



# Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities 2024 AWARDS

## Snapshots

Winners and finalists

Regional and remote community initiatives



# From the **Minister**



Regional and remote communities in Western Australia have again submitted outstanding projects for the Keep Australia Beautiful Council's Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards.

This year's finalists have shown exceptional dedication, not only to creating positive environmental action, but also to building sustainable and resilient communities.

Now in its 55th year, the awards are a wonderful opportunity to showcase the commitment regional councils, organisations and volunteers make to the sustainability of their communities and a litter-free and clean environment for us all.

These awards highlight the important work of Western Australians' efforts toward reducing litter, water use and energy consumption to protect our precious natural environment, while celebrating culture and heritage.

Congratulations to all the entrants, finalists and winners of this year's awards. Without dedicated and passionate volunteers, we won't have healthy and litter-free communities.

I would also like to commend this year's State Winner, Port and South Hedland. Through partnerships and engagement with the Town of Port Hedland, community groups, residents and their projects have promoted long-term behavioural changes that benefit the environment.

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

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

**Hon Reece Whitby MLA**

Minister for Energy, Environment,  
Climate Action  
29 November 2024





## GOVERNMENT HOUSE WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Message from

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

for Keep Australia Beautiful Council

As Co-Patrons of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council, it is our honour to be able to bring attention to the dedication, hard work and spirit that define our regional communities.

Now in its 55th year, the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards are more than just a friendly competition between towns; they are a testament to the power of collective action and the profound impact that committed individuals, councils, groups and volunteers can have on their surroundings. The projects and initiatives showcased here are a reflection of the creativity, resilience and unwavering commitment of regional Western Australian communities.

We are continually inspired by the stories of transformation and renewal that emerge from these projects. The efforts of these regional communities demonstrate that when we work together, we can achieve remarkable things. These achievements not only enhance the beauty and sustainability of our environment but also foster a sense of pride and belonging.

Congratulations to all the 2024 finalists for your continued efforts to inspire others and contribute to the ongoing improvement of our beloved communities across the state.

Thank you for your commitment to making our communities better places for all.

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

Mrs Darrilyn Dawson



# From the **Chair**

Keep Australia Beautiful Council's Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards celebrate the ways our regional and remote communities are creating more sustainable environments and better social outcomes through litter prevention activities and positive environmental action.

Through these awards, I see first-hand the remarkable efforts and achievements of many communities across the state – each of which shows us the value of social engagement to achieve our goal of reducing litter in Western Australia.

This year the Keep Australia Beautiful Council received submissions from several new entrants, including Kurrawang and Wiluna. It is pleasing to see that the awards, now in their 55th year, are still inspiring communities to showcase positive community action projects.

At a time when environmental challenges are becoming increasingly pressing, the dedication and creativity of our participants is truly inspiring. Each project featured in this booklet stands as a testament to the power of community spirit and the profound impact of collective action. From the restoration of heritage buildings to individual litter pick-up initiatives, the diversity of these projects highlights the boundless possibilities for regional communities in Western Australia.

## **Congratulations to Port and South Hedland, the overall State Winner for 2024.**

This community has demonstrated sustained action across all the award categories, but with a focus on social and heritage engagement and environment and waste management.

I would also like to extend congratulations to all the entrants, finalists and winners. Your hard work and dedication not only enhances the beauty and liveability of our communities but also sets a powerful example for others to follow. Your efforts remind us that sustainability is not just a goal but a journey that requires ongoing commitment and collaboration.

Thank you to our sponsors, judges and volunteers, whose support and enthusiasm make these awards possible.

I would also like to thank the current members of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council for their continued guidance and support of the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities program.

I hope this Snapshots booklet inspires you as much as it has inspired me.



**Michael Aspinall**

Chair, Keep Australia Beautiful Council  
of Western Australia



 **Tidy Towns**  
**Sustainable Communities**  
2024 AWARDS

**State Title  
Winner 2024**

**Port and South  
Hedland**



**State Title  
winner**  
**Port and South  
Hedland**

Port and South Hedland is a worthy State Winner for 2024. The community was a finalist in the Heritage and Culture, Waste Management, Containers for Change and Young Legends categories, mirroring the community's strong environmental and community engagement focus. Port and South Hedland last won the overall state title in 2012 and has advanced even further since then.

South Hedland celebrated its 50th year with a festival and engaged Aboriginal artists to create murals to encapsulate the town's diverse history and culture. The Under a Yarning Tree Storytime initiative, organised by the Town of Port Hedland Libraries and Julyardi Aboriginal Corporation, promotes early literacy through interactive storytelling and cultural engagement. Families receive a free book each session; more than 800 books have been distributed since the program began.

The Town of Port Hedland partnered with Care for Hedland to implement the actions outlined in the town's Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2022–27). Among other things, the partnership has been dedicated to implementing water efficiency initiatives. During 2023–24, the Town of Port Hedland used 17,472 kilolitres of recycled water for dust suppression and combating fire emergencies at landfill sites. Care for Hedland has also introduced a monthly sustainability newsletter.

Port and South Hedland's Adopt-a-Spot program brings together volunteers and corporate groups to clean up littered areas. The program's success is attributed to the enthusiastic participation of about 100 volunteers. These individuals foster a strong sense of community spirit and environmental responsibility and have removed an impressive 367 kilograms of litter during the past year. This achievement not only enhances the town's visual appeal but also contributes to the health of local ecosystems by reducing pollution. Port Hedland has made great strides in waste reduction, making it a cleaner, more sustainable place to live.

Port Hedland's Containers for Change promotes recycling and community engagement through two key components: the Containers for Change baskets and fundraising kits. Under the initiative, 9.8 million containers were returned to the refund centre in 2023–24, significantly reducing landfill waste. The kits foster sustainable fundraising and promote long-term behavioural changes to benefit the environment.

Care for Hedland's renowned turtle monitoring program celebrated its 20th year of operation in 2024. Participants obtain monitoring data by conducting non-invasive beach patrols to assess turtle tracks and sand patterns. They also record nest locations using a GPS and document additional turtle and predator activity. The collected data helps scientists build a picture of flatback turtle populations.



