

TIDY TOWNS SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

2020 AWARDS

Snapshots
Winner and Finalists





From the Chairman

This year has been challenging for Western Australian regional communities, and I am impressed by the extent to which they have participated in Keep Australia Beautiful Council's (KABC) Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards. The initiatives and vision of regional communities for their ongoing sustainability and wellbeing serve as positive examples. This year, KABC has introduced a special Community Action COVID Projects Award, acknowledging the challenges to communities from the COVID-19 pandemic and recognising their efforts to remain united together through such difficult times. With many submissions discussing the impacts of this unprecedented crisis on community spirit and livelihoods, this special award is a fitting testimonial to the strength, resilience and compassion of our regions.

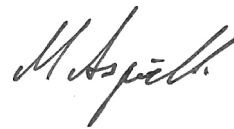
The Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards continue to highlight and recognise regional communities that demonstrate effective litter prevention activities, positive environmental outcomes and projects that reflect the heritage and culture of their community.

Forty diverse communities throughout Western Australia (WA) submitted projects across seven categories in this year's awards. These projects demonstrate how effective partnerships can keep communities sustainable and thriving. The projects and communities are extremely diverse, and I commend our judges for their knowledge and professionalism while visiting the communities to learn about each initiative.

Snapshots is a record of the judges' impressions from their regional visits and judging panel discussions, providing personal insight and endeavouring to give a feel of the projects and people behind them.

Congratulations to all 2020 entrants for your dedication and hard work towards making and keeping your communities sustainable. Every community taking part can feel proud of its effort to help make our state even more beautiful. You have done a terrific job in promoting positive environmental, social and economic changes that benefit WA as a whole. Your efforts are an inspiration to us all.

Finally, congratulations to this year's Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Overall State Winner, Narrogin. Narrogin is a finalist in four categories and demonstrates a positive commitment, across Shire and community levels, to make the town a sustainable and attractive place to live and visit.



Michael Aspinall

Chairman, Keep Australia Beautiful Council
of Western Australia





Minister for Environment

It's a privilege as Environment Minister to be able to visit many regional towns where valuable work is being carried out by volunteers and local governments working

in partnership to ensure a sustainable future for their community and for the State. The passion and drive of community members is what makes a difference and our communities better places to live.

The Keep Australia Beautiful Council's Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards provide a platform for communities who have carried out sustainable initiatives to be recognised for their projects and work.

Tidy Towns is about supporting people who are engaged, getting out to carry out litter clean ups, restoring land, taking care of buildings and new assets, engaging youth and including those who are vulnerable.

The McGowan Government has a strong commitment to the sustainability of regional communities and reducing waste. The container deposit scheme, Containers for Change, is already making a huge difference to the recovery of beverage containers, which until now, has made up around 41 per cent of all litter. The Scheme will result in less litter on regional highways, and in towns and communities, and provides opportunities for local groups to generate funding to support their projects, and which I am sure will become future entries in these Awards.

Congratulations to all entrants, finalists, and winners on setting an outstanding example in the towns where you live, and for all Western Australians.

Hon Stephen Dawson, MLC

Minister for Environment
27 November 2020



Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities

Recognising, rewarding and encouraging regional and remote communities



“This year has been very different to any other that we have faced previously. I’m proud to be in Western Australia and proud of what our regional city, Kalgoorlie-Boulder, has achieved during these challenging times. I believe these awards support

and encourage us to collaborate and take pride in our community by enhancing and protecting our environment. Getting together at the awards, sharing ideas, learning from each other, and celebrating our achievements is one of the highlights of my year.”

Kim Eckert OAM GAICD | CEO, Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group
Kalgoorlie-Boulder; 2020 finalist in three categories
(WA State Title Winner 2017)

Tidy Towns: A history

WA was the first state in Australia to hold the Tidy Towns Awards, launched by the WA Tourist Development Authority in 1969. In 1973, KABC ran the competition with a focus on tidy streets. In 1980, KABC became a statutory authority with responsibility under the *Litter Act 1979* for ‘striving for a litter free Western Australia’.

The national awards were launched in 1990 and, along with judging criteria changes in 1997, placed an increased focus on environmental and cultural preservation and recycling. In 2001, the Tidy Towns Awards name changed to include Sustainable Communities to better reflect a broader environmental focus and its support from the then Department of Environment Regulation (now Department of Water and Environmental Regulation). The iconic Tidy Towns entrant sign, which shows that towns are participating in the awards, was introduced in 2003.

Today, over 50 years on, 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.

2020

STATE WINNER

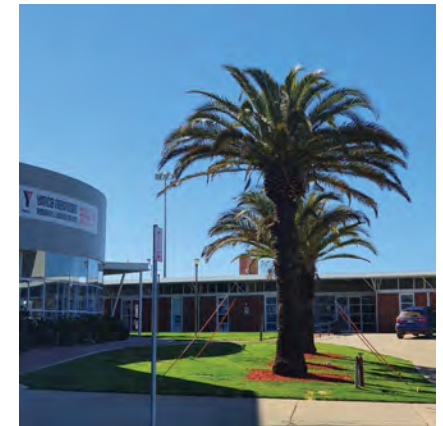
NARROGIN

Beautifully completed projects carried out by the Shire, in conjunction with community members, positioned Narrogin as a finalist in four categories in the 2020 awards. Recent changes include tree plantings and the relocation of 30-year-old palms; colourful bin surrounds; ease of use road paths; a play park redesign and park upgrades; LED lighting; new street furniture; bike stands; shade shelters; and inclusive seating.

Interpretive signage has also been added to the Heritage Walk Trail. The trail leads people through Narrogin's town centre, sharing the history of its buildings. The signage is a commitment to the conservation of the rich history of region.

