

LITTERature

Keep Australia Beautiful Council WA's

e-newsletter



Welcome to the first e-newsletter of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council WA (KABC) for 2019. The year is off to a flying start with a new Council in place, the flagship Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities awards celebrating 50 years, Adopt-a-Spot marking 10 years and a bin sticker competition for schools.

Thank you all for the time and effort you have put in so far in 2019 and please remember KABC is here to support you in your litter prevention endeavours.

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New Council appointed

In December 2018, The Minister for Environment appointed a new Keep Australia Beautiful Council for Western Australia.

Michael Aspinall has been reappointed as Chairman of the Council, together with

- Genette Keating – representing the interests of consumers; and
- Howard Flinders – representing the Department of Education.

There are five new members in the Council:

- William (Bill) Adams – Western Australian Local Government Association – non-metropolitan
- Don Burnett – representing Western Australian Local Government Association – metropolitan
- Lisa Fanciulli – representing the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
- Jason Menzies – representing the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- Christine Parfitt – representing the Conservation Council of WA Inc.

Golden milestone for Tidy Towns

In 2019, KABC's flagship program Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards (Tidy Towns) is celebrating 50 years of recognising and rewarding regional and remote communities who take positive action to protect and enhance their environment.

The first Tidy Towns Awards had 59 entries from local government authorities and the competition winners were announced by the then Premier, Sir David Brand, at a buffet luncheon at the Palace Hotel on 17 March 1969. The winners were Corrigin, Merredin, Medina/Calista, and Bunbury. Bunbury won the overall State award.

In the beginning, Tidy Towns was focused on picking up litter, town appearance and areas being clean. Over the last 50 years, the focus of Tidy Towns has evolved and, in 2019, themes and judging have a broader environmental focus around sustainability.



Bunbury at Sunset 1960
Image: State Library of Western Australia



Recent Tidy Towns projects see communities planting native trees and gardens, reducing water and energy use, influencing and educating groups, as well as keeping a town tidy and presentable.

This year, the 50th Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities awards was launched in Margaret River Farmer's Market on March 2.

Keep a look out for KABC's 'going retro' social media posts in the coming months to help celebrate Tidy Towns turning fifty.

Design a bin sticker competition

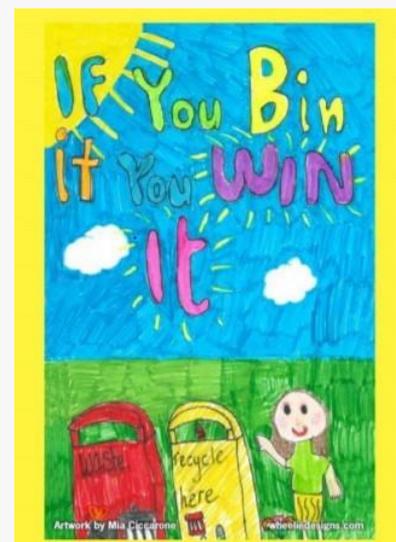
A [fun competition](#) run by KABC's Clean Schools program invites school students in Western Australia to unleash their artistic talents and design a bin sticker promoting the litter-free message.

The winner will receive 10 printed stickers of their design to be placed on bins around their school as well as a no-waste lunch kit for themselves.

There is a template available for download (JPEG and Word) and the design can be either digital or hand drawn.

A presentation on the competition page provides tips for designing an effective bin sticker, including to keep in mind the message, the text and images.

- The message needs to be positive, catchy, persuasive and focused on putting all litter in the bin.
- The text should be bold, clear, nicely placed and have correct spelling.
- Images should be clear, colourful and bright.



The competition is open until Friday 12 April 2019.

Send digital entries and queries to cleanschools@kabc.wa.gov.au. Hand written entries can be posted to Clean Schools, KABC, Locked Bag 10, JOONDALUP DC, WA 6919.

Adopt-a-Spotters sweep Kwinana Beach

In January this year, Amber Pizzuto registered with KABC's Adopt-a-Spot program to adopt and care for Kwinana Beach to help keep it litter-free. She had become fed up with seeing carelessly discarded litter strewn across the shore during visits to the beach with her family.

