shows the dedication to reducing the ecological footprint of Walpole.

Projects also demonstrate a commitment to the community, and especially those in need. The Community Resource Centre's Young Legends activities, Meals on Wheels and Aged Care Services are important steps forward.



# Category winners

Communities can enter multiple projects in the award categories. Judges focus on a key project and take into consideration all supporting projects.

**Tidy Towns  
Sustainable Communities  
2023 AWARDS**

**State Winner**

Litter Prevention

**Esperance**

Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title  
Aboriginal Corporation  
Removal and re-purposing of  
'ghostgear' and marine debris



*Michael Aspinall*

Mr Michael Aspinall  
Chairman, Keep Australia Beautiful Council (WA)  
24 November 2023



**Esperance**

**Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (ETNTAC)  
Removal and repurposing of 'ghost gear' and marine debris**

Tjaltjraak Rangers monitor and restore land and sea in Esperance, including clean-ups along Ten Mile beach. The Tjaltjraak Rangers collect marine debris and enter it into the Australian Marine Debris Initiative database. Some of the collected debris has been used for themed artworks. The team has created an education art piece to showcase the number of bottle caps collected and allude to the consequences for seabirds consuming these caps. One of ETNTAC's interns is an artist and they designed an outline of a yowli, a shearwater bird, on hessian. Together with Esperance Community Arts, ETNTAC has been taking this to events so attendees can sew on plastic bottle caps, providing education on the impact of marine debris.

The team followed a report about a giant net on Ten Mile beach. The net was estimated to be more than 5 tonnes and was made up of rope, fishing line and fishing hooks. The team had to act with urgency to prevent the risk of wildlife entanglements and the net moving even more remotely. The retrieval of the net took a large effort, including from the Tjaltjraak team, an Esperance Development member, and the Shire of Esperance who supported the retrieval by providing large trucks and equipment to tow the net out. It took at least a dozen people and three vehicles to remove the net.



**State  
finalists**

**Greenbushes**

**Litter Warriors**

Residents Tom Barrett and Merran Brindley have been collecting roadside rubbish for more than 15 years. They started morning walks around town, covering 5–6 km a day, later purchasing e-bikes and now riding 80–100 km a week. They have poles to grab the litter while riding. On average, they fill 2–3 bags of rubbish per week and have collected 375 bags of litter. This is their way of giving back to the community and helping to create a clean and attractive town.

During their rides they have found dumped household rubbish. The shire authorities are notified and the rubbish is removed. They are applauded for their advocacy and action on litter collection.



**Litter Prevention**

Recognises innovation  
and achievements in litter  
prevention





## Nullagine - Shire of East Pilbara

### Fence Project

*Winner of Natsales Bin Prize*

To prevent litter being blown from the landfill site and to contain any potential litter, the Shire of East Pilbara constructed a 772 m long, 1.8 m high heavy galvanised chain fence line (costing \$75,000). The project also involved greater security measures including CCTV cameras, lockable gates and appropriate waste signage.

The fence prevents litter and windblown waste from entering the town. One outcome is that shire staff do not need to clean up litter in Nullagine as regularly. The construction of the fence is making a huge difference to the tidiness of the town.



## Kalbarri

### Kalbarri District High School (KDHS)

Litter prevention and waste management go hand-in-hand at KDHS. The school's commitment is to maintain a clean, attractive and healthy natural environment that students, staff, the community and visitors can enjoy. The school has embedded a culture of litter prevention, litter reduction and recycling in the curriculum across the primary and high school. For example, at the sports carnivals all students pick up one piece of litter at the end. The KDHS Bush Rangers, students, teachers, parents and police took part in the annual beach clean-up and KDHS has adopted a spot at the Kalbarri foreshore.



## Three Springs

### Keeping Three Springs Clean

The initiative aimed to improve the town's appearance by addressing litter-related issues and engage school students and the community in environmental stewardship. Objectives included litter collection, awareness about litter impacts, community engagement and inspiring future generations to combat litter.

A pre-clean-up presentation was held as well as a community litter clean-up and a post-collection session. Activities enhanced the town's appearance and have instilled a commitment to community action on litter. Those involved included the Shire of Three Springs, Three Springs Primary School, Three Springs Police, MEEDAC and the school P&C.

## Walpole

### Walpole Tidy Towns Litter Free and Litter Pickers Book

In July 2023 Michael Filby completed 19 years of voluntarily taking responsibility for the cleaning of the No.1 Highway on a weekly basis. Since 2004 he has patrolled a total of 130,000 km of road. His work is regarded as the largest and longest-maintained KABC Adopt-a-Spot site in Western Australia.

The *Walpole Weekly* community paper had a comic strip until 2022 called 'Walpole Kids' which featured Walpole-based characters exploring inlets, climbing tingle trees and picking up litter. As part of a KABC litter grant, the Community Resource Centre produced the Litter Pickers comic book and the Little Litter Pickers Guidebook to inspire young people to keep their own towns tidy, with children sending in their photos of them picking up litter.



**Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities 2023 AWARDS**

**State Winner**

Waste Management

**Gascoyne Junction**

Shire of Upper Gascoyne  
Grocery Tubs



*Michael Aspinall*

Mr Michael Aspinall  
Chairman, Keep Australia Beautiful Council (WA)  
24 November 2023



**Gascoyne Junction**

**Grocery Tubs**

The Shire of Upper Gascoyne is continuing to look at ways to bring more recycling options to the town waste management facility, and their winning project is a demonstration of small steps making a difference. Weekly grocery deliveries in boxes, wrapped in newspaper or plastic, were generating a large amount of waste. This was taking up a lot of space in household rubbish bins and ending up in the shire tip. After discussions between shire staff and the local mail delivery service, a creative waste reduction plan was hatched.

Following consultations with the supermarket 176 km away, it was decided to trial sending deliveries to the Upper Gascoyne in green plastic tubs that could be returned on the next mail run.

This program has been a success and has continued beyond the initial trial period. Households are happy with less waste, bins are emptier, the rubbish collection trip can be completed in one go, and a significant reduction in landfill has been recorded at the tip, with pits lasting longer before needing to be replaced.

**Waste Management**

*Winner of Natsales Printing Prize*

Recognises innovation and achievements in reducing and managing waste



**State finalists**

**Albany**

**Keep Albany Beautiful**

**City of Albany Reusable Nappy Incentive**

A child uses 4,000 nappies on average. To encourage residents to make the switch from disposables, the City of Albany established a Reusable Nappy Incentive. A rebate of up to \$100 on the purchase of reusable nappies was made available. Ninety-eight rebates were approved which enabled more than 1,000 items to be purchased. It is estimated that more than 200,000 disposable nappies have been stopped from going into landfill in Albany under this program.





## Karratha

### 7 Mile Waste Facility Beautification Project

The 7 Mile Waste facility makes continuous efforts to find use for waste which would otherwise be part of landfill. The City of Karratha reduced the amount of waste to landfill by repurposing wooden crates as planter boxes, reusing compost and mulch from previous compost trials, recycling bulkier bags made from non-compactable waste, and rescuing and regrowing plants disposed of in green waste. This initiative not only reduces waste production but prevents the need to buy new materials such as planter boxes. The ongoing educational effort shows leadership and passion to improve their waste reduction and the communal environment.

## Margaret River

### Rapids Landing Primary School

#### Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

The school's approach to waste reduction and management is pervasive. Students participate in plastic-free lunches and there is a competition between classes. Teachers provide education lessons about plastic and these are incorporated into the school curriculum. The sustainability club has introduced bins that collect soft plastic from school lunches. The plastic is used to create ecobricks which have an estimated 500 g of plastic tightly packed in bottles. Bottle lids have been repurposed by Precious Plastics and the Men's Shed to make benches for the school.



## Port and South Hedland

### Streamlining Sustainability

Care For Hedland has partnered with the Town of Port Hedland for three years to assist in the delivery of its Environmental Sustainability Strategy. The strategy is the first of its kind for the town and is a framework to protect the Hedland environment while supporting growth. It focuses on core impact areas such as climate change and energy, waste, water, the natural environment and sustainable development, planning and infrastructure.

The Town of Port Hedland has improved its waste management facilities to accept additional household hazardous waste for disposal or recycling purposes; for example, fire extinguishers, gas bottles and e-waste. The waste facility can now also shred green waste on site, which can then be used as a cover material for landfill.

## Walpole

### Walpole Tidy Towns

#### Transfer Station – Adding Value To Waste

The Walpole Transfer Station is operated by contractor Bobby Biggs and offers the community a wide range of services. It is open to the public on three days a week. The busy Fish Cleaning Station is emptied daily. Discarded fish offal is mixed with wood shavings (carbon) and grass cuttings (nitrogen) to form compost for the public which is very popular. Steel, tyres, oil, mattresses and batteries are separated at the station and collected by contractors for recycling.



 **Tidy Towns**  
**Sustainable Communities**  
**2023 AWARDS**

## State Winner

Young Legends

**Pingelly**

**Dylan Cheney**

In recognition of community action



*Michael Aspinall*

Mr Michael Aspinall  
Chairman, Keep Australia Beautiful Council (WA)  
24 November 2023



## Pingelly

**Dylan Cheney**

Dylan is a 14-year-old boy with a strong dedication to helping his community. He was a finalist in the 2022 Awards and has continued to carry out action of benefit to Pingelly.

Dylan has become an amazing role model for his peers and other members of the community. He has a strong commitment to care for the elderly. To make people feel more comfortable and supported in their daily lives, he assists by providing cut wood and cleans gardens, all free of charge.

As a dedicated member of the youth advisory committee, he is a driving force behind numerous initiatives in Pingelly. In addition, Dylan has adopted a spot at the Pingelly Cemetery, ensuring it remains clean and well-maintained, and he gets others involved. He also participates in clean-up drives at bushlands, helping preserve the natural beauty of his community and setting a standard of environmental consciousness for others to follow. His dedication to the community, kindness towards others and commitment to environmental sustainability is an example to others.