The Shire has worked with community groups and residents to support initiatives such as The Gnarrojin Community Garden and the sensory garden. The gardens are accessible to all residents and provide an opportunity for community members to engage in food production activities and enjoy a café experience. Colourful new bin surrounds throughout the town have resulted in less litter on the ground. Community action has also assisted in litter pick-ups.

Grants have also been offered to farmers to plant native trees and the Narrogin Environmental Action Team, NEAT, made up of young people, is assisting in native tree planting. The development of bike paths, a collaborative BMX site, and restoration of the pavilion ensure Narrogin is a beautiful place to live and visit.



“The Shire of Narrogin has done a huge amount of work to improve the appearance and accessibility of the town for all community members. Recent changes, beautification and sustainable action in the town are apparent throughout.”

Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards Judge, Kylie Payne



Narrogin
love the life


Tidy Towns
Sustainable Communities
ENTRANT 2020

2020

STATE FINALISTS



BODDINGTON Finalist

Boddington is an innovative community and its submission is rich in sustainable community and environmental projects. The Boddington Reduce, Reuse, Recycle group is commended for its plastic problem-solving projects, including the shredding of thousands of mining hard hats for reuse, and repurposing plastic bench seats and mosaics.

The Eco Club leads youth in sustainable living initiatives and action. Community projects include the Boddington Park transformation, rehabilitation of Ranford Pool, and public sculptures. Environmental action to protect Carnaby's Black Cockatoos, a new heritage trail, removal of weeds, and planting trees at Tunbridge Gully has also received great community support. The community organises an annual medieval festival which attracts over 2,000 visitors to Boddington. It was clear to judges that the sense of community, creativity and connection that has been nurtured and embraced by enthusiastic locals, is a firm foundation to build on into the future.



GREENBUSHES Finalist

The small community of Greenbushes has a big heart and a strong environmental and community focus. Judges were impressed to see the town continue its strong partnerships and collaborations which have resulted in a supported and connected community. This was evidenced through the care shown by the Community Resource Centre, which celebrated 25 years with a time capsule which was sealed in August 2020. The Tidy Towns Committee carried out litter clean-ups with volunteers, while the community garden group worked to provide positive social engagement and activities. This year's social functions, as well as high numbers of volunteers working in the garden, made it a focal point for the community. The local Primary School's language program teaches students about the culture of region's Traditional Custodians and the Noongar language. The science fair has been extended to neighbouring communities, creating awareness of environmental issues.



KALGOORLIE-BOULDER Finalist

Kalgoorlie-Boulder is tireless in its efforts to undertake community events and action plans to make the city a better place to live in. Stage one of the \$30 million central business district revitalisation is under way with activities including new paving, clean-up teams, and bin surrounds already progressed (stage two is eagerly anticipated). A student led clean-up saw over 120 volunteers assist in removing three tonnes of dumped rubbish from one of five regeneration zones in March. A total of 5,000 trees were planted, and litter was again removed during a second event.

Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Land Care Group is commended for its advocacy and for educating people about the risks of littering and dumping – with littering signs and custom designed community bin stickers now installed. Additional community activities including Landcare education to Goldfield schools, planting 500 trees to help cool the town, the Garden Quest, waterwise gardening, a multicultural festival, community groups, and individuals carrying out initiatives such as ‘Love for the Elderly’ hampers make Kalgoorlie-Boulder an inspirational regional community.



KOJONUP Finalist

The Shire of Kojonup, in conjunction with local community groups, has initiated a significant amount of work throughout the town. Preserving the old military barracks (circa 1845), which houses a collection of memorabilia supplied by local pensioner soldiers, is a substantial, ongoing project. The restoration of the memorial hall and ongoing rose maze activity demonstrates volunteer and shire engagement.

An activity organised by Landcare schools saw 1,000 native seedlings planted at an area close to the an old tip – transforming a previous dumping site into a regenerated oasis. These activities have ongoing environmental and educational benefits to students and the community. Establishing the Sport Alliance Group also enabled the community to develop coordinated sporting activities.

As an accredited waterwise town, water is reused on parks, and the Shire recycles plastic bottle tops through the Anglican Church.



PORT AND SOUTH HEDLAND Finalist

This community submission, led by Care for Hedland, demonstrates how a large and diverse community of passionate and determined individuals can come together and achieve significant social and environmental outcomes. Organised business, volunteer and Adopt-a-Spot clean-up teams have collected over 1,500 bags of litter this year. A total of 1,800 students also took part in the annual Clean Up Australia Day event, collecting a further 417 kgs of litter.

Care for Hedland has also been appointed as the Containers for Change refund point in the area – a huge achievement for this organisation. The region’s turtle monitoring program, now in its seventeenth year of operation, continued to engage with 101 volunteers to collect DNA and scientific data; while the Historical Society and Visitor Centre carried out tours and held sundowner events for the community.

Community group, Bloodwood Tree provided 584 meals through its soup kitchen during March to support community members; while the South Hedland Community Garden provided online gardening workshops which received over 9,500 views.

Litter Prevention and Waste Management

Recognises innovation and achievements in litter prevention, reducing and managing waste.

DENHAM Winner (Shire of Shark Bay)



Effective waste management by reducing litter and recycling items

The Denham community's efforts are outstanding, delivering an effective service for locals to address the impact visitors and their litter have on this pristine community. Denham addressed litter collection and recycling through shire and community engagement. The new Bring Centre operates 24/7 and enables access to a central facility for the recycling of aluminium and steel cans, paper, cardboard, plastics, and glass. A total of 148 tonnes of recycled material have been collected this year. Coloured bin lids in the centre wall encourage people to dispose of their items correctly.