"It was incredible to meet many amazing people in the communities I judged and to see the range of unique and interesting projects."

Kylie Payne, Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards judge



# State Title finalists



## Collie

The Shire of Collie is actively improving Collie's CBD supported by State Government Just Transition funding. Local businesses are enhancing and expanding their premises, helping to improve both the aesthetic appeal and functionality of the CBD. The Shire also has a five-year Collie River restoration plan and has partnered with the local Friends of the River community group to achieve this goal. The Upper Collie Aquatic Habitat Restoration program is dedicated to restoring riverine function and instream habitat in the South Branch of the Collie River, and a CBD and River Committee has been formed to enhance the town's appearance and advance river restoration initiatives.

Other achievements during 2023–24 included Collie's radio station opening up its new purpose-built studio; the Retired Mineworkers Association holding a reunion at the Mineworkers' Institute for those who worked underground, featuring historic photographs and displays of mining equipment from the Coalfields Museum; and Collie's art murals winning a gold medal at the Australia Street Art Awards.





## City of Karratha

The City of Karratha's environmental and waste projects are outstanding across Karratha and Wickham. The City organised a seniors support program to collect green waste ahead of the cyclone season, that if left can cause damage.

Karratha's Youth Shed's Green Generation environmental projects focusing on recycling and sustainability were winning projects this year. The 7 Mile Waste Facility offers waste reduction, recycling and a tip shop for residents.

The Bucks for Bags program is an outstanding local council initiative to reward not-for-profit groups for helping clear the communities surrounds of litter. Participating groups receive \$10 per bag of litter collected, with more than 46 tonnes of litter collected between July 2023 and June 2024.



## Kalgoorlie-Boulder

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder entered an impressive array of projects in this year's awards. The transformation of St Barbara Square has revitalised the CBD – it is now a functional, attractive space with a nature-themed playground, water play areas and entertainment stages. The new nature playground at Karlkurla Bushland Park was opened and is now an engaging space for children and families. The toilet building is wrapped in a striking art design to blend into the natural environment.

Large-scale community events, such as the Multicultural Festival, enable community groups to collect Containers for Change refunds. Tree planting and community clean-ups engage community members and students and have brought a real sense of environmental stewardship and connectedness. Meanwhile, the City's sustainable education workshops and water and waste programs are contributing to positive behaviour change in the community. The annual rECONstructed Recycled Art Competition seeks to inspire a cultural shift towards reducing, reusing and recycling, particularly among young people.



## Quairading

Quairading is to be congratulated for the wide range of community initiatives entered in this year's awards. The town has demonstrated exceptional commitment to environmental sustainability, cultural preservation and community engagement through projects which highlight its dedication to creating a cohesive, vibrant community.

The integration of Indigenous artwork into public spaces, including the Kwirring Koort Community Park, is particularly commendable for promoting cultural education and inclusivity. Initiatives like the Bush Tucker Garden and Railway Station Museum and Heritage Hub not only celebrate local history, but also engage residents and visitors alike and help build a sense of community.



## Sandstone

The remote town of Sandstone in the Goldfields only has 110 residents yet demonstrates strong community involvement and dedication to improving the town's appearance, preserving its heritage, and fostering wellbeing and connectedness. The Shire's community events, volunteer-led initiatives, and continued care for cultural assets reflect a well-rounded approach to enhancing the town's liveability and sustainability. Streetscaping – which includes the planting of native species and citrus trees, and the removal of invasive trees – has enhanced the appeal and functionality of the town's key areas. The mulch from the removed trees was used to help retain moisture in the revamped garden beds. This year's litter action, clean-ups, new bins and custom-designed bin stickers are enhancing the town's visual appeal.



# Award winners

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

**Tidy Towns  
Sustainable Communities  
2024 AWARDS**

**State Winner**  
**Litter Action**  
**City of Busselton**  
Litter Free Meelup



**City of Busselton**  
**Litter Free Meelup**

The Meelup Regional Park and beach area is a very popular natural space which is home to many different animals and plants. One of the City of Busselton’s environmental health officers, Joe Caspersz-Loney, observed a developing litter problem that was threatening the park’s ecological value and visual amenity. A particular problem was the accumulation of fishing debris and other rubbish during the salmon season. To deal with the problem, Joe pioneered a collaborative litter action project which involved the City of Busselton and the Meelup Regional Park Committee.

This project saw the installation of two litter stations equipped with buckets that could be taken down to the beach – encouraging local involvement in litter reduction. The Dunsborough Men’s Shed built the litter stations out of repurposed wood and a QR code was put on their signage to make it easier for users to report litter.

There were lessons learned and the litter stations were re-worked when needed. For example, at Castle Rocks, where the bin was less visible from the litter station, people were putting the rubbish into the bucket stand, not the bin. This problem was addressed by moving a bin closer to the litter station.

This project has enhanced public participation in litter action as well as the City’s monitoring program. It has expanded beyond the Busselton area and inspired others to adopt a similar litter collection system.



**State finalists**

**Albany**  
**Just Bin It**

The Keep Albany Beautiful group of dedicated volunteers identifies littered areas and carries out weekly clean-ups throughout Albany. In 2023–24 the group collected 480 large bags of rubbish and worked with the City of Albany to dispose of their contents. In many ways, however, these volunteers are part of much more than a litter action group – they help to promote community-wide behaviour change. The group advocates for businesses to reduce litter; for example, one business the group liaised with installed a wind barrier fence and skip bin lids to prevent rubbish from being blown out of its skip bins.





## Broome – Norwest Pest Management

### Keep Broome Clean

The initiative to clean up the coastline from Roebuck Bay to Broome Old Jetty was led by Jessica Sabbadin at Norwest Pest Management, who wanted to address the problem of litter in the community. Volunteers collected more than 105 bags of rubbish, along with larger items such as chairs, tyres and shopping trolleys. The collaboration with the Shire of Broome, which provided clean-up supplies and identified key litter-affected areas, was a well-coordinated effort which helped to integrate litter management into the Shire’s broader waste management strategy. The project aims to increase participation and further spread the message of environmental stewardship.