*“Young people should not be viewed as the leaders of tomorrow, but supported and acknowledged as vital and active community builders today.”*

Peter Kenyon, CEO, Bank of I.D.E.A.S

# State finalists

## Bunbury

**Manea Senior College**  
**Environmental Innovators (MSC)**

MSC's UN Innovation Unit course enables students to work collaboratively with others. The students must look at real-world issues and implement a solution. The course requires students to develop and implement an initiative which relates to the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Projects by MSC Environmental Innovators include crab monitoring, beach clean-ups, auditing of litter, Zonta birthing kits, food security, period poverty and reducing textile waste.



## Young Legends

Sponsored by Bank of I.D.E.A.S.

Recognises achievement by an individual or group/s of young people who have contributed to the sustainability of their community



## Gascoyne Junction

### Billie O'Sullivan

Billie is the Customer Service Officer of the Gascoyne Junction Community Resource Centre. In her third year, Billie has taken a leadership role and oversees the day-to-day running of this vital community asset. She goes above and beyond her work roles, which include managing the monthly GP clinic, coordinating community fun runs, and editing the *Gassy Gossip* monthly community newsletter. She also volunteered as the inaugural member of the emerging Gascoyne Junction Town Team. Billie is a great role model for the youth in the community.



## Port and South Hedland

### Billie Rowles

This Young Legend of Hedland volunteered at several community events including the Blank Walls project in South Hedland, the Care for Hedland Christmas wrapping fundraiser, the turtle-monitoring program and the community garden. Billie is 14 years old and has already taken the initiative to lead training workshops showing people how to monitor turtles and undertake appropriate data collection. She is leading dance classes and has participated in the WA ballet. Billie is passionate about volunteering and strives to continue to do more things for the Town of Port and South Hedland.

## Walpole

### Trinity Brickhill

Trinity has been volunteering at the Walpole Community Resource Centre (CRC) since she was 12 years old. She is dedicated to the community where she lives – and shows this daily. Trinity has completed a Cert II in Business Traineeship at the CRC. She is full of energy and enthusiasm, helpful to community clients and always volunteers her time for extra activities. She runs the seniors computer class and is a member of the Shire Youth Advisory Group. Trinity was the winner of the Youth Citizen of the Year 2022 – Shire of Manjimup.

## Cunderdin

### Jada Humphries

Jada is an exceptional 13-year-old who is a well-respected spokesperson for Noongar youth. Jada is a member of the Cunderdin Youth Council. She has taken on the role of representing youth during events, including NAIDOC Week events where she has been able to share her passion for Indigenous culture. The shire's Community Development Officer Liezl De Beer said: "I am confident that Jada's passion and dedication will continue to inspire others."



Tidy Towns  
Sustainable Communities  
2023 AWARDS

State Winner

Community Containers for Change

Northampton

Northampton Lions Club



*Michael Aspinall*

Mr Michael Aspinall  
Chairman, Keep Australia Beautiful Council (WA)  
24 November 2023



Northampton

Northampton Lions Club

The Lions Club of Northampton has established drop-off points for locals to deposit their containers. These collection efforts are supported by Horrocks community, schools, and tourist hotspots. The collected items are then gathered and transported to the Northampton Men's Shed container receipt point, creating a collaborative effort among local clubs.

The Lions Club of Northampton has implemented a highly efficient container collection system. Cages are stationed at each end of Northampton, which are emptied about every two weeks. In Horrocks, four cages are emptied weekly to accommodate the demand. The Men's Shed plays a vital role in this initiative, handling the counting process and engaging volunteer clubs to assist.

Funds raised are reinvested into community projects, including supporting students' study tours, end-of-year awards, junior sporting clubs, infrastructure rebuilding after cyclone damage, activities for the aging population, and a large community luncheon offered at no cost to the public. More than \$20,000 was raised in the past year. This project exemplifies their dedication to community betterment through collective action.

*"All communities are demonstrating outstanding local impact through Containers for Change."*

Tim Cusack, CEO, Western Australia Return Recycle Renew (WARRRL)

Finalists  
in this category are:

Albany, Kalannie,  
Port and South Hedland,  
Three Springs, Wandering



Community  
Containers for  
Change Award

Sponsored by WARRRL

It's not the amount of  
refunds that are assessed  
but the positive benefit to  
the community

 Tidy Towns  
Sustainable Communities  
2023 AWARDS

## Leadership Award

Wongan Hills

Michael Godfrey

Services to the Seniors Club



*Mr Godfrey*

Mr Michael Aspinall  
Chairman, Keep Australia Beautiful Council (WA)  
24 November 2023



# Leadership Award

Sponsored by Community Builders, Rural Aid Australia

## Wongan Hills

Michael Godfrey

Michael is engaged in various community groups, He demonstrates a hands-on approach to identifying and addressing community needs. Michael's leadership is evident in co-founding the Seniors Club, acquiring a bus for those attending the club and contributing time and resources to causes, and serving in a compassionate and skilled capacity for community wellbeing.