In addition, the Community Resource Centre; War on Waste group initiatives; clean-ups around town and in the ocean; and the bin sticker project encourage the simple message of Bin It – demonstrating the integration of litter and waste management activities across the community.

BODDINGTON Finalist

Boddington Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (RRR)

The Boddington RRR group has taken local recycling into its own hands. Concern for inefficiencies in the recycling system led the group to establish an area at the local library where residents can deposit their recycling into sorting bags. A newly designated shed also enables people to bring plastics for recycling. The plastics are sorted by volunteers and community groups, shredded and passed on to manufacturing end users.

Working with mining companies, a skip load per week of PET is saved from landfill and 2,000 hardhats from one mine were dismantled and sent as shredded plastic to be reused. Other projects include turning plastic into park benches and mosaics.





KARRATHA Finalist

City of Karratha Bags for Bucks litter initiative

A long-term program, the Bags for Bucks litter initiative provides community groups with funding of \$6 per bag of litter collected. The city provides all required equipment and, since 2011, community groups have received \$209,000 through this initiative. This judging period, Wickham Tidy Towns (within the city's parameters) undertook four clean-ups, including a beach clean-up with the West Pilbara Turtle Program. In total, 166 volunteers collected 1,702 bags of litter.

Congratulations to the City of Karratha on its initiatives to remove litter, support communities and promptly remove dumped items.



GERALDTON Finalist

Gero Clean Up Crew

Regular clean-ups organised by the Gero Clean Up Crew have attracted a growing number of volunteers working together to clear Geraldton of litter.

In partnership with KABC's Adopt-a-Spot program, the Gero Clean Up Crew aims to increase the number of bags of litter collected at any one time to 70, as well as boosting community awareness and participation.



NARROGIN Finalist

Bin surrounds and free rubbish tip disposal

Over 30 bin surrounds in bright Shire logo colours have been installed throughout the town. Data from the Shire's litter collection team shows that more rubbish is being collected since installation of these bins – resulting in a less littered community.

Additionally, to combat litter, residents are now able to take amounts totalling less than one cubic metre to the local refuse site at no charge – a simple yet effective initiative to address littering.

PORT AND SOUTH HEDLAND Finalist

Care for Hedland community clean-ups

Community and business clean-ups continue to grow under new partnerships managed by Care for Hedland. Approximately 1,500 bags of litter were collected by the community during organised clean-ups, plus thousands more were collected as a part of the Town of Port Hedland's annual and ongoing municipal litter collection efforts.

Additional congratulations go to Care for Hedland's leadership in litter management. As the official Containers for Change refund point in the region, the organisation continues to offer recycling options and ongoing action to address littering.



Young Legends

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

ALBANY Winner



Bridget Mason

Dedicating more than 250 volunteer hours in the last 12 months, 19-year-old Bridget Mason's enthusiasm for helping others and making them smile, feel loved and valued is obvious. Bridget is Team Leader for the Disabled Surfing Association, Great Southern, where she teaches people with disabilities how to surf. She also assists with Albany's Breakfast in the Park initiative, volunteering her time on a weekly basis.

"Seeing people's reactions to being helped and knowing how much this benefits them is very special for me, and I am so grateful to be a part of it," Bridget said.

In addition to her volunteer work, Bridget is living a sustainable lifestyle – shopping in bulk food shops where she can, making her own toiletries, and purchasing ethical and environmental products from Eco House in Albany. She also rides her bike instead of driving as much as possible.

Bridget is currently studying Botany and Conservation Biology at the University of Western Australia (in Albany and Perth) and hopes to work on regenerating forests and bushland areas. Bridget organised a school climate change demonstration and was part of the organising committee for the Albany Climate Strike. Bridget was invited to attend the Global Young Leaders Conference in Washington, USA, in 2020.

BRIDGETOWN Finalist

Blackwood Youth Action: Youth Advisory Group

The addition of the Blackwood Youth Action (BYA) building has enabled the expansion of the organisation's youth services programs. These programs work in conjunction with the Youth Advisory Group, comprising local young people aged 12–25. Meeting fortnightly, the group advises the BYA Committee on issues that are relevant and important to young people in the community. Two members of the Youth Advisory Group also sit on the BYA Committee, providing direct representation.

The BYA's focus includes school holiday activities, one-on-one counselling with links to relevant agencies, and supporting and managing the Bridgetown Youth Expo.





COLLIE Finalist

Allanson Primary School Eco Team; Student Claudia Scoffern

The Allanson Primary School Eco Team encourages students to pursue their own waste and recycling ideas. The school was awarded the Shire of Collie Australia Day Environment Award 2020 for its commitment to waste management; planting projects; and bushfire mitigation lessons.

The Eco team has set up Teracycle bins for students to bring in items from home. This platform provides an opportunity for the school to redeem points and funds that are reinvested into the school.

Eco Team member, Claudia Scoffern, won Collie Young Citizen of the Year 2020 for her involvement in the Earth Assist Rethink Waste Art Competition.

GREENBUSHES Finalist

Heidi Rodgers

Heidi's commitment to Greenbushes sets an example for other young people. Heidi is 20 years old and a trainee at Talison Lithium in Greenbushes.

She joined St John's Ambulance Bridgetown as a volunteer and, as a young person entering this challenging volunteer organisation, Heidi has adapted to the work and committed much of her free time to volunteering in this role. Her volunteering commitment led to her being recognised in the community as a youth leader by the Country Women's Association of WA.



