2010
Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities Awards

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Thank you to our Award Sponsors

Towards Zero Waster Award Sponsor

Water Conservation Award Sponsor

Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria (KABV) would like to give a special thank you to the Beechworth Tidy Towns Committee, Iris Mannik, Anne Wilson and Jill Jarvis-Wills, supported by Indigo Shire Council. Their help in planning the 2010 Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities Awards weekend has been invaluable.

Door prizes kindly donated by:
Cadbury ANZ
Puffing Billy
Chambers Rosewood Vineyards
Great Ocean Eco Lodge

Table centrepieces kindly donated by:
Larkmans Nurseries

And a special thank you to our 2010 independent judges
Ajay Doctor
Andrea Marian
Brian Winch
Horrie Poussard
Jordie Michael
Robbie Rae
Ron Williamson
Terry O’Brien

The Keep Australia Beautiful 2010 Tidy Town – Sustainable Communities Awards are powered by GreenPower
Minister’s Foreword

Welcome to the 2010 Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities Awards Night. It’s a pleasure to have you with us to recognise and celebrate sustainability leaders from our regional councils and communities.

This year the Awards are being held in beautiful Beechworth, the winner of the 2009 Victorian Tidy Town of the Year and the 2010 Australian Tidy Town of the year. This is the 28th year of this special awards program, and I am excited to be part of the celebrations.

I hope you have enjoyed the Awards weekend, including our first ever Tidy Towns Sustainability Expo.

With your support, KABV continues to recognise the work of every town, every city, every beach, every day.

I encourage you to enjoy the evening, and I commend every one of you for the hard work and commitment that you have shown to make Victoria a better place to live.

Gavin Jennings MLC
Minister for Environment and Climate Change

CEO’s Foreword

For over 40 years KABV has inspired, encouraged and celebrated the actions taken every day by regional, urban and coastal Victorians to protect the long term well-being of their communities.

It has grown from a simple anti-litter campaign to encompass sustainability activities as diverse as reducing waste, preserving heritage and culture, saving energy, improving biodiversity and conserving water.

Now part of Sustainability Victoria, KABV has maintained its respected grass-roots heritage whilst ensuring a strong future for years to come.

It’s a pleasure to be here tonight to celebrate the great work you are doing to keep our regional communities sustainable. Your actions are helping to care for our environment, building resilient communities right across Victoria.

There is a lot to be proud of, so enjoy the night and celebrate your hard work.

Anita Roper
CEO Sustainability Victoria

Host - Myf Warhurst

Myf Warhurst grew up in regional Victoria before moving to the city to study Music and Fine Arts at the University of Melbourne. She worked for some time as a journalist, providing arts and music stories for The Age and Inpress magazine, before becoming Managing Editor of the Melbourne street paper in 1999.

Myf was first introduced to radio as the showbiz reporter on Merrick and Rosso’s Triple J Drive show in 1999. When they moved on, Myf moved into a full time gig at the Js, hosting the Saturday night request show in 2000 before landing the afternoon shift in 2003.

On Triple J, Myf hosted the weekday lunchtime shift, where she got to do all the things she still loves best: playing CDs, talking about music, popular culture and current events and catching up with folks from various fields of the arts/entertainment industry. She then spent some time getting up super-early to do Triple J Breakfast with Jay and The Doctor.

Myf can be seen wrangling rock stars and other showbiz luminaries as a team captain on ABC TV’s music/comedy quiz show, Spicks and Specks.
Order of Proceedings

Pre Dinner Drinks
Mingle with Tidy Towns participants, supporters and sponsors

Welcome by Host Myf Warhurst
Address by Anita Roper, CEO Sustainability Victoria and Gavin Jennings MLC, Minister for Environment and Climate Change

Entree
Presentation of Community Action Award for population ≤ 3000
Presentation of Community Action Award for population > 3000
Presentation of Cultural Heritage Award
Presentation of Pam Keating Environmental Innovation Award
Presentation of Towards Zero Waste Award
Presentation of Protection of the Environment Award

Main
Presentation of Community Government Partnerships Award
Presentation of Water Conservation Award
Presentation of Efficient Energy Award
Presentation of Young Leaders Award
Presentation of Active Schools Award
Door Prizes

Dessert
Presentation of Dame Phyllis Frost Award
Presentation of 2010 Victorian Tidy Town of the Year Award
Menu

Canapés
Zucchini, corn and haloumi fritters with a roast capsicum relish
Mushroom and spinach risotto balls
Black olive and sundried tomato pinwheels

Entrée
Mediterranean vegetable tart with a seasonal leaf salad
Lamb skewers with couscous and tzatziki

Main
Chicken breast filled with spinach and ricotta on a soft polenta mash with a green peppercorn sauce
Char-grilled kangaroo loin fillet served on roasted chat potatoes & sautéed button mushrooms with a honey and rosemary demi-glace.