*"Our Community Builders program helps create more sustainable communities, including encouraging leaders."*

Jen Curnow-Totter, Programs Manager,  
Rural Aid Australia



**Tidy Towns  
Sustainable Communities  
2023 AWARDS**

**State Winner**

Environmental Sustainability

**Collie**

Collie Tidy Towns  
River Restoration Project



*Michael Aspinall*

Mr Michael Aspinall  
Chairman, Keep Australia Beautiful Council (WA)  
24 November 2023



**Environmental  
Sustainability**

Recognises an outstanding community's achievements in adaptation to environmental change in water, nature or energy



**Collie**

**River Restoration**

The Collie River is an important feature of the town, and the improvement and maintenance of the river are priorities. In 2023, the shire commenced a review of the Collie River Revitalisation Strategy. This was done through engagement with an environmental consultancy. The review investigated the condition of the river and management strategies, looking at existing recommendations and determining new guidance for river maintenance. A commitment has been made to create a new five-year plan to address and maintain river health in Collie.

In 2023, the river gates were opened, which allowed the water level to drop significantly. This provided an opportunity for an extensive clean-up of the river to remove rubbish that had been hidden for years. With the low water level, it also created an opportunity for a drone assessment of river health. The clean-up was done in collaboration with the Friends of the Environmental River Group, Disaster Relief Australia, Traditional Owners and local businesses.



**State  
finalists**

**Kalgoorlie-Boulder**

**50 years of Protecting the  
Goldfields**

In 2023 Kalgoorlie Boulder Urban Landcare Group (KBULG) celebrated the 50th anniversary of the conservation of the Great Western Woodlands. These Woodlands were initiated by the Goldfields Dust Abatement Committee (GDAC) in 1973 in response to dust storms which detrimentally affected the community. GDAC established a 'green belt area' surrounding the city by fencing off 3,500 ha of bushland into six regeneration zones. These zones block out dust and remain largely intact to this day. KBULG manages Karlkurla Bushland Park, one of the original six regeneration zones.





## Karratha

### Coastal Foreshore Rehab, Point Samson Invasive Tree Management and Dune Restoration

The City of Karratha worked with the Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation to rehabilitate the coastal foreshore at Point Samson. The works involved using recycled bollards to obstruct redundant tracks and rehabilitating degraded dunes, which included using jute matting, native seedlings and watering regimes. There were also weed management activities which encompassed an area of 30,000 m<sup>2</sup> and a collaborative effort to enhance interpretive signage in partnership with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. The rehabilitation program had active involvement from volunteers. The project and volunteer team continue clean-up activities and carry out planting bees.

## Walpole

### Walpole Tidy Towns Wilderness BioBlitz

The BioBlitz was organised by volunteers from the Walpole-Nornalup National Park Association. It is the biggest BioBlitz in the Southern Hemisphere. More than 150 volunteers joined the BioBlitz over the September/October long weekend in 2022, surveying the internationally significant forests surrounding Walpole. Participants collected 2,000 photographic samples of plants, animals, insects, fungi, mosses and orchids which were uploaded to the online platform iNaturalist, with 400 species identified by experts. There were a large number of observations of rare species and the event concluded with a dinner.



## Wandering

### Sustainable Toilet Block – Water Catchment

This initiative, to capture rainfall and reduce dependence on mains water use for a public facility, is commended for its simplicity and application. Water from existing buildings is directed into three 110,000-litre tanks to service a popular public toilet block and provide for future landscape options. The Shire of Wandering secured a grant for the tanks and carried out the works for the pipes to feed the captured water to the drainage system.

## York

### Wildflower Society of WA York York Bushland Garden

The York Bushland Garden has grown from a disused clay pit into an area showcasing local and rare waterwise flora. The Wildflower Society York group propagated, planted, weeded and watered the garden which also promotes rare flora of the Wheatbelt region to ensure sustainability into the future. The garden is a refuge for birds, butterflies, goannas and people who love to sit in this natural space. The Shire of York provides support by removal or mulching of prunings. The community support is evident in their enthusiastic participation in propagation days.



**Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities 2023 AWARDS**

**State Winner**

Environmental Education

**Walpole**

Walpole Tidy Towns  
Tale of Two Trees



*Walpole*

Mr Michael Aspinall  
Chairman, Keep Australia Beautiful Council (WA)  
24 November 2023



**Walpole**

**Walpole Tidy Towns**

**Tale of Two Trees**

A unique environmental education program was started to showcase the local environment and the natural adaptations made over time to the changing climate. World experts came to Nornalup to talk about two of the area's most iconic trees. Dr Alison Lullfitz (UWA) interviewed Isaac Webb, a Traditional Owner from Bibbulmun/Wardandi Boodja, about the cultural significance of the red flowering gum and the red tingle tree for Noongar people. Environmental historian Andrea Gaynor took participants on a journey through the state archives, tracking down historical accounts of the red tingle, through old maps, Forestry Department reports and explorers' journals.