## Carnarvon

### Clean Up Carnarvon – Litter Legends

The Clean Community Coffees program encourages residents to participate in anti-litter action and reduce litter across Carnarvon.

Through a Keep Australia Beautiful Council community litter grant, 500 vouchers became redeemable for a free coffee at participating cafes, in exchange for a filled bag of litter. Litter Legends is a community-led group that meets weekly and collects litter at a range of locations, after which the volunteers enjoy a social coffee together. Champions of the program are volunteer residents Wayne and Jeanette Taylor who led the clean-ups and manage the bags, equipment and vouchers.



## Newman

### Street Blitz

The East Newman Community Outreach ‘Street Blitz’ clean-up brought the community together to reduce household waste and public space littering and finished with community lunch. Ten skip bins worth of rubbish (60 cubic metres) was collected. Another part of the program involved helping residents to dispose of containers at their local Containers for Change depot and to register to receive their refunds. Stakeholders in the clean-up included BHP, Hope Community Services, West Coast Eagles, Mission Australia, Department of Communities, Pilbara Regiment and the Shire of East Pilbara.

## Sandstone

### Law of Attraction

The Shire of Sandstone has introduced unique designs for its bin stickers, which have been placed on bins in key areas such as parks, walkways, the caravan park, store and town cafe. These stickers serve as a visual reminder to residents and visitors to dispose of their litter responsibly and keep the town clean. New public bins have been installed with the aim of improving litter management in public spaces. Regular cleaning of common litter hot spots is ongoing, while Clean Up Australia Day volunteers collected two truckloads of old car bodies and other scrap metal, demonstrating a strong community effort toward managing larger waste items.



**Tidy Towns  
Sustainable Communities  
2024 AWARDS**

**State Winner**

**Waste Management**

**Shire of Capel**

Captivate Capel  
Impacts of waste education engagement



**Shire of Capel**

**Captivate Capel**

**Impacts of waste education engagement**

The Shire of Capel has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to community engagement and environmental stewardship during the past year. The collaborative efforts of the Shire, community groups, schools and local organisations have had a positive impact on waste education, recycling and reduction.

In March, a series of events associated with Captivate Capel encouraged community connectedness and awareness of sustainable practices. This included zero-waste workshops such as stir-fry and soup sessions focused on food waste management.

Captivate Capel attracted about 4,000 participants, drawing locals and visitors from neighbouring towns. Sustainability, recycling and reuse was a central theme, with all vendors committed to sustainable products. The band Junkadelic enhanced the atmosphere with its environmentally themed performances.

Evidence of a reduction in landfill waste in the months following Captivate Capel was supported by Cleanaway reports, which showed that household general waste had reduced, and that recycling and the use of food organics garden organics (FOGO) bins had increased.

**Waste Management**

**Recognises innovation and achievements in reducing and managing waste**



**State finalists**

**City of Karratha**

**7 Mile Waste Facility and Wickham Transfer Station**

The 7 Mile Waste Facility and Wickham Transfer Station provide free waste disposal to residents. The City of Karratha made the service free-of-charge to address illegal dumping and to promote use of these facilities for recycling and recovery. Since then, rubbish dumping in the community has reduced. The 7 Mile Waste Facility is now running a mulching program using food waste from supermarkets. The tip shop takes waste items that can be reused or fixed and sells them. By encouraging residents to use these facilities, the City is educating the community about the circular economy, and the positive impact residents can have.





## Geraldton

### The Bowerbird

The City of Greater Geraldton's Bowerbird tip shop has grown to become a cornerstone of the community, dedicated to promoting sustainability, resource recovery and a circular economy. A beautiful mural greets customers on entry. Its social media pages highlight items for sale, projects for children and education about the circular economy. To date, the Bowerbird has sold about 114,000 items. A recent highlight was a partnership with Playmore, which offered school holiday sessions for children to come along and turn discarded items into experimental playthings.

## Kalgoorlie–Boulder

### Recycled art competition

The Kalgoorlie–Boulder Urban Landcare Group's rECONstructed recycled art competition coincides with National Recycling Week and was expanded with the introduction of a family category. This addition was aimed at engaging families in conversations about the importance of waste awareness and sustainable living. The event was popular with locals and visitors alike, while schools across the community incorporated the competition into their art curriculum. This initiative has inspired a cultural shift towards reducing, reusing and recycling, particularly among children and young people.



## Mount Magnet

### Refuse site upgrade

#### Winner of Natsales Bin Prize

In response to significant issues with illegal dumping and environmental concerns, the Shire of Mount Magnet initiated new waste management practices. The waste facility is now manned, fenced and equipped with security cameras (CCTV) to provide better oversight of waste disposal.

Waste streams are now separated, allowing materials such as tyres to be stockpiled for future recycling. Trench systems for putrescible waste and areas for liquid waste have also been installed. A secondary tip area has been established to ensure continued operations in the event of a fire. A new traxcavator assists with waste at the facility and to support other town projects.

## Port and South Hedland

### Batteries recycling, e-waste and scrap metal

The Town of Port Hedland's key waste management initiatives include recycling drop-off points in partnership with Ecobatt Recycling, Sell & Parker Metal Recycling, and TechCollect. The Town has established dedicated recycling sites for items such as lithium-ion batteries and e-waste, with more than 10 tonnes collectively being diverted from landfill. A further 9 tonnes of televisions has also been diverted. Overall, these initiatives reflect the Town's strong commitment to waste reduction and management, with a significant amount of materials being diverted from landfill and notable promotion of environmental responsibility among residents.