Dessert canapés
Cookies and cream cheesecake with raspberry coulis
Sticky date pudding with a butterscotch sauce

Drinks
Gapsted N.V. Coldstone Sparkling Cuvee
Gapsted Black Range Semillon Sauvignon Blanc
Gapsted Black Range Cabernet Merlot
Assorted Bridge Road Brewery Beers
Cascade Light

Sustainability Victoria is committed to supporting Victorian food producers and wine growers. This seasonal, locally sourced, and sustainable selection of dishes highlights the fantastic produce available right here in Victoria.
Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria (KABV) has a proud history of encouraging and celebrating the sustainable actions taken every day by Victorians across our state.

Founded in 1968 by Dame Phyllis Frost and now part of Sustainability Victoria, KABV’s programs give individuals and groups the opportunity to respond to climate change in a number of ways.

The Tidy Towns - Sustainable Communities Awards recognise the many different ways that regional communities have taken action to protect and enhance their environment.

In addition to the Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities, Sustainable Cities, and Clean Beaches Awards Programs, KABV offers a range of other programs:

**Stationeers** encourages groups to improve the appearance and surrounds of their local railway station, giving them a sense of pride in what is often the gateway into their community.

**Adopt a Roadside** gives groups the opportunity to help restore and maintain sections of their local arterial road network, protecting environments and increasing community pride and ownership.

**Clean Site** aims to reduce environmental impacts from building sites by working with builders and tradesmen to reduce waste, keep waterways clean and recycle materials.

**Membership**

To become a member of KABV or for more information about these programs, please contact us on (03) 8626 8700 or visit www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/kabv

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**National Honours for Beechworth and Victorian City and Beach Winners**

Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria would like to congratulate Beechworth for winning the 2010 Australian Tidy Town of the Year Award. This is just the second time a Victorian Town has won these awards since they began 20 years ago.

KABV would also like to congratulate Melton Shire Council for being named 2010 Victorian Sustainable City of the Year, and Bells Beach for winning the 2010 Victorian Clean Beach of the Year.

To find out more visit us at www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/kabv
The Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Awards recognise and celebrate everyday actions taken by Victorian communities to improve, maintain and sustain their local environments.

The combined reach of the Awards is vast, and over 270 initiatives are entered each year from a broad range of regional, metropolitan and coastal communities.

Membership and entries from right across Victoria continue to grow as councils realise the benefits of using KABV's programs to increase community participation, highlight the work of local groups, and improve media coverage for their town.
## Finalists