Amber's registration comment said *'I am starting this group with a fellow mother who is concerned about our oceans and we wish to get our children and others involved and concerned about the issue.'*



Amber Pizzuto and the Kwinana Beach adopters after their first clean-up on 12 January

Amber then created an [Instagram](#) presence to raise awareness of the litter issues at Kwinana Beach and posted notices on [Facebook](#) to gather support for a planned clean-up. At the group's first clean-up on 12 January, about 18 volunteers gathered at Kwinana Beach and collected 17 bags of litter including many cigarette butts, a syringe, a broken glass pipe, five used nappies and several other large items.

An article headlined 'Beach clean-up a big success' was published in the *Sound Telegraph* the following week and to celebrate the success, Amber had already planned a second clean-up on 27 January (after Australia Day festivities). The *Weekend Courier* then picked up the story and also published [an article about the event](#) and invited others to join the cause.

The post Australia Day clean-up was a further success where the group collected 14 rubbish bags in one hour, including over 1300 cigarette butts. A third clean-up was held at Kwinana Beach was to coincide with Clean-Up Australia Day.

KABC congratulates and thanks Amber and the Kwinana Beach Adopt-a-Spotters for their enthusiastic launch into the [Adopt-a-Spot program](#).

Information on the Adopt-a-Spot program, including how to register and a map of places that have been adopted, is available on [KABC's website](#).

Dangerous litter – cigarettes butts

Litter counts conducted by Keep Australia Beautiful show cigarette butts to be the most frequently recorded type of litter in Western Australia. In fact, over seven billion cigarette butts are discarded across Australia every year.

In the October to December quarter 2018 in Western Australia, 301 infringements were issued for incorrect/careless cigarette disposal.



Carelessly discarded lit cigarette butts are a frequent cause of fires. In Western Australia, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services states that it attends more than 500 mulch fires a year, most of which are caused by discarded cigarettes under hot, dry conditions – smouldering for extended periods along roadsides, particularly at traffic lights.

Fires can be prevented if people who smoke dispose their cigarette butts responsibly and make sure others do the same. Smokers must ensure the cigarette butt is fully extinguished before disposing of it and remember to never throw a cigarette butt from a moving or stationary car.

Members of the public can register to be litter reporters and report people littering from a car, trailer or boat, including cigarette butts. Reporting a litterer emphasises the message that cigarette butts are litter and littering is an offence – with lit butts attracting even heavier penalties in an effort to prevent bush fires. Information on the litter reporting scheme is available on [KABC's website – Report littering](#).

Litter grant brings community dishes

KABC grant recipient Victoria Park Transition Network has implemented the [Borrow and Bring Back Community Dishes Kit](#).

The innovative Community Dishes program made possible by Lindsay Miles sees groups in communities borrowing dishes at no charge and then bringing them back. The dishes such as crockery, cutlery and glassware are available to be hired out for events and are then returned by the borrowers free of charge. This gives smaller groups the chance to save money on event costs by not having to purchase single-use items. The program also works towards a litter-free environment by reducing the prevalence of these commonly littered items in the community.



Community dishes was officially launched on 19 January, and since then there have been 12 bookings with a total of 957 items used. Further information and current counts are listed on a dedicated website at <http://communitydishes.org>.

[KABC Community Litter Grants](#) provide funding for projects that seek to change littering behaviour and work towards a litter-free Western Australia. Applications for grants will open in April this year.

Coming events

Coogee Live

Saturday and Sunday 9–10 March - Socrates Park, Coogee

Coogee Live is a free event that locals and visitors can attend to discover intriguing works of art, interactive activities, community group demonstrations and musical interludes that highlight Coogee's picturesque coastline. KABC will have a strong presence at the festival – come and join in the beach clean-up at Mermaid Cove on Saturday. Visit www.coogeelive.com.au for further details.

National Tidy Towns Awards

Thursday and Friday 4–5 April - Smithton, Tasmania

Collie will represent WA at this year's national Tidy Towns awards. Collie has had a strong focus on litter and waste management for many years and has worked hard to make its piece of Western Australia clean and environmentally sustainable. Go Collie!

Community Litter Grants

Applications open from 15 April - 31 May – Western Australia

KABC Community Litter Grants provide funding for projects that seek to change littering behaviour and work towards a litter-free Western Australia. Local government authorities, community groups, small to medium sized enterprises and schools are eligible to apply for the grants, which must be for projects in the public domain.

More information is available at: www.kabc.wa.gov.au/community-litter-grants

Quick links:

[Report Littering](#) | [Adopt a Spot](#) | [Tidy Towns](#) | [Clean Schools](#) | [Clean Clubs](#) | [Outback packs](#)

Social Media links:

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)