**Tidy Towns  
Sustainable Communities  
2024 AWARDS**

**State Winner**

**Young Legends**

**Shire of Carnarvon**

**Hana Smith**

In recognition of leadership and engagement



**Shire of Carnarvon**

**Hana Smith**

Twenty-one-year-old Hana is the community development officer at the Shire of Carnarvon. The award recognises Hana as a young person who is dedicated to bringing people alongside her to make a difference in her community. She has shown strong leadership in the planning, design and facilitation of the Future is Me Urban Art project. This project came out of the need to engage young people, address graffiti and provide art opportunities. Hana was instrumental in the concept, success and outcomes of the project.

Hana has a great affinity with the young people of Carnarvon and was instrumental in designing and continually engaging young people in the program's initiatives. She has demonstrated empathy and relatability in her relationships with other young people, using her ability to encourage participants at all stages of the project from design to execution.

A demonstration of her ability to lead the project was her success in engaging notoriously hard-to-reach youth demographics for multiple murals and design sessions. Hana is seen as a role model and mentor to the girls and young women in the project.

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

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

**State  
finalists**

**Broome–Roebuck  
Primary School**

**Student environment action team**

This team of 20 children aged eight to 12 years old has shown leadership in organising and executing various projects. For Earth Hour, the team advocated for reduced power usage, highlighting its proactive approach to environmental conservation. 'Wear it Wild' dress-up day, for the Worldwide Wildlife Fund, raised significant funds and promoted the importance of supporting native Australian wildlife. The team's collaboration with external agencies for clean-ups (such as the Tangaroa Blue Foundation) demonstrates its commitment to achieving successful outcomes for the community. The children's involvement in the turtle monitoring program, where they helped to record turtle nesting sites, shows their dedication to local conservation efforts.







## City of Karratha

### Recycled art and education

This recycled art project was initiated and led by young people who were inspired by waste education at the Karratha Youth Shed, where they learned about the importance of sustainability and how their choices affect the environment.

The project has been a huge success, with the young people designing artistic and educational pieces using recycled materials. Some of their pieces include a wearable chip packet dress and a DNA sculpture. Waste materials for the artworks are sourced from the North West Recycling facility. They are planning to organise a recycled art exhibition to showcase their creations and hope to produce more wearable art in the future.

## Kalgoorlie–Boulder

### Curtin student volunteers

The Curtin University WA School of Mines international student volunteers play a vital role in the Kalgoorlie–Boulder community and supported social and environmental projects throughout 2023–24. The students face the unique challenge of studying in an isolated outback city, far from their home countries. However, they have embraced the opportunity to integrate with the local people, building strong relationships in the community and learning new skills through volunteerism. The students have participated in numerous events, including the Kalgoorlie–Boulder Urban Landcare Group’s 2023 Tree Planting Day, Clean Up Kalgoorlie–Boulder Day, and the St Barbara’s Parade and Miners Memorial Service.



## Paraburdoo

### Lucas Stone

Eight-year-old Lucas is passionate about minimising the amount of litter that ends up in landfill and this motivates him to help his community and environment. Lucas’ commitment to environmental sustainability has been demonstrated through his active participation in events such as Plant a Tree Day and Clean Up Australia Day. Lucas is estimated to have deposited 30,000 eligible containers through the Containers for Change program. With the proceeds, he has purchased three community Containers for Change bins for Paraburdoo. Lucas has inspired a further eight people to help collect more containers.

## Port and South Hedland

### Tyler Morton and Kalarni Morton

Brother and sister Tyler and Kalarni Morton are dedicated participants in the Care for Hedland flatback turtle monitoring program. During the 2023–24 season, Tyler and Kalarni contributed more than 265 volunteer hours through early-morning track monitoring and evening scientific programs. Tyler and Kalarni’s engagement in the program not only helps to conserve flatback sea turtles but also fosters environmental stewardship among other young volunteers, equipping them with valuable knowledge and inspiring a lifelong commitment to protecting natural resources. Kalarni has also been responsible for educating tourists and other volunteers on flatback turtle monitoring.



**Tidy Towns  
Sustainable Communities  
2024 AWARDS**

**State Winner**

**Heritage and Culture**

**Shire of Cue**

Heritage Revived: Saving the Old for Tomorrow



**Heritage and Culture**

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



**Shire of Cue**

**Heritage Revived: Saving the Old for Tomorrow**

The Shire of Cue has taken a strategic and financially responsible approach to preserving its rich architectural and cultural history. The Shire has prioritised restoration, proving that heritage conservation can be both economically and culturally rewarding. This initiative not only honours the town's past, but also ensures these historic buildings remain functional and relevant for the community today and into the future.

The Cue Heritage Centre, completed in September 2024, is located behind the Post Office building, which now functions as the Community Resource Centre (CRC). The Heritage Centre, which features interactive exhibits on Cue's gold rush history, is accessed via the CRC. The Shire has restored and preserved the site's historical significance while providing a functional space for locals and tourists.

Restoring Cue's historic buildings has proven to be a more economical solution than building new structures, while preserving the town's cultural identity. Shire restoration projects in 2023–24 included the Bank of New South Wales, Masonic Lodge, Old Municipal Chambers (Office and Park), Railway Station (Oval), Shire Office and Chambers and the Old Gaol (Tourist Park).

Nick the Stonemason meticulously repoints and restores Cue's historic buildings by hand, using local materials. By restoring rather than replacing these buildings, Cue retains its historical charm while making sustainable and cost-effective choices. This approach boosts tourism, as visitors are drawn to the authenticity of the town's preserved architecture.

The Cue Heritage Trail App is a standalone mobile application. It offers a self-guided walking tour through the old town, sharing stories of the people who lived and worked there.

**State finalists**

**Shire of Bridgetown–  
Greenbushes**

**Bridgetown Railway Station**

The Bridgetown Railway Station's restoration came about in response to a strong call from locals to revitalise the space. Significant challenges had to be overcome to restore the abandoned building – including termites, graffiti and rotting foundations. It was completed in May 2024 with the help of funding from the State Government and Lotterywest. New accessibility and interpretive history features were designed, using jarrah wood from the original ornate partitioning and ticket windows. The old and the new is integrated harmoniously, complementing the heritage of the building whilst bringing it into the modern age and allowing it to be revitalised as a multi-use gallery and visitor centre.