Ecologist Melissa Howe's survey of the conditions of the red flowering gum outlined its response to both drought and fire. Professor Stephen Hopper talked about the pollinators who have ensured the survival of the red flowering gum. Katie Syme, a fungi expert, talked about fungi in the area and the relationships they have with red tingles and red flowering gums. PhD candidate Nate Anderson discussed how red tingles hold their water and presented details on how they cope with our drying climate. Janine Liddelow (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions) updated information on the Western Shield program in the areas and the Significant Tree Register, encouraging everyone to recognise trees of interest. In addition, workshops trained locals on how to deliver eco-tourism activities.



**State finalists**

**Albany**

**Active Transport to School in the City of Albany**

Five schools in Albany are actively involved in the Your Move Schools program. No other regional areas have a group of schools who are engaged in this way, with support from their local government. More than a third of students at the participating schools walked and cycled to school. As well as the significant health and wellbeing benefits for students, these results represent a decrease of 200 vehicle trips to school and their associated emissions. Albany Primary School has built a small mountain bike track which is used as a reward for the class that rides/walks to school the most in a month.



**Environmental Education**

Sponsored by WALN

Recognises an outstanding community for its innovative environmental advocacy and/or awareness program or initiative



## Bunbury

### Manea Senior College (MSC) – Environmental Innovators

#### Environmental Advocacy at Manea Senior College

This UN Innovation Unit course enables students to look at real-world issues and implement solutions. Students develop an initiative to implement that relates to the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and can effect change in the community. Biology students are working with the Mutton Family, who are local farmers in the Capel Region, to rehabilitate and restore wetlands on their farm. Students have been monitoring the salinity of the water and soil, including how this impacts flora species, the presence of aquatic flora and macroinvertebrates, and the presence of bird populations and species. This project provides students with the opportunity to collaborate with local farmers and organisations to discuss possible solutions to rehabilitate and restore wetlands.

## Geraldton

### Holland Street School

#### Little Red Shop

The Little Red Shop initiative involves 76 students, families, staff, MEEDAC and the broader community, with students actively participating in various subjects to contribute to the shop's operation.

The shop enables students to participate in waste reduction and management, fostering motivation for learning across various subjects as they stock and maintain the shop. Students oversee the shop and participate in activities, including growing produce, cooking, preserving, counting money, crafting a specials board, and managing the outdoor library, which they set up and pack up each week. The shop's practice of selling items in reused materials promotes sustainability throughout the school community.



## Kalbarri

### District High School (KDHS) – Think Green, Keep it Clean!

The KDHS Green Team was launched with more than 40 students signing up. Green Team members collect, count and audit nine new Containers for Change and food scrap stations around school. Issues such as contamination, ineffective placement and usage are addressed as they arise; for example, to educate students not to place food in school toilet bins. Green Team students designed the 'Feed Me' and 'Let Me Rest' posters for the school's three compost tumblers.

## Port and South Hedland

### Captain Cleanup – Superhero of Sustainability Visits Hedland

The Town of Port Hedland and Care for Hedland organised an environmental educational program in May 2023, called Captain Cleanup. The program encompassed a variety of activities to educate children about waste and the importance of disposing it properly so as not to damage the environment. The mission of the show was to create a happier, healthier and more sustainable environment to live in and enjoy. The project had great feedback and the children loved the show.



*"WALN is very proud to sponsor this award for community initiatives of this calibre which are carving a path for others to follow!"*

Jacqueline Lahne, Executive Officer, Western Australia Landcare Network

**Tidy Towns  
Sustainable Communities  
2023 AWARDS**

**State Winner**

Heritage and Culture

**Pingelly**

Honouring History



*Michael Aspinall*

Mr Michael Aspinall  
Chairman, Keep Australia Beautiful Council (WA)  
24 November 2023



**Heritage and Culture**

Recognises a community's outstanding commitment to the conservation and celebration of a community's Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage and culture



**Pingelly**

**Honouring History**

A significant aspect of the Pingelly Honouring History project has been the establishment of a brand-new Heritage and Museum group. The group has found its home within the historic Town Hall. Through the collaborative efforts of the group and residents, multiple projects have taken place such as:

- Sulkies & Buggies Collection: Neil Gill donated a collection of sulkies and buggies to the Shire of Pingelly. They have been restored and are on display in the Town Hall.
- Lost Pingelly: This online project explores missing history about the old citizens of Pingelly.
- The People of Pingelly: Through the use of video, this captures the stories of the town's residents. These videos have been integrated into the museum's display.

During Heritage Week 2023, volunteers opened their homes and organisations their heritage buildings to visitors and locals over four days. There were 39 heritage locations available to tour and hear stories from the owners. This was the only Wheatbelt shire to have an event such as this.