### 2010 Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Finalists</th>
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</table>
| **Community Action ≤ 3000**     | 1. Koo Wee Rup Community Health  
2. Wattle Street Beautification – Manangatang Improvement Group  
3. Murrayville – Murrayville Community Inc.  
4. Poowong – Poowong Community Consultative Committee Inc.  
5. Back to School – Rainbow School Reunion Committee  
6. Rutherglen – Rotary Club of Rutherglen  
7. Violet Town Quilt Airing – Violet Town Action Group  
8. Wycheproof Vision |
| Community Action > 3000         | 1. Golden Horseshoe Festival – Beechworth Tidy Towns Committee  
2. Halloween Evening – Coal Creek Community Park and Museum  
3. Wimmera Rock – Horsham Tidy Towns Committee  
4. Mornington Community Garden  
5. SLIM – Sustainable Living in the Mallee – Swan Hill Rural City Council  
6. Western Port Festival – Western Port Chamber of Commerce and Industry |
| Cultural Heritage               | 1. The Beechworth Cemetery – Beechworth Tidy Towns Committee  
2. South Gippsland Historical Network Inc. – Coal Creek Community Park and Museum  
3. Rumbalara Aboriginal Facility – Kiwanis Club of Mooroopna  
4. The Museum Flies Again – Lake Boga Tidy Towns Committee  
5. Heywood Cultural Heritage – Promoting Heywood Heritage and District Committee Inc.  
6. St Stephens Church - Rotary Club of Rutherglen  
7. “Giving our Past a Future” – St Arnaud Community Action Group  
| Pam Keating                    | 1. Beechworth Honey – Beechworth Tidy Towns Committee  
2. “Love the Planet, Love the Park” – Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management Inc.  
3. Mildura finds and Afterlife for Polystyrene Foam – Mildura Regional Waste Management Group  
4. The Climate Change Conversation – Mornington Peninsula Shire Council  
5. Sustainability Festival Living for the Future – South Gippsland Shire Council  
7. Sustain the Book – Warrnambool City Council |
| Environmental Innovation       | 1. New Ways to Recycle Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) or ‘Problem Plastic tops the Pops’ – Barwon Regional Waste Management Group  
3. Beechworth Lions Club – Beechworth Tidy Towns Committee  
5. Lane Builders Contractors – Horsham Tidy Towns Committee  
6. Koo Wee Rup Community Health |
| Towards Zero Waste             | 1. Wimmera Threatened Flora Project – Horsham Tidy Towns Committee  
2. Gemmill’s Wetland – Kiwanis Club of Mooroopna  
3. Boxthorn Free – The Way to Be – Lake Boga Tidy Towns Committee  
4. The Skink Link – Friends of Chinaman’s Creek – Rosebud West Community Renewal  
5. Racecourse Reserve – Rotary Club of Rutherglen  
6. Caring for our Environment through Community Council Revegetation Projects – Swan Hill Rural City Council  
7. Possum Bridge over the Hume Highway – Violet Town Action Group |
| Protection of the Environment  | 1.  
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## Community Government Partnerships

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<td>1. Young Ambassadors – Coal Creek Community Park and Museum</td>
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<td>2. Horsham North Action Centre – Horsham Tidy Towns Committee</td>
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<td>3. Lake Boga Environment Change – Lake Boga Tidy Towns Committee</td>
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<td>4. Heywood Community Government Partnerships – Promoting Heywood and District Committee Inc</td>
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<td>5. Rainbow Airstrip Development – Rainbow Timber, Water and Plantation Reserve Committee</td>
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<td>6. Rail Trail – Rotary Club of Rutherglen</td>
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<td>7. Swans and Region Community Planning Process – Swan Hill Rural City Council</td>
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<td>8. Violet Town Bush Nursing Centre – Violet Town Action Group</td>
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## Water Conservation

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<td>1. Baw Baw Shire Council Kindergarten – Baw Baw Shire Council</td>
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<td>2. Stanley Spring Ditch Dam – Beechworth Tidy Towns Committee</td>
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<td>4. Horsham House – Horsham Tidy Towns Committee</td>
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<td>6. St Mary’s Catholic School – Rotary Club of Rutherglen</td>
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<td>7. St Arnaud Water Wise Project – St Arnaud Community Action Group</td>
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## Efficient Energy

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<td>1. Beechworth Montessori School Sustainable House Tour – Beechworth Tidy Towns Committee</td>
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<td>2. The Rosebud West Retrofit Taskforce – Rosebud West Community Renewal</td>
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<td>3. St Mary’s Catholic School – Rotary Club of Rutherglen</td>
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<td>4. Seymour Youth &amp; Fitness ‘GREEN’ Club Initiative – Seymour Youth and Fitness Club</td>
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<td>5. VT Retrofit Buildings – Violet Town Action Group</td>
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<td>6. Western Port Secondary College – Western Port Chamber of Commerce and Industry</td>
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## Young Legends

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<td>1. Indigo Shire Junior Council – Beechworth Representatives – Beechworth Tidy Towns Committee</td>
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<td>2. Lake Boga Primary School – Lake Boga Tidy Towns Committee</td>
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<td>3. Rutherglen High School – Rotary Club of Rutherglen</td>
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<td>4. Easy Environmentally Aware Sustainable Youth – Swan Hill Rural City Council</td>
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<td>5. Tyabb Primary School</td>
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## Active Schools

