

Regional and remote community initiatives.....



**TIDY TOWNS
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
2022 AWARDS**



From the Minister



Congratulations to all Western Australia's regional and remote communities who have again shown strong support for the Keep Australia Beautiful Council's Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards.

Each of the finalist communities, led by local councils or by volunteer groups and organisations, should be proud of their efforts in working towards sustainable communities and caring for their local environment.

These awards celebrate Western Australia's top sustainable and litter-free communities. This year, the awards have highlighted some stand-out examples of litter prevention, environmental education, community action, youth leadership and heritage preservation projects, such as Woodanilling's 100-year heritage building and Port Hedland's 150th anniversary celebrations.

The State Government is committed to helping our communities face environmental and sustainability challenges through a range of initiatives, including our Plan for Plastics and the container deposit scheme, Containers for Change. Both of these have had an impact on littering throughout our State. Many projects entered in the awards have demonstrated the positive impact that these changes have had on communities.

The Keep Australia Beautiful Council is the key body leading litter education, awareness and prevention programs, and the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards provide towns with an opportunity to showcase their own action to make their communities liveable and sustainable. The awards enable the Keep Australia Beautiful Council to engage with communities to promote a litter-free and clean environment for all.

I thank this year's finalists for their efforts towards ensuring our regional and remote communities, small and large, are unique, beautiful places that people want to live in and visit.

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

Hon Reece Whitby, MLA

Minister for Environment;
Climate Action
25 November 2022







From the Chair

The Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards is Keep Australia Beautiful Council's iconic and well-respected awards program. The awards, which have endured for over fifty years, continue to recognise and reward the achievements of regional communities' endeavours. Many of us recognise the Tidy Towns entrant signs which are displayed at entrance points to communities throughout our State.

It is fantastic to see that striving for a litter free Western Australia is integral to submitted projects and our ambition to foster and encourage the appreciation of clean and well-kept cities and countryside, and to preserve and improve the appearance of our environment.

This has been a challenging year for many of our regional and remote communities and it is humbling to see that communities continue to engage with the awards as a way of documenting their activities in a changing environment in, sometimes, situations of hardship, such as the ongoing impact of cyclones affecting the mid-west Gascoyne communities. It is also encouraging that communities enter their celebratory and heritage events, enabling us to celebrate their efforts to improve the appearance and litter-free aspect of their towns.

This year the awards were launched in Port Hedland with a clean-up. In September 12 judges visited 33 communities across Western Australia, compiling a strong field of finalists for the 2022 awards.

This publication provides a summary of those communities and their projects. It gives the judges' impressions from their regional visits and judging panel discussions and, in so doing, gives us an insight into the outstanding action that is taking place throughout our state.

Read about remote Gascoyne Junction's beautification, heritage and water recovery projects and get a taste as to why this community was awarded the 2022 Tidy Town's Sustainable Communities Overall State Winner.

We also thank Boddington Reduce Recycle Group, (state winner 2021) for their supply of award frames from recycled bottle tops, a first for an event of this kind, and very fitting to the ethos of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council.

Thank you to Western Australian Landcare Network Group for providing a judge and to Western Australia Return Recycle Renew Limited for collaborating on the Community Containers for Change Award, recognising the difference that 10c container refunds is making to regional communities.

I congratulate the 2022 entrants, finalists and category winners for their commitment to protecting the environment and enhancing the sustainability of their communities. A sincere thank you to all involved in protecting our natural landscape for future generations and in making Western Australia's regional and remote communities sustainable, attractive and welcoming places for residents and visitors alike.



Michael Aspinall

Chairman, Keep Australia Beautiful Council of Western Australia



State winner

Gascoyne Junction

Gascoyne Junction is the base of the Shire of Upper Gascoyne, one of the most remote local governments in WA, covering some 57,809 km². About 70 people reside in town and 250 within the entire Shire. Located where the Gascoyne and Lyons rivers meet and at the gateway to nearby attractions such as Mount Augustus National Park and Kennedy Range National Park, it is a busy tourist thoroughfare.

The past year has been challenging, with flooding causing significant damage and delays to planned initiatives. However, the community battled on to improve their town and make it welcoming. Supportive Shire leadership and engaged community members demonstrated strong community action and connectedness. This sense of belonging is apparent in the town, examples being the community supporting out-of-town sporting activities, a meet-and-greet with the Yinggarda Aboriginal Corporation and young people contributing to the local newsletter.

Community initiatives in the past year have brought to completion beautiful place-making projects and water-saving action which, combined with litter- prevention activities, have transformed Gascoyne Junction into a green and welcoming town. As you drive into town, you are instantly drawn to the Cessna airplane mounted high above the Gascoyne Junction Tourist Stop – Two Rivers Memorial Park, which depicts the historical significance of aerial mustering in the region. The park remodelling has been many years in the making, having been delayed by COVID, rain and a lack of contractors. It is a stunning and valuable multi-use space to the local community and travellers. The park provides a respite stop, with parking for caravans and RVs, new toilet blocks, shade structures with seating, a huge lawn and an amphitheatre for community events. This space will eventually have additional installations, functioning as an outdoor museum and linking with the Town Pavilion and War Memorial.

The town has new banner poles and signs welcoming visitors and providing tourists with directions. The neglected Caravan and Tourist Park has been repaired and refurbished. This facility is a focal point for locals and tourists, resulting in longer and multiple returning stays.