Restoration efforts by Pingelly Men's Shed exemplified dedication and craftsmanship, restoring wagons and machinery integral to the town's history. The introduction of a trail through the town is adorned with plaques that narrate the stories behind historic buildings.

**State finalists**

**Collie**

**Preserving the Mining History of Collie**

**Expansion of Collie Visitor Centre and Museum**

The Underground Coal Mine experience gives visitors the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in some of Western Australia's most dangerous working conditions. Visitors can now set off a blast, wear hard hats and hear the stories of miners through the ages. The experience has a combination of modern multimedia and museum displays, and is a fun and interactive way to portray past and modern mining techniques. The visitor centre will help the town continue to develop.





## Coorow

### Koobabbie Precinct

The Coorow Heritage Group, Shire of Coorow, local businesses, community groups and the school have created the Koobabbie Precinct, preserving and restoring significant local buildings. This Precinct was made possible by a generous bequest of vintage machinery and historic buildings, and the funds to transport them, by the late Alison Doley. It includes signage and safe access, and is open daily offering a unique tourist experience. The site is primarily managed by volunteers, with weekdays support from a nearby shop and Elders who open and close the Precinct.

## Greenbushes

### Mining and Heritage Festival

The inaugural Community Mining Heritage Day was held in April and was well received by the local community and visitors. This heritage-focused family day brought the community together and was held in collaboration with the RSL, the Eco Discovery Centre, Greenbushes Acoustic and the Country Women's Association Belles. A ghost walk to historic parts of the town, including the Old Goal and the police station, took place. Everyone enjoyed free entry to the Eco Discovery Centre, games, children's activities, ambles, walks, displays and a mining activity skills competition.



## Kalgoorlie-Boulder

### 125 Years of Boulder

Despite Boulder and Kalgoorlie having been amalgamated into the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder in 1989, Boulder retains its own distinctive character, with its streets of grand old homes and the beautifully restored business premises in historical Burt Street. In August 2022 Boulder celebrated its 125th anniversary with a festive community event. An exhibition featuring unique artefacts revealed the story of Boulder, developed in partnership with the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society and the Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre.

## Port and South Hedland

### Historical Society's Commemoration of Local History

The Port Hedland Historical Society assisted volunteer Julie Arif to write and have published five books on the history of the community. Topics covered The Bombing of Port Hedland, Corunna Downs, South Hedland, The Silver Star and Pretty Pool. Copies are available for sale at the town's information centre. The dedication Julie has to local history is extremely beneficial to the town and she has made a big effort to ensure these memories are sustained for future generations.



### Historical books on Port and South Hedland



**Tidy Towns  
Sustainable Communities  
2023 AWARDS**

**State Winner**

Community Action and Wellbeing

**Roebourne  
(Ieramugadu)**

Ieramugadu Store Maya  
The Ngarluma Yindjibarndi Foundation Ltd



*Michael Aspinall*

Mr Michael Aspinall  
Chairman, Keep Australia Beautiful Council (WA)  
24 November 2023



**Community Action  
and Wellbeing**

This award recognises the achievements of a community in creating a healthy, vibrant community that has actively engaged groups from all sectors



**Roebourne (Ieramugadu)**

**Ieramugadu Store Maya**

The Ieramugadu Store was established at the old general store and aims to improve food security within the town. The store provides access to a low-cost, high-quality supermarket for locals; in 2022 about 800 people used the store every month.

Historically, Aboriginal people were not allowed into the town to access the store or its location. This building and place has significant meaning to the Traditional Owners and the store is now 100 per cent owned by the Traditional Owner community. The Ngarluma Yindjibarndi Foundation Ltd. (NYFL) runs the store as a social enterprise.

The store is stocked with donated and purchased goods, including fruit and vegetables sourced from supermarket chains and SecondBite in Karratha. The aisles have native language labels and culturally appropriate foods. Where possible, the store provides these items free to Elders, children, families and members. The community store presents a beautiful photo wall showing members of the community who have seen improved wellbeing thanks to goods purchased at the store.

The store has provided job opportunities for residents who work on the register, stock produce, transport produce from Karratha supermarkets to the store, and much more. There are 5-10 employed staff and 3-5 core staff, with the aim of growing and educating new store workers.

The project has made a significant difference to the lives and wellbeing of the community. The cafe within the same building is open to the public and engages with locals as an educational space. Educational programs have involved flying in an expert barista to train people how to make coffee and work in the cafe, and then work at the local Cossack Cafe also operated by NYFL. This food security, employment and education provides residents with closer connection and liveability across the community.

**State  
finalists**

**Cunderdin**

**O'Connor Park Redevelopment**

The O'Connor Park redevelopment is a great example of a community-driven project. It is a result of the inspiration of the Youth Council, who saw a need for a space to connect with friends, the business community who wanted to attract more visitors to town, and the broader community who longed to have a park to be proud of. The key elements of this redevelopment included play areas, a skate park, a basketball area, recreation area, outdoor ninja exercise area, performance stage, shelters with barbecues, CCTV and entry signage with interpretive panels. The park has elements that educate visitors about Indigenous culture, with signage and a yarning circle.