KALGOORLIE-BOULDER Finalist

Eastern Goldfields College: Clean Up Kalgoorlie-Boulder Day

When Eastern Goldfields College teacher, Anna Gavan, suggested to her students that they volunteer their time to assist in the event planning and running of the most recent Clean Up Kalgoorlie-Boulder Day, the class was quick to oblige. Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group assisted with two class talks before the event to prepare the students. The students then took the initiative – planning and running the event registration and arriving early on the day to assist across all aspects of the event. It was a great success that promoted positive waste behaviours and empowered youth-led action.

PORT AND SOUTH HEDLAND Finalist

Community Garden Kids Club

Another popular Care for Hedland initiative encourages local children to attend weekly workshops and vegetable gardening sessions at the Community Garden. With a significant focus on children teaching each other, younger members aged 5–6 years regularly teach older children about gardening and food production, while the older children run regular training sessions with younger children, too. The annual Great Gardens Competition has a Young Gardeners category which consistently attracts a high number of entries from the area.



Environmental Sustainability

Recognises an outstanding community's achievements in adaptation to environmental change, often through working in partnership with local government, industry and the wider public.

WONGAN HILLS **Winner**



Connecting public infrastructure to water from the Mocardy Dam

With the completion of the Mocardy Dam project, the town of Wongan Hills has become self-sufficient in its ability to water all parks, gardens and reserves from an interconnected series of dams and pipelines. In the last 12 months the community garden, town gardens, school grounds and ovals at the sports centre have been connected to this water source, reducing the reliance on scheme water for irrigation. By upgrading and reusing 100-year-old water collection infrastructure, the Shire of Wongan Ballidu (in conjunction with the Water Corporation) has been able to harvest enough water to maintain dam levels at 100 million litres, which will service the town's reserves through the summer. The completion of this significant project moves Wongan Hills closer to being drought proof.

Wongan Hills District High School has also built a water catchment system onsite, saving \$35,000 in water costs over the last 12 months. The Shire has reduced its costs significantly by not using scheme water to service its assets.

BODDINGTON Finalist

Tunbridge Gully

This project aims to improve biodiversity and ecological function of Tunbridge Gully (a tributary of the Hotham River) by removing invasive weeds and planting native vegetation instead. At least one major tree planting event per year has been carried out to date.

The Peel Harvey Catchment Council works with the local school and Friends of the Reserve group to deliver tree planting events, with up to 80 people participating each time. The project also involves engagement with the local Noongar community and provides education and training opportunities for site works and maintenance, as well as improving aesthetics and recreational opportunities. A river action plan was also recently completed for the Hotham and Williams Rivers.





DUMBLEYUNG Finalist

Lakeside Salt Lake rehabilitation

Graeme and Toni Dearle purchased 100 hectares of salt affected, non-commercial land with the aim of transforming it into a sustainable, salt tolerant forest environment and biodiverse habitat to offset their tour business' carbon emissions. Since 2007, they have planted approximately 40,000 trees, shrubs and salt bushes on the land which borders the Coblinine River near Dumbleyung. In 2019–20, they planted 1,700 salt tolerant species with family and friends, obtaining grant funding for seedlings through Dumbleyung Landcare.

KALGOORLIE-BOULDER

Finalist

Creation and maintenance of urban green spaces

Kalgoorlie-Boulder maintains six large regeneration zones in the city and surrounding areas, creating a green belt around the community. Karkurla Bushland Park, comprising over 200 hectares of habitat for native fauna and flora, is one of the zones. This year, the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare group carried out activities with community volunteers to encourage the continuing natural regrowth process and improve existing fauna habitat. The activities undertaken included flora audits, planting 2,000 trees and shrubs, and extensive biodiversity maintenance and restoration works.



KOJONUP Finalist

A waterwise town

The Shire Council has established Kojonup as a waterwise town, with a focus on working towards best practice water efficiency within the community and in council operations. The region's Water Efficiency Action Plan was recently updated and endorsed by the Water Corporation. Substantial mains water savings are now being made on irrigation at Kodja Place, the rose maze and Apex Park, and the swimming pool is now endorsed as waterwise. Effluent ponds collect treated water that is used daily for public parks, putting it to good use rather than it being wasted.

PORT AND SOUTH HEDLAND Finalist

Turtle monitoring program

Now in its seventeenth year, the Care for Hedland Environmental Association community volunteer turtle monitoring program utilises a wide range of communication tools to engage the wider community and visiting tourists. This year, 101 volunteers collected scientific data that was shared with agencies and authorities to assist with the management and protection of the turtles. A total of 154 DNA biopsies were collected, with four turtle rescues attended. The DNA samples collected will progress the study and help determine the relationship between the turtles nesting on Cemetery Beach.



Environmental Education

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

BODDINGTON Winner



Eco Club

The Eco Club was established following one family's enthusiasm during Plastic Free July in 2019. Young people and community members have been inspired by this family's sustainable living ideas, creating a ripple effect throughout the community. Community members now share ideas on how to live sustainably, and educate young people to make simple behaviour changes to live a more sustainable life. The Eco Club recently hosted a successful screening of the documentary *2040: The Regeneration* for community members.



The Eco Club meets monthly to conduct fun and varied activities around sustainable living, as well as providing information on how members can recycle plastic products. Some of the sustainable items made by the club include seed balls, no-sew bags, and waste-free Christmas presents. Activities include water sampling, distributing the seed balls, and sorting recycling. The Eco Club is also making yarn from t-shirts and turning these into dog leads, bag handles, and belts, as well as making rag rugs from old denim jeans.

Educational hobby horses are being made for the local junior riding club, helping teach them how to put a bridle on a horse and other horse-related duties. The hobby horses are being made from worn sheets, doonas, and other materials stuffed with off cuts and scraps that would otherwise have been thrown out.