Busy bees to pick up litter, distribution of Outback Packs, with resources for litter collection and messaging for Leave No Trace, are contributing to a well-kept litter-free community.



Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities

State
winner

2022 Awards

'The remote town of Gascoyne Junction impressed the judges with their resourcefulness, sheer determination, and commitment to a vast array of projects, activities and outcomes, across all categories, well and truly punching above their weight for a town of this size'

Joanne Ferguson, Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards judge

State finalists



City of Karratha

Karratha is making a great effort to improve its overall appearance and liveability. Some of the biggest industrial corporations have pledged to significantly improve their commitment to the sustainability and liveability in the community. The links between water sustainability, the beautification project, Adopt a Teardrop, The Youth Shed, Bucks for Bags and environmental education are great examples of how projects in different categories can link to create a much bigger effect on the sustainability, appearance, and wellbeing of a community.

Karratha continues to show environmental sustainability leadership in the region. It has the only dry climate organic waste composting facility in the state and has an extremely effective water efficiency action plan, resulting in its being assessed as making the greatest progress towards reaching Water Sensitive City status of any local government in WA.



Collie

Collie has been a state winner twice and this year the Shire and the community continue to bring positive change to the town's appearance and the surrounding environment.

The main street upgrade has added three murals to the acclaimed Collie Mural Trail. Focusing on the timber industry, Aboriginal population and the coal miners of old, the murals add to Collie's visual heritage. Landscaping and mulching in the Throssell Street area also makes the town centre more appealing. A new bike stand at the Visitor Centre invites bike enthusiasts using the new bike trails around Collie to learn more about what the town has to offer, and the Collie Bike Fest was a great success.

Projects include collaborating with other Shires to remove invasive weeds, the second year of revegetation of the Collie River, Rotary Club-run and individual litter clean-ups ensuring that Collie is keeping its town and surrounding environment clean and sustainable.



Donnybrook-Balingup

Donnybrook's continued revitalisation and completion of projects was evident when judges visited this year. Having won the General Appearance Award in 2021 for the heritage precinct, they have continued to add on to their transformative projects. Only a short stroll from the Goods Shed is the refurbished Apple Fun Park. The park was created based on feedback from the community and reflects the natural features and history of the area while offering shaded play equipment and a space for children with sensory disabilities.

The Pump Track, opened in April 2022, is used by bike and skateboarding enthusiasts. During the construction phase, the old netball courts were repainted and have been repurposed as part of a basketball court and bike driving training area. Kirup's progress association group identified community priorities and introduced the Santa Project, making and placing Santas around the town – a project that has now become a tourist attraction. The Mill Park Project has received assistance from the Progress Association with landscaping. Overall, the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup demonstrates care and collaboration through its small towns and with other Shires.



Pingelly

The solid projects and high level of volunteering demonstrate a strong sense of community pride as well as the community's ability to identify what is needed and get on with activating projects that make it happen. Dylan Cheney, Pingelly's young legend, is a great example of this!

The Memorial Park Precinct upgrade has created more space and a stage area enabling outdoor events. The strengthening of community connections through activities at the new Pingelly Recreation and Cultural Centre were stand-out projects in the town. Repurposing the building into a heritage centre involved many groups and has resulted in a venue that offers engagement, events, and a tourist attraction. Upgrading the Town Hall and the Driver Reviver point has completed the community precinct. The project is well thought out with community input and will provide a vibrant community hub. Advanced work on new stormwater irrigation work means that Pingelly will be less reliant on potable scheme water for irrigation.



Port and South Hedland

With Port Hedland celebrating 125 years and South Hedland 50 years, the Town had many activities and events for all. The community has numerous outstanding projects having a transformative effect, as well as projects continuing to grow. The Activate South Hedland Town Team is a group of enthusiastic locals who have conducted interactive events, including a seven-day makeover to bring Wise Terrace to life. The Town of Port Hedland planted mature trees and introduced a pedestrian area at the South Hedland shopping centre resulting in a greener, softer experience. The completed cyclone-proof 'aircraft hangar' is stunning and provides a new venue in what was previously an unused, unsightly space. Now a community area, it is widely used for sport and by families.

The flatback turtle monitoring program attracted 139 volunteers this year. The community garden, litter clean-ups, and Containers for Change activities, all run by Care for Hedland, are at a scale not seen in such a collaborative way in any other community by judges. The diversity of projects, and the number of people involved in projects in both Port and South Hedland in such an isolated and arid location, shows a can-do community with a dedication to improve the connectedness, wellbeing and environment of the town.

Category winners

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



Winner Carnamah

Funding community groups via resource recovery

Winner of a Natsales sided bin

'We were impressed by the way Carnamah has monetised their litter prevention and resource recovery efforts, redistributing profits throughout the whole community via their Community Donations program, and providing funding for a wide variety of community group projects.'

Teresa Hartnell, judge



The Carnamah Lions, working with several other groups within the Shire, conduct recycling programs including the Op Shop, scrap metal recycling and the collection of eligible Containers for Change. The focus on reducing litter and diverting waste from landfill is to raise funds for the community.

The club redirects profits from these initiatives back into the community through

their donations program, where community groups can apply for \$500 to fund projects. On average, 10 community groups are funded each round. These have included the Historical Society and Museum, Men's Shed, Scribes, quilters, sporting groups and the school P&C.