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<td>1. Babiruoroo Community Wetlands &amp; Bimblemeer – Balnarring Primary School</td>
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<td>2. Beechworth Kindergarten and Community Child Care Centre – Beechworth Tidy Towns Committee</td>
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<td>3. Lake Boga Primary School – Lake Boga Tidy Towns Committee</td>
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<td>4. Mildura West Sustainability Out and About – Mildura West Primary School</td>
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<td>5. Murrayville P-12 Community College – Murrayville Community Inc.</td>
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<td>6. St Mary’s Catholic School – Rotary Club of Rutherglen</td>
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<td>7. Rutherglen High School – Rotary Club of Rutherglen</td>
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<td>8. Swan Hill Specialist School Community Farm Garden – Swan Hill Rural City Council</td>
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## Tidy Town of the Year

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<td>4. Lake Boga</td>
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<td>5. Rosebud West</td>
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<td>7. Violet Town</td>
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<td>8. Wahgunyah</td>
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Koo Wee Rup Community Health

Koo Wee Rup Community Health has worked to create a space that is accessible to all community members. Not only is it a hospital, nursing home, respite centre and hostel, the facility also runs a Men’s Shed program which provides a wide range of activities and information. Some of the activities include a community garden, a collection centre for recyclable items and a full range of programs and classes including community cooking for the disabled, parenting courses, health information nights and walking groups.

Wattle Street Beautification
Manangatang Improvement Group

Following 10 years of drought and agricultural downturn, The Manangatang Improvement Group decided to improve both the natural and built environment of their district. With the assistance of several other local community groups they have transformed a waste area into a Mallee garden, developed a Travellers’ Rest area with toilets, a shower block and shelter for overnight travellers, and rejuvenated a run down children’s playground by installing new play equipment, garden beds and shade sails.

Murrayville
Murrayville Community Inc.

With a population of only 250, Murrayville has completed a large number of projects to make their town neater and more attractive. Through workshops led by the Murrayville Centenary Committee, the town has developed a Community Plan. Projects undertaken have included upgrading the caravan park amenities, landscaping the main street, creating a museum, improvements to the cemetery, and interpretive signage at many historical sites. The town showcased their work during their Easter centenary celebration this year, which was attended by over 1,700 people.

Poowong
Poowong Community Consultative Committee Inc.

This Gippsland town has completed various projects to improve their local community. The Poowong Community Consultative Committee has produced a 48 page diary and directory. Numerous community clubs and businesses supported the document’s production, and the profits were used for community initiatives. Funding was gained to place a fibreglass Picasso Cow in the main street, celebrating Poowong’s hosting of the South Gippsland Dairy Exhibition. Finally the local tennis and netball clubrooms have been upgraded, giving players safer access, a more hygienic kitchen, and designated change rooms for the netballers.
Back to School
Rainbow School Reunion Committee

At Easter 2009 the Rainbow community held a three-day celebration of ‘90 Years of Secondary Education’. Two and a half years in the making, the event involved the Rainbow Secondary College Council, Hindmarsh Shire and numerous community organisations and groups. 1,500 people, including past and current staff and students, attended the celebration.

Rutherglen
Rotary Club of Rutherglen

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of discovering gold in Rutherglen, the local historical society, Rotary Club, Lions Club, RSL, Wine Makers of Rutherglen and local schools have come together to coordinate activities and events. Launched in March 2010, Rutherglen Apex have worked to tie the anniversary celebrations into initiatives such as the Rutherglen Wine Makers Celebration, historical research projects conducted by local schools, and “shop local” competitions.

Violet Town Quilt Airing
Violet Town Action Group

In March 2010 the community of Violet Town held their inaugural Quilt Airing Day. Coordinated over an 18 month period by a sub-committee of the Violet Town Action Group and supported by community groups, volunteers and businesses, the day was a huge success. More than 350 quilts were entered into the competition. The day also saw trade in the town increase, increasing numbers at the town’s community market day and helping community groups to raise much needed funds.