BROOME Finalist

Broome Senior High School Bush Ranger Cadets – Citizen science activities

The Broome Senior High School Bush Ranger Cadets have been working with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) to learn more about water quality in the North West region – helping bring science to the community.

The cadets have been conducting citizen science monitoring activities, providing the scientific data to relevant authorities via mobile apps and data recording processes. The cadets volunteer for approximately 2–3 hours each week, as well as engaging in two 10-day citizen science camps – collecting environmental research data from Broome in the Kimberley, to Dampier in the Pilbara for CSIRO oceans and atmosphere scientific research.

The cadets collected, audited and recorded approximately 80 kilograms of marine debris over a six-month period.





KALGOORLIE-BOULDER **Finalist**

Junior Landcare program

Kalgoorlie-Boulder's environmental focus continues with the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Land Care Group's (KBULG) ongoing commitment to intergenerational learning through the Junior Landcare program. KBULG offers tailor-made activities and walks for schools. Over the last 12 months, all local schools have been involved in environmental activities through this initiative. Activities include educational bushwalks (with the duration and educational content adapted to the class needs); billy tea and damper at the lookout in the park; tree planting events on school grounds; and classroom talks and activities with a strong emphasis on promoting sustainable resource use and conservation of biodiversity.

KOJONUP Finalist

Introduction to Landcare: Tree planting at dump site

The Kojonup Landcare program enables students to engage with environmental issues through a range of exciting and educational learning initiatives, including bug hunts, clean-ups, and pollinator counts. Students from Kojonup District High School planted more than 1,000 trees and shrubs, rehabilitating a town area that had become a well-known dumping ground for rubbish. Prior to planting, rubbish and dumped items were removed, weed control was carried out, and the Shire provided clean fill to cover and prepare the site for planting.



PIA WADJARRI Finalist

Sustainable school

The Pia Wadjarra Remote Community School has embarked on a journey to lower its carbon footprint, educate community members, and become more sustainable. The school tripled the size of its vegetable garden, planted additional orchards, and students designed and planted a bush-tucker garden. The food from the gardens is used in healthy eating programs, with most of the native plants sourced from the local area. The gardens and new tree plantings will provide shelter for native animals and birds. The school also started a native animal rehabilitation program taking in joeys that had been orphaned.

The impact of the school's program has been significant, with outcomes influencing the wider community to adopt their own sustainable practices.

WELLSTEAD Finalist

Primary school activities

Wellstead Primary School has incorporated reusable items into its classroom curriculum activities with the aim of becoming a self-sustaining school. Under guidance from the Principal, students collected and propagated native seeds, before planting 300 of the seedlings, using biodegradable coconut fibre tree guards, in a bare area beside the school. Students took part in a 'weed warrior' program to control woody weeds. Extra congratulations are also extended to the school for becoming the official donation point in the region for WA's Containers for Change program.



Heritage and Culture

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

MOUNT MAGNET Winner



Reconciliation Wall and Garden

Mount Magnet Police initiated engagement with the Badimia Elders Committee, Shire of Mount Magnet and the community, to create a Reconciliation Wall and Garden along the frontage of the Police Station, with a vision “to stand united and walk together”. Over the summer months, the long brick wall of the Police Station was transformed into a colourful storyline,

depicting the journey of the Badimia people – from the earliest times, through to the vision of a shared future together. Guided by an art facilitator – predominately Wirnda Barna Artists, local artists, and children – and assisted by community leaders, the town came together and painted the wall.

Aboriginal art symbols, notable historic structures, and timeline landmarks since settlement by non-Aboriginal people can also be seen. The wall includes paintings of local flora and fauna with Badimia names, representing a combination of heritage, conservation and culture. The garden, rocks, seating and flag poles were installed with the help of professionals, local businesses and volunteers – creating a special meeting place for the Badimia people.

More than 40 volunteers and a number of local businesses, including Ramelius Resources, were involved in the project – with over 100 people attending the opening event on 4 March 2020. At the opening, a plaque set on rare Boogardie orbicular granite was unveiled, with it reading: United we stand, be proud, stand tall, we walk together.

ALBANY Finalist

Alison Hartman Gardens enhancement

The Alison Hartman Gardens provide pedestrian and cycle links and are set to become the terminus for the iconic Munda Biddi Trail and Bibbulmun Track. The area around the park's statue of Indigenous leader Mokare has been brought to life recently, adorned with artwork created by four local Noongar artists that explores local Menang cultural stories and interprets Mokare's life and legacy.

The works also include the six Noongar seasons and other information about the meanings and traditional uses of plants. The Indigenous native flora in the garden fits well with the circular inclusive shape of the garden surrounding the statue of Mokare.





CARNARVON Finalist

Path of Pain

The Lock Hospital Memorial Group's Path of Pain project has aided Carnarvon community's wellbeing by recognising a terrible chapter in WA's history. Between 1908 and 1919, over 800 Aboriginal people were removed and taken to Bernier and Dorre Islands where they were forcibly treated for 'suspected' venereal disease. Many never returned home and are buried on the islands.

Lock Hospital Memorial Group held a centennial commemoration in Carnarvon, with several hundred people from across Australia coming together in the spirit of healing and moving forward. The installation of the Don't Look at the Islands statue in 2019 provided a tangible acknowledgment of the traumatic history of the islands. A formal apology was offered by the State Government and the WA Police, the first formal recognition and acknowledgement of this history in WA.

DARKAN Finalist

Betty Brown Historical Centre

The Betty Brown Historical Centre, which opened on 8 March 2020, is a great example of what can be achieved through community generosity, perseverance and foresight.