The group set up the Op Shop to rescue items from the town landfill and redirect them to people and organisations in need. When the Op Shop outgrew its previous home, the Shire of Carnamah provided them with an old house to relocate to.

The community now brings the Op Shop items that are too good to be landfilled and they are either sold or donated to people in need, such as those escaping domestic violence and setting up from nothing, pensioners, remote Aboriginal groups and others identified as needing assistance. The scrap metal recycling project provides a collection point for unwanted metal, dead cars and whitegoods to be collected by a metal recycler.



Finalists

Boddington

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (RRR)

This year the impressive Boddington RRR Team expanded their volunteer operations. Already a State finalist in this category in 2021 – and the State winner overall – the RRR Team actively educates Boddington and surrounding communities on recycling. The group is adept at finding organisations to take their increasing range of dropped-off plastic items, from bottle tops to car bumpers and mining hats. In a new venture this year, in collaboration with the Narrogin Hay Plant, a press was purchased to bale and recycle twine, keeping it out of landfill.





Dampier

Pilbara conservation and clean-ups

Pilbara Dive and Tours organised a clean-up in conjunction with the West Pilbara Turtle program and a stand-up paddle board group. In May, a scuba diving clean-up at the Dampier Foreshore and Marina collected 40 kg of marine debris, including 8.5 kg of fishing line. Over 4 kg of lead sinkers were collected and made into three dive weights. The promotion of the clean-up activities creates awareness of the volume of litter on beaches and in waterways and is key to encouraging correct disposal of waste.

Kalgoorlie-Boulder

rECONstructed Art and Little Finds Street art

The rECONstructed Art Competition, run by Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare group, inspires repurposing of waste into art objects. Spectacular artworks from recycled materials were exhibited at the Western Australian Museum of the Goldfields in an engaging and educational two-week art showcase. Entries across seven categories highlighted the growing awareness and passion of community members for recycling. Little Finds is a street art project transforming CBD spaces from ordinary to extraordinary with unexpected street art. It envisages junk as a resource for making sculptures and instruments and applying it as a form of edutainment. Participants worked with the Junkadelic Arts Collective and made fabulous sculptures out of repurposed material.



Port and South Hedland

Reducing litter in our local environment

Care for Hedland manages the Hedland Containers for Change refund point and have long-term clean-up sites organised and photographed by volunteers. This makes it easy to demonstrate improvements and changes at these clean-up sites. A good example highlighting the difference is Scadden Road, South Hedland. At this year's event, Care for Hedland's volunteers collected only 40.2 kg, compared with 110 kg in 2021 and 288 kg in 2016. The reduction in the litter collected, especially the reduction in aluminium cans (since the introduction of Containers for Change), was noticeable.

Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley

Great Northern Clean-up

Kununurra is a beautiful town, and the Shire has gone to great lengths to educate on recyclable items, adding a free waste drop-off weekend. A clean-up by seven teams at different locations in Kununurra resulted in 35 kg of litter being collected over two hours. Revive, Kununurra's recycling organisation, took all cans, containers and recyclables and the Shire took the rest as general rubbish.





Winner Albany

**Keep Albany Beautiful
Youth Advisory Council – Heywire project (Albany)**



The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) worked with the City of Albany to deliver workshops to young people, funded under the ABC Heywire Youth Innovation Grants Green Book program. The environment and climate change were identified as some of the most pressing issues for young Australians and provided the catalyst for the workshop activities that were filmed to create educational resources to be used by local organisations.

Eight topics were delivered in workshops and events across the community. There were 179 participants involved in workshops plus over 500 contacts with members of the community through stalls and fairs spreading knowledge on improving personal behaviour to facilitate climate awareness and environmental care. A World Oceans Day beach clean-up included a workshop at the museum, conducted by Dr Harriet Paterson, on how to identify plastics that are detrimental to the environment. Fifteen volunteer divers, including two Menang Noongar young people, removed rubbish from the seabed. More than 65 volunteers attended the sessions. Albany YAC received an invitation to have a representative on the steering group for the United Nations Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development. Albany YAC has been asked to collaborate with the South Coast Alliance and the Citizens Climate Lobby to provide similar workshop events in Denmark, WA.

Finalists

Nyabing

**Adele Collins
– Emerging Leader Award**

Adele is a passionate advocate for sustainability within the Nyabing community. On top of her role at the Shire of Kent, in her own time Adele pursues initiatives related to improving sustainable practices. She demonstrates strong leadership skills and started the Nyabing Enrichment and Sustainability Committee as a subcommittee to the Nyabing Progress Association. In this role, Adele has created an avenue for community members to express ideas to improve the town. With many projects in the pipeline, she effectively liaises with Nyabing Primary School and surrounding towns to collaborate to bring about change.





City of Karratha

Youth Shed Garden and outdoor space

In 2021-22 the area at the back of the Youth Shed was revamped and a food-producing garden was planted at the request of young people attending the shed. The young people are taught garden maintenance and they plant and tend the produce, which is used to teach cooking techniques and lessons on how to create healthy food. The garden is flourishing and has been a great initiative as the young people have taken ownership and take great pride in making sure the plants are watered and the produce is picked regularly for use in cooking at the centre.