## Mount Barker

### Railway station centenary

This year the Mount Barker community commemorated 100 years since the official opening of its iconic railway station precinct. To honour this historic occasion, the Mount Barker Railway Station building occupants, Mountain Country Tourism, in conjunction with the Shire of Plantagenet, presented a series of celebratory events throughout the first half of 2024. The festivities included a railway exhibition at the visitor centre, an 'In the Footsteps of Bella Kelly' exhibition in the gallery, a free community open day, and a limited-edition commemorative Mount Barker Riesling auction and sale, as well as a community art exhibition.

## Mount Magnet

### A community hub for all ages

The Old School Restoration project is one of Mount Magnet's most significant heritage conservation efforts. The school (circa 1898) had undergone several extensions and was in use until 1980.

The restoration project has brought the building back to life as a community hub for all ages, with careful attention paid to preserving its historical integrity. Now known as the Rural Transaction Centre, the restoration was supported with funding of \$100,000 from Lotterywest and \$450,000 from the Shire of Mount Magnet. The preservation of this historical site has also created a central space for community engagement, ensuring it continues to serve as a key gathering place for generations to come.



## Port and South Hedland

### Outdoor storytelling, Under the Yarning Tree

This initiative of the Town of Port Hedland Libraries and Julyardi Aboriginal Corporation promotes early literacy through interactive storytelling and cultural engagement. Held under a shady tree, the program features storytelling, singing and activities, with local Indigenous storytellers coming along to read culturally relevant books. Families receive a free book each session, with more than 800 books being distributed since the program began. This initiative enriches community engagement through reading and Indigenous cultural education.

## York

### Heritage Weekend

The Heritage Weekend takes place during National Heritage Month at various locations throughout the town. It is a huge feat for the community to produce, with collaboration from York Business Association, the Shire of York, the Returned Services League, Country Women's Association, National Trust, firefighters, businesses and artisans and many other groups and individuals.

York Business Association volunteer Karen Thomas coordinates the schedule and produces a newsletter detailing all the events and activities and interesting information about the history of Western Australia's oldest settled inland town. This year the event celebrated a true country-style Anzac Day and gave visitors an opportunity to explore the exhibits, talks and concerts.



**Tidy Towns  
Sustainable Communities  
2024 AWARDS**

**State Winner  
Community Containers  
for Change  
City of  
Kalgoorlie-Boulder**

Refund collections supporting groups  
through major events



**Community  
Containers for  
Change Award**

Sponsored by WARRRL

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



**City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder**

**Refund collections supporting groups through major events**

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder's Waste and Sustainability and Events teams introduced waste stations at events, allowing attendees to easily sort waste and divert Containers for Change drink containers from general waste. The stations were set up at events including the Sunset Concert Series, Kidsfest and the Multicultural Festival, where community groups such as the Community Garden, Boulder Scouts, Tennis Association and Boulder Rotary helped at the stations.

The collected containers were returned to collection points by the participating groups, with the proceeds going to support their activities and projects. Funds go to local initiatives while simultaneously increasing awareness about the Containers for Change program. This initiative not only provides a financial boost to community organisations but also actively involves residents in promoting sustainability at large-scale events.

Donna Thompson of Northern Star Resources takes the time to sort through bulk waste, ensuring the empty containers are properly collected for the Containers for Change program. Donna delivers drink containers to schools where students sort the containers and keep the lids for special projects. Donna collected 15,000 containers, raising funds for groups such as the Girl Guides and Hannans Primary School, and local children attending dance and basketball tournaments. Her efforts continue to inspire her colleagues to contribute to local causes.

"We are seeing so many communities across the state getting involved with Containers for Change, with almost seven out of 10 containers now being recycled."

Tim Cusack, CEO, WA Return Recycle Renew (WARRRL)

**Finalists**  
in this category are:

**Gascoyne Junction**  
Containers

**Meekatharra**  
Meekatharra Containers for  
Change

**Port and South Hedland**  
Baskets

**Waroona**  
Cameron Collects

**Westonia**  
Household pick-up bins



## Leadership Award

### Albany

Community Bushcarer Busy Bee Groups  
 Volunteering and leadership  
 Chris Gunby



*M. Aspinall*

Mr Michael Aspinall  
 Chairman, Keep Australia Beautiful Council WA  
 29 November 2024



# Discretionary Leadership Award

Awarded by judges across any project



## Albany

### Community Bushcarer Busy Bee Groups – **Chris Gunby**

The Community Bushcarer groups volunteer members demonstrate environmental leadership and action. Chris Gunby is a volunteer member and runs the Tjuitgellong/Lake Seppings group. The group has taken on the challenge of restoring the bushland around a wetland that was degraded because of an adjacent historic landfill site. Chris volunteered 140 hours in 2024 and removed more than 1,000 Sydney wattles from dense wetland vegetation. His leadership and volunteer engagement has enhanced the ecological and biodiversity value of the activity.

**Tidy Towns  
Sustainable Communities  
2024 AWARDS**

**State Winner**  
**Environmental Sustainability**  
**Shire of Murray**

Restoring the Murray  
Riverbank Restoration Project



### Shire of Murray

#### Restoring the Murray – Riverbank Restoration Project

The Murray River estuary comprises two residential islands and one designated as a Class A nature reserve, each of which is facing significant environmental challenges.

The region is characterised by a variable tidal pattern, contributing to rising water levels and increasing salinisation. These changes have severely impacted the remnant banks and local vegetation, leading to noticeable erosion and a decline in native plant species.

To address these issues, a collaborative effort has been initiated involving various stakeholders – the Shire of Murray, Bindjareb Noongar rangers and residents. This initiative has seen the construction of a rock wall, using a specialised barge owned by a resident to transport the necessary machinery across the river, thus overcoming logistical challenges. The project was carried out during the winter months and included revegetation efforts using salt-tolerant plants to rejuvenate the affected vegetation.