In 2016, the Darkan Shire received a bequest from the late Betty Brown (a local farmer) to build a museum. Inspired by her life, the Betty Brown Historical Centre focuses on and celebrates the integral role women play in the establishment and development of rural communities through the themes of providing, working and supporting.



NARROGIN Finalist

Heritage walk trail

The recently completed Stories of Us: The Narrogin Heritage Walk Trail is a commitment to the conservation and celebration of Narrogin's heritage buildings. The existing heritage walk has been updated to include interpretive signage over 1,250 metres of the trail. The CBD Interpretative Signage project reactivates significant sections of the heritage walk.

The entire project delivers 25 interpretive signs in anodized, sketched aluminium on stylish pedestal posts installed at strategic points or nodes in the CBD, complete with trail directional markers and a trail head sign located outside the visitor centre.

NAREMBEEN Finalist

Lesser Hall Precinct interpretation project

The Narembreen Shire is congratulated on its vision and transformation of the Lesser Hall Precinct into a space that is both inviting and links to the heritage of the town. Recent upgrades include a horse sculpture made by artist Jordan Sprigg, constructed out of repurposed farm tools and machinery; walkways and seating areas; interpretive panel displays; and the restoration of the portico that houses the interpretive material. Most significant is the impressive timeline from pre-history to present day. Combined with the Road Board Building Restoration project and significant cemetery development, the interpretive panel displays now ensure Narembreen's heritage is readily able to be interpreted and understood.



Community Action and Wellbeing

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

ALBANY Winner



Breakfast in the Park

In February 2020, a volunteer with the Albany Regional Volunteer Service (ARVS) created an inspirational project called Breakfast in the Park. Volunteers and businesses including Albany Community Living Association, Red Gum Orchard, Woolworths, Salvation Army, and Soroptimists provide food, resources or funding for weekly breakfasts held over three sites. A trailer was donated by the Men's Resource which can now be used to provide hot food.

The three breakfasts include a weekly event attended by more than 40 people from multicultural backgrounds. A second family friendly breakfast at the Lockyer Community Garden which provides food for up to 80 people. The third breakfast is held at the Old Gaol site, with up to 25 homeless people attending. Volunteers also provide take away packs for a meal later in the day.

The breakfasts assist with social interaction, relationship building and provide a sense of belonging. Breakfast in the Park has created connections between the Lockyer Community Garden and families in the neighbourhood, resulting in reduced incidents of vandalism at the garden. Over 10 months, 15 regular volunteers have committed a total of 1,524 hours of their time to make the breakfasts a reality.

ARVS has been granted funding totalling \$17,000 to purchase volunteer 'Breakfast in the Park' t-shirts and additional food for the events. The project continues to gather momentum, with ARVS looking to introduce a pizza oven, and a local hairdresser offering onsite, free haircuts for the homeless. Additionally, the group is in the process of helping communities in Denmark and Mount Barker start up their own park breakfasts.

BODDINGTON Finalist

Play park

Set in the grounds of the Boddington Old School, the area around the park forms part of the masterplan for the local council's Foreshore Civic Precinct development.

The recently completed play park complements this new development with inclusions such as extensive nature playground, skate park, half basketball court, pump track, outdoor exercise equipment, shade, barbecue structures, and amphitheatre style tiered seating, all linked by pathways. The Hotham River foreshore area is also being developed, with the community hub containing a new library and café. An interpretive centre was recently opened and work to complete a mosaic is underway.





NARROGIN Finalist

Forget Me Not Café community garden project

The Forget Me Not Café project commenced in February 2020 and takes place monthly. The café's garden environment provides a safe and tranquil space for carers and people living with dementia to relax in.

The aim, which was initiated through Narrogin's library, provides a calm and inviting place for people to enjoy a café experience.

WANDERING Finalist

Heritage and nature walk trail

The Lion's Club, with community support, has developed a 3.3km heritage and nature walk trail. The State Natural Resource Management Program provided \$8,500 in funding to volunteers to plant 3,000 shrubs and trees. The walk trail assists to preserve the natural flora and fauna and provides a safe path for visitors to enjoy the beautiful surrounds and bushland, including the Wologin Gully. Signage provides information on the history of Wandering, with common and scientific names of the flora and fauna included along the trail. An Aboriginal camp is identified, and repurposed jarrah is used as entry statements.



WAROONA Finalist

Community garden and resources

This year, community garden activities in Waroona have seen increased volunteer participation, food production and the distribution of produce to those in need. Funds from the sale of additional produce is used to support the garden and the Waroona Community Kitchen. These funds also assist a weekly free meal program for community members, and support a local trainee studying for a Certificate II in Horticulture.

WONGAN HILLS Finalist

Community garden

Volunteers utilised old infrastructure to create a new community garden hub for residents to meet and grow their own produce. The Wongan Hills Tidy Towns committee obtained a \$5,000 grant to develop the site. The hub, opened in 2019, is designed to be a space where everyone can be involved in utilising a garden plot, and volunteering their time to help others. The site is used to educate school children about growing food, with local kindy children helping plant a wind break to protect the garden. An orchard is being developed at one end of the garden, and produce is donated to the Community Resource Centre to distribute to those in need.



General Appearance

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

GASCOYNE JUNCTION Winner



Beautification project

There is now a vibrant feel to this community, thanks to improvements Gascoyne Junction has made to its township over a three stage beautification project. Significant additions to the town's physical transformation comprises four key elements: installation of new footpaths; installation of attractive and vibrant banner poles on the main street; planting more visible and colourful native flora; and the creative reinvention of the communities gathering venue – the Gascoyne Junction Pavilion – including installing lighting and a floating ceiling.