Gascoyne Junction

Young leaders in town

Displaying ingenuity and maturity, the young leaders are Barney McTaggart, 12, who wrote and had published two articles in the community newsletter *Gassy Gossip*, one a cartoon of his own creation and the second a persuasive piece on avoiding plastics - *Why Plastics Bags Should Be Banned*. Hazel McTaggart, 10, and Bridie Walker, 11, have a hobby business called Born to Sew, selling their goods made from recycled fabrics at the Community Resource Centre. Dustin Walker, 13, researched, wrote and conducted the Remembrance Day Service for the wider community.



Born to Sew bags at the CRC.



Pingelly

Dylan Cheney and Pickles Contracting

Dylan, 14, volunteers to help plan and run youth events for the community during school holidays. Dylan started Pickles Contracting, a small business that assists the elderly and those with disabilities to maintain their yards, homes, and independence by helping where and when it is needed. After a spate of graffiti attacks in the town, Dylan stepped up to support community members with graffiti removal. He used funds he had generated through Pickles Contracting to buy \$140 in graffiti removal products and donated more than 10 hours labour to remove the graffiti.

Shire of Dardanup

Eco-Con: a sustainability conference for young people

The Youth Advisory Group (YAG) recognised the need in their local community for a platform where young people could understand and learn more about their environment, how they could get involved and make a difference. The group decided on a sustainability-themed event. YAG held the inaugural Eco-Con event during WA's Youth Week. The team connected with local providers and environmental educators to develop a program about sustainability, with topics including permaculture, marine ecology, the importance of bees and transforming recycled materials into useful products.





Winner Gascoyne Junction

Water conservation and future-proofing



Gascoyne Junction is remote with blistering summers, making water an essential and highly valued resource. With its limited availability, the need to maintain the supply of potable water to the town and water requirements for parks, gardens and firefighting, significant investments have been made to ensure water is used wisely.

Initiatives include upgrades to the town's oval reticulation, which was identified to be highly inefficient, using 69 to 79 kl a year. A recently installed system uses underground drip irrigation to minimise water loss. The new Tourist Stop – Two Rivers Memorial Park has been designed with underground drip irrigation and is now resplendently green. Water use has reduced significantly, even though the grassed area has effectively doubled, with usage dropping to 49 kl a year.

The town will benefit from the installation of a new 200,000 l water tank for quick refills to firefighting vehicles. Ironically, this year flooding brought extensive road and infrastructure damage and the Shire is commended for its action to repair the damage and progress with a bore enabling a new water supply possible through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program (\$980,000).

Finalists

City of Karratha

Sustainable water management – Water Sensitive City

The City was recognised as a Waterwise Council in 2017. In 2022 Karratha had its current water management practices independently benchmarked by the Collaborative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities, which uses 34 indicators to measure the water management processes.

The results show that the City of Karratha has the furthest progression towards reaching water-sensitive city status of any local government in Western Australia. The sustainable water system includes the airport, which has its own waste-water treatment plant, and in 2022 irrigation was upgraded so that all new landscaping and beautification of Bayly Avenue, the main entrance to Karratha from the airport, uses recycled water. Upgrades to the recycled water and potable water network have seen the airport be recognised as a platinum-level waterwise business.





Collie/Donnybrook-Balingup

South-West collaborative blackberry scheme

The Shires of Collie, Dardanup and Donnybrook-Balingup, through the *Communities Combating Pest and Weed Impacts During Drought* grant program tackled the negative impact of blackberries. Blackberry growth across 563 km of waterway was identified and 372 land parcels were treated. The Shires worked closely with the Leschenault Biosecurity Group, who held education workshops about the tools and treatment options available to reduce blackberry growth. The workshops also facilitated relationship-building between the Shires and landowners, which will be helpful for future treatment schemes.

Greenbushes

Helping Hands Bushcarers Group

The Helping Hands Bushcarers Group together with the Talison Lithium Environment and Community Team and volunteers made a tremendous effort to encourage community education to eradicate weeds to protect recreational areas.

The groups worked together to reduce non-native wattle species that spread across the Greenbushes Pool area. The weed was cut and removed, and the space was cleared for the native flora to recover. The Helping Hands Bushcarers Group assists with maintaining the popular Schwenke's wetland trail.



Shire of Murray

Restoring the Murray – riverbank restoration project

Rising sea levels and boat wakes have caused around 100 m of land to be lost around the estuary in the past 10 years. The Shire of Murray, in collaboration with groups and volunteers, worked on restoring and protecting the riverbank and its islands. A soft engineering process was used to restore the riverbank, by planting native plants to prevent further erosion. The Peel Harvey Catchment Council provided the plants and arranged for them to be planted in areas on the islands and the mainland. A community event, including talks about the importance of re-vegetation was held, attracting volunteers who helped a variety of native plants and trees.

Shire of Narrogin

Stormwater catchment dam and upgrade

The storm water harvesting catchment dam, a joint funded venture with the Shire and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, has a capacity of 18.46 megalitres, which will be used to irrigate a three hectare community oval. The stormwater will also be used to beautify the town's overall appearance by providing additional water resources for landscaping. Soon after the completion of the project, the dam's capacity was already at over 70 per cent, thanks to recent rain. It was promising to see how well the newly created dam was operating. The Shire's treated water Irrigation system was installed in the early 1970s using asbestos pipes, which have been replaced with flexible poly pipes impermeable to tree roots. The system can now distribute up to 400 kl of treated wastewater.