In addition to the rock wall and revegetation, reed walls were placed against the sand bank. These reeds were bundled by the Bindjareb Noongar community and put in place with assistance from the Shire. The reed walls allow water to move in and out, while sediment will gradually accumulate behind them. Furthermore, revegetation was conducted behind the reed walls to establish a stronger foundation as roots develop over time. Funding from a Natural Resource Management (NRM) grant has supported these efforts for the past three years.

# State finalists

### Albany

#### Community Bushcarer Busy Bee groups

Albany Bushcarers are actively eradicating problem weeds and revegetating bushland in their respective local areas. These volunteer groups receive administrative support and materials from the City of Albany. Four groups look after a range of environments from those that are near-pristine, where the focus is to prevent the establishment of invasive weeds, to those that are degraded, where the focus is to remove invasive weeds and then conduct restoration and revegetation activities. Volunteers transplanted native plants appropriate to the Tjuitgellong wetland environment from an area marked for firebreak clearing – a great sustainable approach to revegetation.



## Environmental Sustainability

Sponsored by Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority

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

Recipient also receives a mentoring session



## Jarlmadangah Burru Greening House project and Men's Shed

The planting of orchard trees and native plants in this small community has helped with revegetation efforts and improved soil erosion caused by sheep grazing. The community plans to make its own produce available during the wet season when there is potential for flooding and supply routes to the community may be cut off.

A Men's Shed has been established, with members joining in several activities, including relocating 16 abandoned vehicles to a designated area, and evaluating vehicles for repair, dismantling and recycling.

## Paraburdoo Plant a Tree Day

Paraburdoo's 'Plant a Tree Day' brought people in the community together to plant a tree and put a name tag on it. The 162 trees that were planted have made a big difference to town's general appearance. The individual name tags created a personal attachment between the planter and the tree and have resulted in the planters looking after 'their' trees. Ashburton Aboriginal Corporation hosted a seed collection excursion and then donated the gathered seeds to the Paraburdoo Primary School for the Polly Farmer Learn Club's school projects. Some of the native seeds collected were the beach bean, Ashburton pea and the Sturt's desert pea.



## Sandstone Water is more precious than gold

Sandstone's arborist investigated trees affecting underground water pipes and took action to prevent further damage to the pipes. Some of the older and larger trees had root systems that were starting to cause issues, and it was decided that taking the preventative measure of removing some of the trees would save a significant amount of water and resources. Thus, the trees were removed, recycled into mulch and used in the town's public garden beds. The gardens were revamped with native varieties that will have a much lower impact on our resources and infrastructure as they need less water to survive.

## Seabird Coastal dune protection and stabilisation

When the Seabird community was threatened by coastal erosion some years ago, the community knew it was time to act. With support from the local government and State Government, this project started in 2016 with a fortifying seawall being built. The community has now planted this 700-metre-long space with local species. Regular spraying ensures weeds like sea spinach are eradicated, allowing local species to thrive. There is now a solid coverage of vegetation which is stabilising the dunes and helping to control erosion. Locals have also noted an increase in native birds and reptiles in the area. The ongoing care is raising awareness about how to manage environmental threats and increasing knowledge about the sustainability challenges facing coastal communities.



"Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority is delighted to sponsor the Environmental Sustainability award. The positive impact a dedicated community group will have on improving their environment can never be underestimated."

Sue McDougall, Director, Western Australian Botanic Garden

**Tidy Towns  
Sustainable Communities  
2024 AWARDS**

**State Winner**  
**Environmental Education**  
**City of Karratha**  
Youth Shed's Green Generation



**City of Karratha**

**Youth Shed's Green Generation**

The City of Karratha's Youth Shed's Green Generation program is open to young people aged 10 to 25 years old. The program has focused on topics including litter prevention, waste reduction, recycling, sustainable transportation, gardening, composting, water conservation and energy efficiency. The program operates between 3pm and 6pm every day after school, on weekends and during the school holidays. All activities are short and achievable to ensure participants can complete tasks and take them home to their families. The youth shed has had a positive impact, with young people educating their families about how to make greenhouses from recycled water bottles (and more).

Local and external groups have hosted activities such as Pilbara Bush Remedy, where a Traditional Owner taught young people about herbal remedies from native plants and their meaning. The young people also learnt how to make balms and health shots from the native plants. Educational activities have included recycled art projects, such as wearable art workshops, compost creation, building greenhouses for plants out of recycled plastic bottles, gardening, creating worm holes in garden beds, and harvesting vegetables.



**State  
finalists**

**Bunbury – Dolphin  
Discovery Centre**

**Marine Conservation Education  
Centre**

The Marine Conservation Education Centre hosted more than 60,000 people in 2023–24. This interpretive and interactive education centre complements the free educational materials on the boardwalk and dolphin interaction zone.

Mobile education resources were reworked after consultation with schools about what they wanted to see and learn. This mobile education can be tailored for students from Kindergarten to Year 12. The theatre centre shows short, engaging documentaries that combine Traditional Owner stories and knowledge, with information about the conservation challenges associated with protecting marine animals.







## Collie

### Upper Collie Aquatic Habitat Restoration project

Amaroo Primary School students participated in an enriching workshop focusing on the identification of aquatic species. Guided by scientists from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, students engaged in hands-on activities that allowed them to explore the diverse aquatic life within their local waterways. They observed first-hand the monitoring techniques employed by the department's scientists as part of the Leschenault Catchment Council's new Upper Collie Aquatic Habitat Restoration project. This learning opportunity not only brought science to life, but also fostered a sense of curiosity and environmental stewardship among the students.



## Kalgoorlie-Boulder

### Karlkurla nature, education and ecotourism hub

Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group (KBULG) Eco and Cultural Education Centre offers environmental education activities and plant propagation workshops. Collaborating with Curtin University, the facilities at Karlkurla Bushland Park enable programs such as Career Taster, which provides the students with experience in environmental sustainability, plant propagation, and rehabilitation techniques. This initiative equips future industry professionals with the skills required for careers in conservation and environmental management. Notably, 2024 marks the 30th anniversary of the transition from the Goldfields Dust Abatement Committee to the KBULG of today, highlighting the group's ongoing dedication to environmental restoration and conservation.