The town's four parks have been reticulated, and Triangle Park has also been cleared and landscaped with boulders placed around the edges. The garden pool area, near the townsite, is an oasis with mowed grassy areas, swing ropes and barbecue facilities – all enhanced by the removal of litter and rubbish. Native trees have also been planted down street edges and around town.

Gascoyne Junction is set to continue its enhancement, and visitors to the town should expect more improvements in the near future.

JARLMADANGAH BURRU Finalist

Beautifying Jarlmadangah Burru

The Nyikina Mangala Community School in this small community carries out 'emu walks' to pick up litter. Standing shoulder to shoulder, the students walk together and collect litter in their community. The Shire of Derby-West Kimberley assists with the removal of the bags of rubbish and litter collected. It is evident the community takes pride in its clean environment as it has been awarded a Shire clean-up certificate in previous years.

The area's heritage building, café, school, community garden and outback store all provide a positive appearance that supports the wellbeing of residents and visitors.





CITY OF KARRATHA – DAMPIER Finalist

Dampier Palms Foreshore and Hampton Oval Redevelopment

A major upgrade to the Dampier Palms Foreshore and Hampton Oval Redevelopment was completed in December 2019. Upgrades included the construction of a limestone seawall; a sandy beach area; promenade and paths; and two new age-appropriate play areas with associated BBQ, shade areas, seating and tables. The Dampier Pavilion, which is also being upgraded, has new changing rooms, roofing and solar power. In February 2020, Cyclone Damian caused widespread damage which had to be rectified. The City of Karratha is commended for its action on this outstanding project.



NARROGIN Finalist

Town centre beautification

Narrogin has seen many aesthetic improvements in the last 12 months. Notable upgrades include four entry statements; new facilities in Memorial Park; library landscaping and sensory garden; street furniture; disability access; new kerbing; shade sails and play equipment; bike stations; BMX area developments; and the transfer of three, 50-year-old palm trees to the leisure centre.



YANDEYARRA Finalist

Community School initiatives

In the past year, a significant amount of work has gone into improving the appearance and facilities of the Yandeyarra Remote Community School – a major focal point in the Yandeyarra community. The now green grassed and colourful school is an attractive beacon among the unique red dirt surrounding it. Initiatives included installing shade structures over the lunch area; a new gazebo and fencing; expanding the community garden; repainting pathways; creating murals; and reticulation.



NORSEMAN Finalist

Great Western Woodlands Arts, Community and Cultural Centre

Norseman's new Arts, Community and Cultural Centre is a collaborative project brought to completion by a very determined Shire and community. It recreates an old shop site that has been transformed into a new centre with Indigenous Ngadju art, murals and photography on display that depicts the community, wildlife and fauna. The new building is both striking and impressive and will be used for community gatherings and to house a resource and tourist centre. This project is a fantastic achievement and welcome addition to the community.



WELLSTEAD Finalist

Community Tank Art project and garden upgrades

The garden area opposite the Community Resource Centre (CRC) has been transformed with native plants and wood carvings, as well as a picnic table being installed. The Community Tank Art project saw an old, unused water tank restored and painted. Both the planting and painting involved students from Wellstead Primary School. The community keeps the space tidy by weeding and collecting litter. It is an impressive space that has been transformed from unsightly unused and neglected, to vibrant and beautiful – visible to all those entering Wellstead. The garden area around the CRC was also upgraded in July 2019 and a boardwalk was installed to improve accessibility from the RV pump point to the coffee shop.

Community Action COVID

It has been a challenging year for everyone and, in recognition of this, the Community Action COVID Projects Award recognises initiatives taken to care for and connect community members during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CORRIGIN Winner



Staying@Home: Community photography project

Corrigin Community Resource Centre's (CRC) photography project was implemented on social media to help keep people connected during the recent lockdown period. The project aimed to give the community something to focus on and smile about while businesses and schools were closed. The community was encouraged to email the CRC one image that best captured their families staying at home. The tag line for the project was Together we're stronger.

The CRC also supported involvement of the elderly by door knocking with care packages and taking the opportunity to photograph them Staying@Home.

The number, variety and creativity of the photographs were fantastic. They were used to make large banners that are currently on display on lamp posts around the town, serving as a reminder of the strong, resilient, caring community that Corrigin is.

The banners have become a focal point in the town, with the CRC reporting that community members have come in solely to walk up and down Walton Street looking at the banners to find images of themselves and family members, as well as enjoying the broader display.

GREENBUSHES Finalist

Greenbushes Community Resource Centre COVID-19 support

The Greenbushes Community Resource Centre provided support to community members by linking them to essential services that they required during lockdown. Support included food delivery options for people without transport; computer access for people without the IT skills required to order groceries or pay for food (and other essential items) online; and other social support for people who were afraid and/or lonely.

The centre also hosted free flu vaccination clinics, provided free printing services for students, and created a Boredom Busters initiative to help provide isolation-friendly stimulation for those in lockdown.





KUNUNURRA Finalist

80's Driveway Disco

A Shire truck was transformed into the Driveway Disco, complete with DJ, speakers, lights and 80's themed decorations. The truck drove through the streets of Kununurra, escorted by enthusiastic volunteers, stopping along the way to enable residents to dance and enjoy the party from their driveways. To support local businesses, prizes were purchased from town for community members, which were delivered during the event (following all required social distancing and COVID-19 safety measures).

The 80's Driveway Disco was a positive, family friendly, stay at home celebration that connected community members with local service groups while supporting local business. Requests have been made for it to be an annual event.

MARBLE BAR Finalist

Activity packs and care packages

Activity packs and care packages were developed and delivered each week to assist isolated community members during the pandemic. Stakeholders – including teachers, members of the local Community Resource Centre, and the sports and recreational team – contributed to the packs by developing activities people could do at home, and providing resources to assist with accessing online services.