Winner Williams

Wildlife Warriors – scavenger hunts and knowledge gathering

Winner of WALN prize

'What an honour it is to be invited to come and meet the people, see the projects and hear the stories about the amazing endeavours happening in such a wide range of communities in our great state. The enthusiasm, pride, innovation and care for people and environment is inspirational. I leave the community with a full heart and wanting to go back. It is a challenge choosing finalists and winners on the state judging day as there are so many outstanding projects and worthy winners. The WA Landcare Network considers it an honour to sponsor the Environmental Education Award and to see the remarkable projects being undertaken in this space'

Kylie Payne, judge, Western Australia Landcare Network



The free after-school program, hosted by the town's Community Resource Centre, is proving very popular, with both Warriors and presenters enthusiastic about the outcomes. Topics delivered enable students (Warriors) to learn about flora, fauna, soils and waterways and how to protect them while 'hunting' on the river and in nature reserves. Over 80 children have attended, learning about topics with an environmental and cultural focus and show a strong interest in these topics.

Experts join the hunts to share their knowledge and passion in interactive and hands-on demonstrations. Topics have included tree planting and propagation, wildflower walk, invertebrates, local endangered fauna, protection of endangered birdlife, soils and salinity, bees and honey, cultural sharing, river clean-up and a nocturnal tour.

Events are always at capacity with children excited to care for the local environment and 30 volunteers have been involved. The program has provided an opportunity for environmental education with excellent feedback from the children, who are enjoying the immersion in nature and all they are learning. The continuing support of sponsors and all those involved makes the program a perfect training ground for future scientists, environmentalists, and young people who are aware and care about their local environment.

Finalists

Bunbury

Dolphin Discovery Centre (DDC) – Storm Chasers

In just over 12 months, the DDC Storm Chasers has grown to over 100 members collecting litter and providing information to the Australian Marine Debris Initiative. Through their continuous effort to educate people about litter and its impact on marine life, they not only empower individuals who felt overwhelmed to tackle the litter by themselves but have also inspired other groups. The DDC started the Conservation Education Research Committee who share their Storm Chaser knowledge with like-minded groups. The Storm Chaser project has expanded to the South-West, through a partnership with Geographe Marine Research. The DDC not only provides training on cleaning beaches, but also on what actions to take when encountering wildlife in distress. Through their efforts, numerous dolphins, birds and turtles were rescued over the last year.





Kalbarri

District High School – Think Outside the Trash!

For several years schoolteacher Yvonne McKenzie and her year 2 and 3 students have had an environmental-based learning theme throughout the year. Like the saying ‘from little things, big things grow’ there has been a growing momentum throughout the school demonstrating the positive impact this class has had in encouraging widespread behaviour change and in providing a message to the wider community. Recently becoming a WasteSorted school, they aim to reduce waste, be litter free and reuse as much as possible. Environmental education is put into action through initiatives including students donating toys to organisations such as Desert Blue Geraldton. The Design and Technology classes restores skateboards and cricket bats to a useable condition. The Bush Ranger Cadets continue their great work helping the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions by conducting trail work, cleaning up litter and assisting in the continuing clean-up from the 2021 cyclone.

Martu Farm

Red Dirt Blue Sky - SWEET education and leadership

Martu Farm’s SWEET (Supported Wellbeing Employment Education) program delivers education and support to Martu and disadvantaged people through the development of technical environmental skills. The participants in the program provide the products for sale in the nursery shop that support the program making it a sustainable, ongoing venture. This program has transformed the lives of the participants with the first graduates, two Martu students, receiving their TAFE Certificate in Horticulture.

Congratulations to the efforts of Martu Farm on delivering environmental education to improve the lives of participants and the wellbeing of the community.



Nyabing

Nyabing Primary School – Becoming a minimal waste school

The school is incorporating Aboriginal culture as it seeks to become a WasteSorted school. Initiatives include a kitchen garden and a worm farm to compost organic waste. A waste-wise policy has been adopted and students are covering a range of topics in their Bush School program, which enables the 45 students to immerse themselves in the outdoors and nature. A fire pit and yarning circle have helped students to learn more about fire in nature and safety and the Green Team were seen enthusiastically weeding the school garden beds. The students have wonderful opportunities to learn independence, explore creativity and a range of sustainability projects to develop strong foundations for sustainable living into the future.

Shire of East Pilbara

Engaging Newman in waste management

The Shire developed educational resources (a guide and language videos) inclusive of the local custodians of the land and created educational programs to engage the community in sustainable waste practices. These resources have allowed Newman to restart recycling. By directly engaging the community in the development of the programs and projects, the interest in developing better habits have been reflected in the region. Three educational videos were created in Martu Wangka language, or with subtitles, the topics including recycling correctly, participating in the Containers for Change scheme and using Newman Waste Management Facility to dispose of waste. The community participation in sustainable waste management has significantly increased. In February 2022, over 2.5 million containers were deposited at the refund point. The educational videos are screened at community events.