## Newman

### Little Red in the Hood – waste education theatre

The Shire of East Pilbara sought to address confusion around recyclable materials in the Pilbara region with a program aimed at educating young people. The Shire ran a musical theatre waste education program in conjunction with Jally Entertainment to engage and educate children (four to 11 years old) on litter prevention, correct disposal methods and waste reduction. Three interactive shows were held at the library and two primary schools – these were an altered version of Little Red Riding Hood and incorporated recycling themes, making it relatable and memorable.

## Quairading

### High school Bush Tucker Garden

The Bush Tucker Garden combines environmental education with cultural learning. Launched in July 2023, the garden was created on a disused tennis court. This hands-on project gave students the opportunity to learn traditional Noongar knowledge of the local flora. The garden includes a fire pit, yarning circle and mural depicting the six Noongar seasons. Noongar artist Charlie Colbung also worked with the students on this project. A Partnership Acceptance Learning Sharing grant and the Ngaparrtji Ngaparrtji Two-Way Science program supported the project, which overall has provided students with practical learning opportunities in sustainability and biodiversity, while promoting cultural awareness.



**“WALN is proud to again sponsor this important award. Environmental education is key to informing and empowering community members; the winners are demonstrating how to do this in a powerful way!”**

Jacqueline Lahne, Executive Officer, Western Australia Landcare Network

**Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities 2024 AWARDS**

**State Winner**

**Community Action and Wellbeing**

**Westonia**

Westonia Wellbeing



**Westonia**

**Westonia Wellbeing**

The Shire of Westonia wants the small town of Westonia (250 residents) to be known as a whole lifestyle community. It is encouraging retirees to come and live in the town by providing tailored services for older people. The Shire is now a registered home care provider and employs a community wellbeing officer to manage the care needs of locals taking up their services. The Shire’s provision of these services means residents are able to stay in town longer and supports local work opportunities.

The Shire offers a great variety of wellness, educational and social activities, as well as support services, such as water aerobics, hydrotherapy pool excursions, Bingo, Scrabble, sewing lessons, and health, legal and safety sessions. The Shire and Westonia Community Resource Centre have noticed an increase in volunteering and participation. For example, the sewing group makes quilts, caps and bags for cancer patients, while an impressive curved roof for the bowling club has been constructed with State Government and Australian Government funding. The bowling club started with two members and now has 55 members and a new purpose-built facility.

The Shire offers an as-required bus drop-off/pick-up service to the Prospector train stop at Carrabin (10 minutes away) and is very responsive to community needs.

When the fuel station at Carrabin on the Great Eastern Highway closed, the Shire invested \$200,000 to install a 30,000-litre fuel tank to establish a community-owned fuel service. It also provides an electric vehicle charging station.

The closed school is being converted into a community centre – the Wessie Leisure Centre – which will include a community garden, a Men’s Shed, a communal games room and a warm water pool.



**State finalists**

**Albany**

**Stuff You Need to Know**

The nine-video series ‘Stuff You Need to Know’ was made in response to feedback given during the City of Albany’s engagement for the youth-friendly Albany Plan. The feedback was that young people felt underprepared for the responsibilities of independent living and wanted more support. Local businesses and people contributed to the video’s content. This project has had a positive impact on the wellbeing of community members looking to become more prepared for independent living.





## Busselton – Building Busselton Town Team

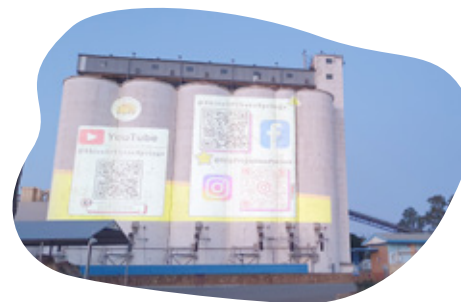
### Boodja Koondarminy – Country Dreaming

The new wall, spanning 70 metres, has come to fruition after more than three years of collaborative effort, and is a significant and beautiful piece of Aboriginal artwork. The concept for the mural originated from a resident who proposed creating an Aboriginal-style mural to replace the tunnel in the park, which until 2010 had been adorned with handprints from Aboriginal Elders and their families. Thelma Harris and Samuel Allen are both acknowledged as leaders in the project. The Building Busselton Town Team launched the completed mural with a Community Day celebration, inviting Elders and Aboriginal families to leave handprints on the wall.

## Meekatharra

### Meeka Walk for Suicide Awareness

The Meeka Walk for Suicide Awareness has become a vital annual event, in a place where suicide has had a profound impact on nearly every family in the community. Now in its second year, 130 participants covered 3,144 steps – one for each life lost to suicide in Australia in the previous year. Participants wear Meeka Walk shirts proudly. The event serves to connect participants with mental health services and support networks. Youth Focus Meekatharra and Anglicare provide suicide-prevention training and share information about available support options. The walk ends with a barbecue, where participants can continue conversations in a relaxed setting.



## Three Springs

### Silo projection

#### Winner of Natsales Printing Prize

The disused and very large CBH grain silos in the centre of Three Springs now come to life at night. Instead of commissioning a static mural, the iconic silos act as a projection backdrop. A Lotterywest grant of \$130,000 enabled the purchase of a suitably sized projector and speakers. A purpose-built trailer enables images to be projected from directly across the street. At the first event, *Top Gun: Maverick* was screened, with 300 people attending.

The events promote a safe and enjoyable environment. The screens are also used for community messaging including for R U OK? Day. Volunteers have contributed 50 hours at each event, which has helped to strengthen community cohesion. The silos serve as a symbol of community unity and pride.