Wycheproof Vision

In response to more than 13 years of drought, the community of Wycheproof have banded together for to introduce numerous events, initiatives and activities to increase community pride and participation. Led by local town forum group Wycheproof Vision, and with the support of hundreds of volunteers across several community groups and organisations, Wycheproof have instigated initiatives such as the local Men’s Shed, the Wycheproof Great Grain Festival, the Wycheproof $1 Rent a Farmhouse project, child care services and civic improvements to a number of facilities.
Golden Horseshoe Festival
Beechworth Tidy Towns Committee

Each year the town of Beechworth holds the four-day Golden Horseshoe Festival to celebrate local history, culture and music. Based on the legend of a local riding a horse with golden shoes through the town back in 1855, the festival is coordinated by more than 50 volunteers from a range of community groups. Up to 30,000 visitors enjoy entertainment, a smorgasbord of food and market stalls, a range of children's activities, street theatre, and a Grand Parade.

Halloween Evening
Coal Creek Community Park and Museum

For the past three years more than 70 volunteers from the Coal Creek Community have coordinated an annual Halloween Evening. The innovative evening has generated community interest and allows children and their families to enjoy various exhibits and buildings and participate in a range of activities. Funds from the food sold during the evening are donated towards initiatives in the town, and any leftovers are given to the nearby Milpara Nursing Home for residents to enjoy.

Wimmera Rock
Horsham Tidy Towns Committee

In November 2009, the town of Horsham held a '50 Years of Rock' event in conjunction with the 30th Kanamaroo Festival. The event, which was coordinated and supported by 11 community groups, was designed to attract bands that had performed over the last 50 years. Following 20 months of planning, the event featured 45 local and regional bands playing gigs over three days. The free of charge family-friendly event attracted thousands of people, creating a positive economic and social impact on the community.

Mornington Community Garden

The Mornington Community Garden was established nearly 10 years ago. With more than 80 members and wide community participation, the garden gives members an area to grow their own organic fruit, vegetables and herbs. Free workshops are run on activities such as composting, seed-saving and soap making. One of the unique features of the garden is its mini-wetland, which has attracted birds and frogs to the garden.
SLIM – Sustainable Living in the Mallee
Swan Hill Rural City Council

Concerned with making Swan Hill a more sustainable community, residents of the town banded together in 2009 to form Sustainable Living In the Mallee (SLIM). Supported and facilitated by Swan Hill Rural City Council, SLIM has 90 members and has held a number of meetings to gather information and educate members. They have also presented workshops on a variety of sustainability-themed topics. The group has successfully raised awareness within the community of the importance of sustainable living, developing a website to help share their knowledge.

Western Port Festival
Western Port Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Western Port Festival is an annual two-day community event that attracts approximately 25,000 people. Entirely organised by volunteers in the Western Port Festival Committee, the event aims to provide a safe, affordable, family friendly environment and increase community participation. Featuring an annual parade, twilight market, power boat race, car show, art and artisans’ show, teddy bears’ picnic and numerous community group displays, the festival attracts large visitor numbers and caters for all ages and interests.
The Beechworth Cemetery
Beechworth Tidy Towns Committee

In October 2009 the Beechworth Cemetery was included in the Victorian Heritage Register. One of the best examples of a mid-nineteenth century goldfields cemetery and the resting place for many famous citizens, it was opened in 1856 and is maintained by the Beechworth Cemetery Trust. The group of 10 volunteers and 2 staff are responsible for passing on its history through printed brochures and tours, and also maintain the 100 plus exotic and native plant species on the site. The group is in the process of identifying and mapping more than 2,000 footstones in its Chinese section.

South Gippsland Historical Network Inc.
Coal Creek Community Park and Museum

Initially established in 2003, the South Gippsland Historical Network was reinstated in 2006 after a small break. The network meets quarterly to consider proposals for activities from the community and also provides a ‘corporate memory’ for the region. The group is in the process of seeking accreditation as a museum to gain access to further funding and training, especially for cataloguing.

Rumbalara Aboriginal Facility
Kiwanis Club of Mooroopna

The Rumbalara Aboriginal Facility provides a range of services and spaces to Indigenous Australians living in the local area. The initiative is an exemplar health service that delivers benefits to both the Indigenous population and the broader community. Through government and community funding the facility delivers advice, diagnoses, treatment, and outreach services, and employs over 120 staff. The centre’s operations continuing to develop and environmental and cultural sensitivity is a key feature in their ongoing work.