Winner Kalgoorlie–Boulder

Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre Aboriginal Corporation (GALCAC)

Winner of the Natsales printing prize



The Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre Aboriginal Corporation, in its 11th year of operation, started out as a small language research organisation to record the region's Aboriginal languages. GALCAC, a registered charity, is growing and now employs three full-time linguists, the third a recent appointment thanks to a three-year grant. The linguists are documenting the languages of the Goldfields, visiting remote Goldfields communities to sit down with them and document the language, with their motto of Preserving Our Language for All of Us. In the past year, 12 language groups have received attention, studies, research and engagement. The centre is in Boulder in a large heritage building and has a shop offering Aboriginal social enterprise goods, emu eggs, books and cultural items, with proceeds going to artists as well as assisting the language centre's viability.

GALCAC not only documents language but is also actively engaged in creating engagement and understanding across cultures. GALCAC hosted a NAIDOC Week event, the Karlkurla Experience, demonstrating how to engage with the tourism market and to develop the language, history, arts and tucker of the Goldfields. On Fridays GALCAC provides a soup lunch to anyone who calls in.

Finalists

Collie

Kaya Collie: The past, the present and the future

Collie used the 125-year anniversary celebrations of being gazetted as a township to reflect on the past, its present and future. Based on this theme, new murals were added to the existing mural trail within Collie.

Past: A mural depicting historical Nyoongar people was added to the council office. At the unveiling ceremony, Aboriginal custodian Joe Northover shared stories about the people who are featured in the mural with the community.

Present and future: A mural on the outside of the high school depicts a family currently attending the school and shows present and future residents of Collie. A mural showing the Nyoongar six seasons was designed and painted by students and staff at Amaroo Primary School. Students learned about the cultural significance of the different seasons.





Port and South Hedland

Heritage Festival celebrating 125 years of Port Hedland

Port Hedland celebrated its 125-year milestone with a week of events showcasing the town's rich history, heritage and culture. The celebration started with a weekend of activities including a Parade of Nations representing 13 countries, a mini pop-up display of historical port photographs and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performances of traditional entertainment and cultural dancing.

During the week, special events continued, including tree planting, burying a time capsule, historical displays at Dalgety House Museum and the Port Hedland Visitor Centre and storytelling with seniors from in and around Port Hedland. To finish the week-long event, a Heritage Dinner was held at the historical Walkabout Hotel. It was also South Hedland's 50th birthday and events were coordinated by the Port Hedland Historical Society and the Town of Port Hedland.

Shire of Irwin

Preservation of the heritage-listed Moreton Bay fig trees

The main street of Dongara, Moreton Terrace, is lined on both sides by heritage-listed Moreton Bay fig trees. The \$2.4 million Moreton Terrace Revitalisation Project was undertaken to protect and maintain the trees' health into the future and allow for succession planting.

Because of their heritage significance, the trees required attention to allow the revitalisation to be completed. The council engaged arborists to provide guidance on the preservation of the trees, including mapping the roots, projecting future spread and instruction for those doing construction work on how to protect the existing trees. This allowed the new underground services to be designed and installed, along with carparks, kerbing and pathways, while preventing damage and allowing for growth.



York

Conservation and earthquake mitigation works to Residency Museum

The Residency Museum (1852) is the last remaining Convict Depot Superintendent's Quarters in WA. Work included reinforcing chimneys, stabilising foundations and upgrading drainage. During the excavation works, 1920s brickwork steps were uncovered that historically linked the building with York Hospital.

A small team of volunteers, under the supervision of the Museum Curator, repainted the interior and installed new displays after the works were complete, making heroic efforts to successfully re-open the Museum on time. The display of local history demonstrates the inclusive approach of the Museum. The stories listed on the walls include Aboriginal perspectives and those of the settlers. The project was funded by the Shire of York and Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.

Woodanilling

100th birthday celebrations for Kenmare Hall

A community party to celebrate the historic Kenmare Hall's 100th birthday went ahead despite some last-minute unexpected challenges after a storm tore off the corrugated iron roof. Community members found materials on their farms and got a local builder to restore it like new. It is estimated over 680 volunteer hours were put into preparing the hall and surrounding bushland for the party and, through donations, mains electricity was supplied to the hall for the first time.

Celebrations included a display detailing the hall's life and events held over the 100 years. Afternoon tea was provided by Kenmare Hall Committee members and an evening meal by the Woodanilling Primary School P&C and CWA. It is a significant project reflecting local pride, restoration of a building and the creation of a more useable space that will attract greater use.



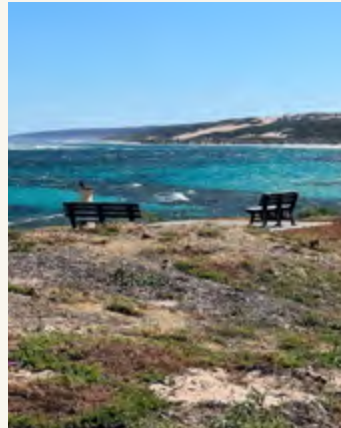


Winner Horrocks

Glance Over Lookout

Winner of the Vanguard Press printing voucher

The Glance Over Lookout is an example of how members of the community working together can transform an unused space, encouraging people to take a moment to observe the beautiful coastal scene, and it has increased community connectedness. Transforming the area with a sundial, paving, seating, native vegetation and accessible pathways means visitors can watch the whales



breaching, ospreys raising chicks and the boats moored in the beautiful bay next to Horrocks. It is the ideal spot for enjoying sunrises and sunsets, practising group yoga or just sitting and reflecting.