## Djarindjin Clean Community

The community is on a pathway to sustainable growth and increased mental wellbeing, which is being achieved through a five-year program. Weekly clean-ups take place. Numerous car bodies were removed and metal or items of use are being recycled and repurposed in the shire yard. The Containers for Change refund point has reopened after two years. Linking a litter-free community with personal wellbeing includes engaging community members in mental health courses.

The nursery was closed for 10 years but is now abundant with plants. The impact has been that more plants are being planted in community housing, which is also adding to the mental wellbeing of residents.

## Fitzroy Valley

### Fitzroy Crossing Response and Recovery Project

On 2 January 2023, ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie brought devastating flooding, leading to what was deemed the worst flood emergency in WA's history. About 400 homes were affected, with 60 per cent condemned and unliveable. The response was immediate and over time the community collaborated, under the Elders, and the ongoing recovery is outstanding. Action has led to increased individual and community capacity and employment. Locals have received training, acquired skills, and gained employment opportunities because of the involvement of organisations and industries in the reconstruction of infrastructure and support services. This experience highlights the importance of community support to the town's resilience and unity, and is an inspirational story – from tragedy to recovery.



## Pingelly

### Somerset Alliance Inc. – Age is Just a Number

Pingelly Somerset Alliance Inc., in partnership with Pingelly Community Resource Centre, Incasa Country and Mabel, created the Home Care Support Service initiative. This program, also known as the Staying in Place initiative, has reshaped elderly care and improved the quality of life by allowing people to maintain independence and autonomy in their own homes. By allowing seniors to age in place, it is helping preserve regional communities and other communities are following this model.

In addition, the Age is Just a Number project linking elders (biggies) with young people (smalls) – based on the ABC's *Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds* TV series – enables seniors and schoolchildren to learn from each other. The impact of the program was bigger than expected and there is overwhelming support from the community.

## Wongan Hills

### Seniors Club

During 2022 a group got together to find activities for the seniors in their care as many were staying home and isolated. Eight volunteers provided business plans to council and community organisations and received considerable support, allowing the Seniors Club to be formed. About 100 people attended the grand opening in February 2023. The numbers regularly attending are growing. The Shire of Wongan-Ballidu has allocated funds in the next 12 months to support the Seniors Club and find a dedicated location that can be fully equipped for the group.



**Tidy Towns  
Sustainable Communities  
2023 AWARDS**

**State Winner**

General Appearance

**Paraburdoo**

Paraburdoo Tidy Towns  
Paraburdoo Entry



*Michael Aspinall*

Mr Michael Aspinall  
Chairman, Keep Australia Beautiful Council (WA)  
24 November 2023



**Paraburdoo**

**Paraburdoo Entry**

Upon entry into Paraburdoo, it is a pleasant surprise to see beautiful trees and plants lining the road in such a dry and dusty environment. Over the past year new tree plantings down the roadsides and signage has resulted in a beautiful entry to the town. It was evident the Shire of Ashburton, Tidy Towns committee, volunteers and residents put in a large amount of time and effort to beautify Paraburdoo, including clean-ups and removal of invasive weeds.

The Shire of Ashburton and Rio Tinto funded the Paraburdoo multipurpose courts project which started construction in the middle of 2022 and was completed in May 2023. The new undercover and outdoor multipurpose courts have provided sporting amenities to the community and this is also a modernised area where people can come together. There are three new basketball courts and three new tennis courts.

Red Dog was born in Paraburdoo and the Red Dog Puppy Sculpture provides a focal point. It is situated with a tourist information sign, new landscaping and tree plantings.



**State  
finalists**

**Jurien Bay**

**Jurien Bay Foreshore and Youth  
Precinct Redevelopment**

The Jurien Bay Foreshore Plan covers about 41,200 m<sup>2</sup> and has been developed from 2017 to improve the entire Jurien Bay foreshore precinct. The resulting precinct is a stunning cultural hub for all ages. The past 12 months has seen the completion of a cafe, ablution block, family picnic area, shelters and barbecues, and a half basketball court. Groups involved in the development of the precinct include the Shire of Dandaragan, volunteers on the Foreshore Working Group Committee, local contractors and community members of all ages throughout the consultation process. The project is an outstanding public open space that retains Jurien Bay's sense of place and uniqueness.



**General Appearance**

*Winner of Vanguard Media  
Printing Prize*

Recognises improvements to a community's general appearance including, but not restricted to, entries/ approaches to town, sporting areas, public parks and gardens, private homes and streets, including footpaths and verges



## Meekatharra

### Streetscape Art Project

Meekatharra's Streetscape Art Project has revamped the main street. It saw a reconstruction of the ugly middle strip, resulting in new surface and paver pattern adorned with locally designed murals reflecting Meekatharra's heritage and its three pillars: Indigenous, Pastoral, and Mining. Andrew 'Ando' Binsiar's vibrant murals now grace the median strips, accompanied by interpretive signage explaining the heritage and design process. An outdoor art gallery, seating, bike racks, drinking water fountain and student murals have revitalised the streetscape, celebrating Meekatharra's history and community spirit.