The packs included quizzes, tips for cooking, home-schooling, maintaining mental health, and other activities. The packs even had activities that utilised the paper they were printed on, such as origami instructions and poppy making.



PORT AND SOUTH HEDLAND Finalist

Bloodwood Tree COVID response

The number of referrals to community group Bloodwood Tree Association's South Hedland Soup Kitchen doubled during the pandemic. The kitchen is an unfunded service that relies on food donations and volunteers. Port Haven Village immediately increased its support, doubling its weekly number of provided frozen meals to the soup kitchen to help feed the additional people.

During March, the soup kitchen provided over 584 meals to local community members who were suffering hardship. In addition, funding for a mini-mart was received, which provides ongoing support to the community.

YANDEYARRA Finalist

Community shop

In response to a lack of supplies available at shopping centres during the pandemic, Yandeyarra Remote Community School set up a small, onsite shop stocked with essential and non-perishables items for the community to access. The items were ordered and purchased by the community from the Newman IGA and provided an effective way to assist community members to access food and other essential items during the lockdown period.

The shop is still in operation – opening outside of school hours for all community members.



Leadership Award



TREVOR DELAPORTE

Yandeyarra Remote Community School

Trevor is the part-time Community Development Officer at Yandeyarra Remote Community School. He provides extensive practical guidance and support to the community and to the school. His leadership encompasses engaging members of the community on litter clean-up activities, maintenance, and increased beautification and care of the school and community. Trevor also volunteers at a number of organisations, including the Royal Flying Doctor Service, where he was instrumental in getting the landing strip reinstated.

Judges

Joanne Gray

Joanne is KABC's longest serving judge with 14 years of experience. Joanne has a background in Environmental Science and is a waste education officer at the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council. Joanne lives in the Perth Hills, not far from the city, but feels at home out in the regions.

Teresa Hartnell

A KABC volunteer, Teresa has been a co-judge since 2018. With a passion for community development, Teresa is a business owner who lives in regional WA.

Andrew Bagust

Originally from New Zealand, Andrew has travelled extensively throughout WA and always picks up litter wherever he goes. Andrew has his own property company and utilises recycling, reclaiming and reuse of materials in his building projects.

Wendy Bagust

Living near the ocean, Wendy sees the build-up of litter at the beach and makes a point of clearing it up on her daily walks. She is interested in being part of a group that informs and encourages others to take care of their communities.

Steve Norton

Steve is the Senior Infringement Officer in KABC Services. Steve has been a member of the State Emergency Service for seven years and is currently the Vice President of Triathlon WA.

Peter Kenyon

Peter is the Chief Executive Office at Bank of Ideas and has exceptional knowledge of regional development. Peter has been involved with the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards since 2017 and we are delighted to announce him as a judge for 2020. Peter was awarded WA Senior of the Year in 2017.

Shirley Brindley

Shirley is the Program Manager of the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards and has eight years of experience of assessing communities and projects. Having grown up on a farm in Scotland, Shirley has a deep interest in the issues faced by regional communities. She has a postgraduate degree in Human Rights and works with regional and remote communities to champion litter prevention and sustainability initiatives.

Maureen Maher

For 10 years, Maureen held the position of Communications and Programs Coordinator for KABC and worked with communities on programs to promote litter prevention and sustainability. Maureen is a passionate community builder who works as an independent consultant across a range of projects and organisations, including Neighbourhood Connect, Community Minded Kids, Cooking From Home, and the Tangaroa Blue Foundation.

Les Brindley

Les has six years of experience assisting in regional visits and assessing projects. Les is a TAFE Lecturer and a community volunteer, helping integrate members of society back into a community.

Roselt Croeser

Roselt is a semi-retired mining engineer who has lived in regional locations for eight years. He has a strong interest in sustainability which is expressed through his owner-built solar passive house, and his electric bike project. He is a keen gardener with an interest in wild gardens that incorporate edible plants and attracts birds and other wildlife.

Kylie Payne

Kylie has lived and worked in regional communities for most of her adult life. Kylie has worked in a variety of environmental roles with state and local government, and in community natural resource management. Kylie loves meeting people who are doing inspiring work in their communities.

Rohan Swan

Rohan is a program coordinator with KABC. His main role is coordinating litter prevention projects with major KABC partners such as Main Roads WA and local government. Rohan has a Bachelor of Science in Coastal Geomorphology and has a particular interest in marine debris research and prevention.

Megan Mentz

Megan is a sustainability educator with the Australian Association for Environmental Education (WA). She is currently the program manager for Little Green Steps, a sustainability education program for early years centres. Megan has a degree in Archaeology, has taught History and English at secondary school level, and has a passion for educating young people in sustainability.

“What a privilege to be involved in the Tidy Towns Judging for 2020. Being new to judging, I had no idea what to expect and was so in awe of the wonderful work done by passionate community members working collaboratively with their Shires, schools and businesses to create sustainable projects which showcased their absolute dedication and love for their communities.”

Megan Mentz, Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Judge 2020






KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL COUNCIL seeks to change littering behaviour through programs, enforcement, education, incentives, infrastructure and communication strategies.

We encourage you to get your community involved in our annual awards. Start recording projects now and visit our website (www.kabc.wa.gov.au/get-involved/tidy-towns-sustainable-communities) for further information and ideas.

Here are some programs you can get your community involved in:

- **Community Clean-ups**
- **Adopt-a-Spot**
- **Clean Schools Program**
- **Litter Report Scheme**
- **Bin Your Butt Program**



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