The Horrocks Town Team, established in 2021, received a \$10,000 grant from the RAC Connecting Communities Fund and a small grant from the Northampton Lions Club and transformed this unsightly area. The group did additional work that was not covered by the grant, such as marking out pathways, planting seedlings and assisting contractors. Community members put their skills, labour and time into this project. Examples include concept designs, running the competition to name the area, and providing updates and involvement opportunities. Donations by local businesses and community members of items and labour meant the lookout project progressed quickly. The sign was made by a local business, contractors working on other projects in the area volunteered on their weekends, using their equipment, and allowed machinery to be used while they were not using it. The council donated the gravel for the paths and mulched the existing dead woody vegetation (from a fire). One local collected seed and grew the 3,000 seedlings to revegetate the area. Stage 2 is already designed, educational signs are planned, and certified drawings have been done for the new footbridge, which will further enhance this area, creating additional recreational areas for the community to enjoy.

Finalists

Gascoyne Junction

Junction Netball Team

In a small town, sports can be uniting for the whole community. Junction Netball is a newly formed team. With games held in Carnarvon, requiring a four-hour, 360 km round trip, it was a significant undertaking. In true regional fashion the community supported them. This included use of Shire bus to transport the team and providing meals for the team (Carnarvon Netball Association).

With no courts in Gascoyne Junction, training sessions are family social gatherings, with partners and children playing football on the oval. The support demonstrated by the community enabled these women, living in a remote area, to join in a regional sport. As a result, the Shire is now sourcing funding and designing an indoor sporting facility. Lastly, the team went through the season undefeated and won the grand final.





Greenbushes

Greenbushes CWA Belles

The Greenbushes CWA Belles organise community activities and support social causes in the area. There are 23 members (January 2022). Thanks to funding from Talison Lithium, the Belles have upgraded the Greenbushes CWA rooms. The Belles are now using the Greenbushes branch to hold regular mental health workshops and to organise community get-togethers. Their activities and projects are an integral part of fostering the Greenbushes community spirit and a safe and supportive environment.

They support social causes such as Share the Dignity supporting women in need, making sleeping mats for homeless people from recycled plastic bags, and the Secret Hug supporting a local community member in need.

City of Karratha

Adopt a Teardrop

The City of Karratha has numerous cul-de-sacs in residential areas with a small island shaped like a teardrop to assist traffic movement and resident safety. The teardrops have had little attention and were typically either just a patch of dirt or a weed-filled space detracting from the visual amenity of the street.

In 2021, through the City's Neighbourhood Activation initiative, the Adopt a Teardrop project was developed and implemented to increase connectivity and improve the pride and the visual amenity of local streets.



Port and South Hedland

South Hedland Town Team – community placemaking

The Activate South Hedland Town Team is a group of enthusiastic locals interested in creating a better town centre. They are passionate about having fun, connecting with others, and telling the positive stories of South Hedland. With support from the Town of Port Hedland and the Town Team Movement, they engaged with the community and held a workshop to develop their action plan. They have a limitless contribution of amazing ideas from the group and the community.

Between July 2021 and June 2022, they delivered interactive activation events in South Hedland and surrounds to engage with thousands of local people during the first six-month activation plan. The first activation was an under-utilised area where a Chalk + Bake event was held. They obtained a grant, exhibited at the Welcome Hedland online event and held a seven-day makeover to bring Wise Terrace to life.

Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley

Beats on the Streets Wyndham

Beats on the Streets was an energetic, fun, active community event. The Shire teamed with WA Police, PCYC, Wyndham Youth Aboriginal Corporation and other businesses and individuals to bring music and dancing to the streets. It was a mobile, inclusive event allowing people unable to travel to join in. Shire staff drove around Wyndham with big speakers on a truck, stopping in eight locations to encourage people to come out of their homes and join the party and barbecue.

The event provided a sense of belonging and community for all families and participants. This event was and still is the talk of the town. With so many families involved and such a positive outcome, the town is looking forward to it happening again.





Winner City of Karratha

Beautification - Bayly Avenue, city roundabouts and streetscapes



The City of Karratha has done extensive works to beautify the high-traffic areas of the city including Bayly Avenue, the main access road along the northern side of the town, which serves as the main access to Karratha Airport, the second-busiest airport in WA after Perth. The beautification project includes road realignment and widening, new underground power and street lighting, landscaping

and beautification works and a new entry statement to Karratha. These works have resulted in a much-improved entrance to Karratha from the airport with a divided road with central lighting (to reduce power consumption), a planted median strip and new signs.

Beautification works along the roadsides and roundabouts included significant garden bed construction and upgrades, new paving on footpaths and access ways, landscaping and the replanting of trees damaged by cyclone Damien. This project focuses on the use of endemic plant and tree species from the City's own nursery to reflect the local landscape characteristics. Over 1,200 trees and plants were planted. The City used its own mulch and soil conditioner made from organic waste from the City's dry climate composting project and the plants are watered with recycled water from the City's sustainable water management program.

Finalists

Collie

Upgrade of Throssell Street

The Shire upgraded and revitalised the primary entry point into Collie, Throssell Street. Business owners and the Shire of Collie worked closely together to upgrade and re-build the facades of heritage buildings such as the Colliefields Hotel. Old photographs were used to recreate original styles and colours and to rebuild awnings and two-storey balconies (a \$1 million project). As part of the upgrade, three new murals were added to the existing Collie Mural Trail. The new murals focus and celebrate Collie's Aboriginal population, the timber industry and coal miners. The mural shows historical figures who used to wander the streets of Collie and has been created in close collaboration with the local Aboriginal community. Overall, the implemented upgrades have resulted in a beautiful and well-maintained and town appearance along Throssell Street.