## Ongerup

### Tidy Up Ongerup

The Shire of Gnowangerup has implemented a sustainable beautification and maintenance initiative, and the town is experiencing an immediate improvement in its appearance. It is also fostering a lasting culture of cleanliness, community engagement and environmental stewardship. Shire employee Skeigh Weston took the initiative to improve the appearance of the town he grew up in. There are now increased and well-maintained green spaces, enhancing the town's natural beauty and providing recreational areas for residents. The main street has been cleared of weeds, cleaned up and replanted. The Ongerup Community Development group carries out clean-ups and revegetation activities. The group has purchased the only pub in town.



## Sandstone

### Celebrating Sandstone Through Art and Beautification

Beautification projects that celebrate the history and natural elements of this unique community include landscaping upgrades in the main street and large murals by Mural Nomad on two water tanks close to the caravan park. These feature native fauna and flora as well as historical images from the goldmining and pastoralist industries. A mural at Anzac Park depicts local figures from war times and striking red poppies. Two new entry statements, at either end of the town approaches, are bright and colourful. The beautification projects have already had a positive impact on not only travellers but the local community, boosting the already high community pride.

## Walpole

### Walpole Townsite

Walpole's initiatives include new visually stunning signage on the highway approaching the town depicting iconic images of the Walpole Wilderness area. Solar-powered lighting at the Litter Free Walpole entry sign and new signage at the Visitor Centre replaced old faded signs, including the Tidy Towns sign featuring information from as far back as 2003. There were improvements and upgrades to business frontages and vacant land, and a new mural on the St John's Ambulance Station. There is also new kerbing, footpaths and culverts, and upgrades to the Town Jetty and Pioneer Park carparks.

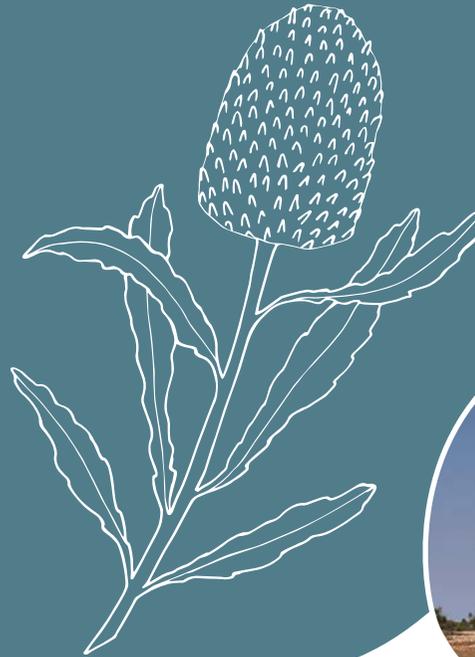


# Judges

To view all judges please visit [kabc.wa.gov.au](http://kabc.wa.gov.au) and enter 'Tidy Towns judges' in the search box.

*"Being on the judging panel has been an incredible and eye-opening experience. It was amazing to witness the passion and meet some of the people. I was and will continue to be inspired by projects that people are doing for communities and I will forever appreciate the people who were able to show me this. Hearing from Port and South Hedland about how it costs \$1 million to water an oval for a year means I will never take an oval for granted again. Congratulations to all of the towns which entered the awards for 2023; we look forward to seeing what you're doing in 2024!"*

Daisy Passmore, Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities judge 2023



**Thank you to Boddington RRR Group for custom-made frames for State Category Winners.**

Each frame was made from 257 plastic bottle tops.

**And thanks to Shire of Upper Gascoyne for the State Winner frame made from gidgee wood which is found in abundance across the Upper Gascoyne.**

The frame was repurposed from used fence posts on Winderie Station 40 km south of Gascoyne Junction.



We encourage you to get your regional community involved in the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards.

The Keep Australia Beautiful Council seeks to change littering behaviour through programs, education, incentives, enforcement, infrastructure and communication strategies.

## KEEPING IT BEAUTIFUL

Discuss with your team how you can use the program to assist in community engagement and recognition. Start recording projects now and visit [kabc.wa.gov.au](http://kabc.wa.gov.au) and click on the 'Get involved' link for more information and ideas.

The awards showcase projects that conserve cultural heritage, bushland and rivers, and reduce impacts on the environment through recycling and resource recovery. The awards promote pride in communities, the protection of cultural and natural heritage values, and a sustainable future, as well as being a friendly competition between towns.





**For more information contact:**

**Post:** Locked Bag 10  
JOONDALUP DC WA 6919

[tidytowns@kabc.wa.gov.au](mailto:tidytowns@kabc.wa.gov.au)

[www.kabc.wa.gov.au](http://www.kabc.wa.gov.au)