## Wiluna

### PlaySpace

Wiluna's PlaySpace project began as an Aboriginal-led initiative which came about through discussions rooted in Aboriginal Lore. Costing about \$1.1 million, funded by the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program and Lotterywest, the project has transformed an underutilised area into a vibrant community hub. The PlaySpace features a skate park, pump track and playground designed to cater to all ages and abilities. It creates a central space for social interaction and community events. By integrating Aboriginal cultural practices into modern planning, PlaySpace demonstrates how traditional community input and modern governance can work together to create a space that fosters cultural pride and community wellbeing.



“Rural Aid values the efforts of local communities in driving their own initiatives and creating vibrant, healthy communities. Through our programs, we support communities to dream collectively and take action to build the future they desire.”

Steph Walsh, Community Development Programs Manager, Rural Aid

**Tidy Towns  
Sustainable Communities  
2024 AWARDS**

**State Winner  
General Appearance**

**Darkan**

Darkan Railway Reserve



Mr Michael Aspinall  
Chairman, Keep Australia Beautiful Council WA  
29 November 2024



**General Appearance**

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



**Darkan**

**Darkan Railway Reserve Park**

The park was designed with both aesthetic and functional values in mind and has significantly enhanced the streetscape of Darkan. The playground's design and park upgrades have been well integrated into the nature-scape of the town and have reinvigorated this area, making it a visually appealing centre point for the town.

An Australian Government grant under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program was used to fund these upgrades.

Well-designed interpretive and information signs about the local vegetation have been placed throughout the park, including one about an endangered animal – the red-tailed phascogale – which is positioned over an old wooden sculpture. The heritage design of the railway was mirrored in the design of the natural wooden playground.

Most of the park is not irrigated, so the mulched garden beds along the perimeter have used a waterwise design with native plants suitable for the local environment. The emphasis on not relying on irrigation to keep the park looking appealing will ensure that its visual amenity will be sustainable well into the future.

Custom art has been cut into the iron sheet shading walls for the barbecue area to showcase the local fauna and agricultural history of Darkan.

**State finalists**

**Carnarvon**

**Caring for Carnarvon 6701**

Caring for Carnarvon 6701 is an ongoing urban revitalisation program that began in early 2023. It is delivered by the Shire of Carnarvon in collaboration with schools, government agencies and local businesses. It has delivered a series of art murals and consists of multiple projects across the townsite, including a youth-driven urban art program, beautification of the main street and an art program for outlying disadvantaged areas. A community art hub in consultation with Real Futures was opened on the main street.





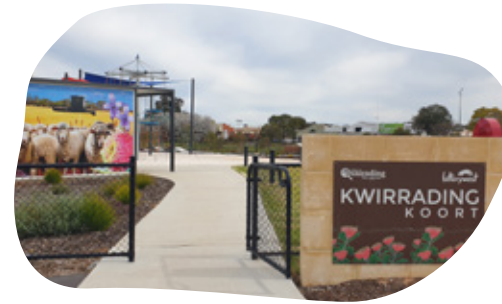
## Kalgoorlie–Boulder City Centre Rejuvenation

The transformation of St Barbara Square, completed in December 2023, has revitalised the city’s CBD and made it a functional, attractive space. The square now features a nature-themed playground, water play areas, modern street furniture and entertainment stages.

A silky pear climbing structure symbolises the Karlkurla fruit, tying into Kalgoorlie’s rich heritage. The square showcases one of the largest First Nations public art displays in Western Australia. The statue of the Patron Saint of Miners, St Barbara, has also returned to its place in the square to pay homage to the city’s mining roots. The project, worth \$16 million, was jointly funded by the State Government and the City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder.

## Paraburdoo ANZAC Memorial

The ANZAC Memorial upgrade represents the Shire of Ashburton’s commitment to honouring the sacrifices of our armed forces and is a beautiful feature in the town. The upgrades involved the addition of metal cut-out sculptures and a large semi-circle shaped memorial area. At night the memorial is lit up by newly installed solar powered lights. Paraburdoo’s future vision for the area involves additional engravings of poppies next to the names of those who served from Paraburdoo.



## Quairading Kwirradung Koort Community Park and Playground

Winner of Vanguard Printing Prize

The Kwirradung Koort Community Park and Playground is an inclusive space for recreation and community events. Designed to be accessible for all abilities, the park features play equipment, shaded areas, thoughtfully designed pathways, and Indigenous artwork and cultural elements. The space includes symbols and totems representing five local Noongar family groups. The \$1 million park (with funding from Lotterywest, Federal Roads, the Shire of Quairading and Quairading Rural Youth) has become a central hub for the community, where events are hosted and people from surrounding areas like to visit. The combination of cultural significance and modern recreational facilities has enhanced Quairading’s visual appeal, while fostering a strong sense of community pride and inclusion.

## Yerecoin Centenary

With the centenary of Yerecoin just one year away, projects led by the Progress Association and the community have beautified the town. Colourful new entry statements have been installed, blending in with the natural hues of the local flora and landscape. Creatively designed reticulated native verge gardens line the main street. Yerecoin is a popular spot as a tourist stopover on wildflower touring and a new mural depicting a kangaroo, black cockatoo and elements of the local fauna provides a lovely backdrop to the Wayside rest spot. Additional power points have been installed for overnight camping.



Regional Outback Packs, developed in collaboration with Main Roads WA, have been designed with art from Helen Ansell.





We encourage you to get your regional community involved in the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards and discuss how you can use the program to help with community engagement and recognition. Start recording projects now and visit our website ([www.kabc.wa.gov.au/get-involved/tidy-towns-sustainable-communities](http://www.kabc.wa.gov.au/get-involved/tidy-towns-sustainable-communities)) for more information and ideas.

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

## KEEPING IT BEAUTIFUL

The awards showcase projects that conserve cultural heritage, bushland and rivers, and that 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, while being a friendly competition between communities.



For more information, contact: [tidytowns@kabc.wa.gov.au](mailto:tidytowns@kabc.wa.gov.au)  
[www.kabc.wa.gov.au](http://www.kabc.wa.gov.au)