Donnybrook-Balingup

Town Centre and Heritage Precinct

Donnybrook has implemented numerous improvements to increase the general appearance of the town, including recently repainted historic Station Master's Building, that houses the town's Community Resource Centre. In addition to maintaining the town's centre, the area west of the main street has been upgraded. The refurbished Goods Shed perfectly combines historical features of the original shed with modern architecture and has become a popular meeting venue for visitors and residents alike. The neighbouring Station Square invites people to stop for a picnic with its well-maintained grass area.

The refurbished Apple Fun Park was opened in November 2021. The Pump Track, opened in April 2022, replaced the previous worn netball courts. The area is now being used as a community facility for bike and skateboarding enthusiasts. During the construction phase, the old netball courts were resealed and repainted and have been repurposed as part of a basketball court and bike driving training area.

Gascoyne Junction

Welcoming oasis

Gascoyne Junction's transformation is a credit to the Shire and to the community. The Gascoyne Junction Tourist Stop – Two Rivers Memorial Park initiative has been many years in the making, having been delayed by COVID, rain and a lack of contractors, and is now a stunning and valuable multi-use space to both the local community and travellers. The green lush area has seating, shade sails, lawn and an amphitheatre and is a stunning welcome as you enter town.

The refurbishment of the neglected Junction Caravan and Tourist Park has meant longer and multiple returning stays occurring as a result.



Pingelly

Pingelly Memorial Park Precinct

The refurbishment of the Memorial Park has extended the size of the park and converted a carpark and laneway into highly useable community space. Refurbishments include Wi-Fi, an accessible swing, a water fountain, new amenity block, adventure playground, a powered stage area and a lush lawn that will appeal to locals and tourists alike. The addition of a stage area and power source will assist in supporting outdoor events such as movie nights and markets.

Positive outcomes include building community cohesion through the consultation process, increased pride in the upgraded facility and increased activation by families and tourists. The upgrade of the Town Hall as a heritage display and Driver Reviver hub completes the community precinct area. The project is well thought out with community input and will provide an important community hub into the future.

Woodanilling

Beautification of entry statements and streetscapes

Residents of Woodanilling, a quiet town with a small population, have collaborated to increase the appeal of their community. The Community Development Committee, Town Enhancement group, the Men's Shed and the Shire worked together to complete projects. This included a new entry statement, with sheepyard fencing and gates, new directional signs and a slogan – A Place at Your Pace. Gates signify the open and welcoming place of Woodanilling and new plants tie in with existing street plantings and new planter boxes.

Three new banner poles on the main street, a new gazebo, a restored horse cart and a vintage grader are newly installed points of interest in the town.





Winner Shire of Exmouth



The Freemasons until recently managed the refund point for the Aboriginal Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, who are contracted by WARRRL to deliver the program in Exmouth. More than 65,000 recyclable items were sorted per week in 2021-22, which added up to 1,643,822 containers in 12 months (626,197 glass, 919,867 aluminium, 97,758 combined plastics) - all saved from landfill. The Shire organised volunteer recruitment and organisation with other clubs to support the Freemasons, with 13 community clubs and 135 members participating over the 12 months. Clubs received \$300 for each time they assisted at the Containers for Change refund point. This amount was matched by Mantarays Ningaloo Beach Resort.

The proceeds have been put back to the community to fund the annual Christmas dinner and Christmas hampers for families in need. In a demonstration of the wide community use of funds and support for an individual, the club used \$5000 of their 10 cent funds to buy a new mobility scooter for a local man whose scooter had been stolen and damaged. The Freemasons are continuing to collect containers with proceeds being given back to the community.

Sponsored by WA Return Recycle Renew Ltd

'WARRRL are extremely proud to support the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities program with our sponsorship of the Community Containers for Change Award. The WA community has embraced Containers for Change since its inception in 2020, with more than 1.7 billion 10c containers saved from landfill to date. This award recognises community trailblazers making significant impact via the Containers for Change scheme.'

Tim Cusack, CEO WARRRL

Finalists in this category are

Collie, Donnybrook-Balingup, Gascoyne Junction, Pingelly and Port and South Hedland

all demonstrating outstanding community impact of 10 cent refunds.

Litter Legend

Terry Ransome



Eighty-year-old Terry Ransome has been picking up litter from the highways and roads around Collie for some 40 years. He is a familiar figure, out in all weathers every day, working away, and people driving by greet him with a toot of the horn and a friendly wave. Not only is Terry keeping the roads clean, but he is also an example to others, a reminder to young and old that litter belongs in the bin.

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 the awards.

Start recording projects now and visit our website www.kabc.wa.gov.au/get-involved/tidy-towns-sustainable-communities for more information and ideas.

Judges

To view all judges please visit kabc.wa.gov.au/get-involved/tidy-towns-sustainable-communities/tidy-towns-judges




'Having been a judge for the very first time, I count myself lucky to have learned more about and experienced some incredible projects. Seeing how community members have come together to motivate and support each other and to achieve some awe-inspiring results has been a wonderful experience.'

Stephanie Hagenbrock, judge



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WESTERN AUSTRALIA



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