The Museum Flys Again
Lake Boga Tidy Towns Committee

As a base for a flying boat squadron during the war, Lake Boga had an old Catalina Flying Boat on display beside its lake. Following 20 years out in the open, the aeroplane had deteriorated significantly, prompting the local Tidy Towns Committee to apply for funding to restore it. The newly opened Lake Boga Flying Boat Museum now displays the restored aeroplane along with associated memorabilia. It also features a cafe, kitchenette, office space and meeting rooms for use by local community groups and tourists.
Heywood Cultural Heritage
Promoting Heywood Heritage and District Committee Inc.

To preserve its timber industry history, the Promoting Heywood Heritage and District Committee have created the Timber Wagon Shed and Museum. Exhibiting an impressive display of old timber wagons, jinkers, wood working equipment and photographic displays, the museum also collects videos featuring historical footage and documents from many of those who worked the land during the town’s early days. The establishment of the museum has ensured that local pioneers are suitably honoured and remembered.

St Stephens Church
Rotary Club of Rutherglen

St Stephens Church in Rutherglen conducted its first service in 1865. One hundred and forty four years later the ceiling had started to deteriorate. Investigations showed that the roof was in danger of imminent collapse. The Rotary Club of Rutherglen worked quickly with the local community to raise enough money to restore the roof. Fundraising events included garden parties, street stalls, dinners at Chamber Rosewood Winery, country fetes, and the sale of timber cross beams from the old church roof. The church has now been restored to its former glory.

‘Giving our Past a Future’
St Arnaud Community Action Group

Focussed on restoring and highlighting the St Arnaud Heritage Precinct, the St Arnaud Community Action Group and Queen Mary Gardens Committee, with the support of other community groups, have transformed these beautiful old buildings into a local asset. The Post Office has become a Bed and Breakfast, the Crown Lands Office has been restored and is now the Tourist Information Centre, the Kara Kara Shire Hall is now a wine outlet and restaurant which can also be used as a community space, and the original Fire Brigade building has become the Historic Society’s Museum.

Yallourn North & District Historical Society
Yallourn North Action Group

The Yallourn North & District Historical Society has been working for a number of years to preserve the history of power generation in the Yallourn North District. Recent projects include refurbishment of a former dredger cabin, the centre of operations for the excavation of coal, and displaying old mining documents and items to the public. Documents include information relating to the relocation of the original Yallourn township to make way for further coal mining.
Beechworth Honey
Beechworth Tidy Towns Committee

Beechworth Honey are doing their part to preserve the Australian honeybee population by educating the public around the importance of bees, and all the items they help create. The director of Beechworth Honey has created a book, organised beekeepers meetings, spoken at business forums and discussed bees with politicians. In August 2009 Beechworth Honey was one of several groups that used their honeybee population to help rescue a 28,000ha almond tree plantation in Robinvale. The bees were used to pollinate the trees, which only flower for 10 days and were under threat of being wiped out due to the lack of bees in the area.

‘Love the Planet, Love the Park’
Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management Inc.

The inaugural ‘Love the Planet, Love the Park’ Sustainability Festival was the brainchild of the Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management’s Green Team. Held in January 2010, the event targeted locals and caravanning and camping tourists. The festival successfully promoted water, energy and waste reduction as well as coastal conservation. With the help numerous government and community-based organisations and groups, it reached approximately 10,000 people.

Mildura Finds An Afterlife for Polystyrene Foam
Mildura Regional Waste Management Group

Expanded Polystyrene (EPS-code 6) is an extremely lightweight, rigid plastic used in packing whitegoods such as televisions and refrigerators. It takes up valuable space in landfill and causes havoc with recycling machines. The Mildura Regional Waste Management Group and local plastic manufacturer, Ausplaztik, are tackling the issue with an agglomerator machine. The machine shreds and flakes EPS into a material that is used to build infrastructure such as playgrounds and park benches. Since implementing the machine in June 2008, 219 tonnes of EPS and 657 tonnes of hard plastic have been diverted from landfill.

The Climate Change Conversation
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council

This Shire’s ‘Climate Change Conversation’ has been a wide ranging initiative, educating the community about climate change threats, while engaging them in projects that help to address any barriers to change. Approximately 3,000 residents attended Climate Change Conversations presentations and 1,400 residents now receive a regular newsletter. Group purchasing schemes have seen 300 homes fitted with solar UV systems and more than 100 businesses have participated in Green Business Network workshops. An Eco Living Centre in the Shire shows how existing homes can be retrofitted to reduce energy, waste and water use.
Sustainability Festival Living for the Future
South Gippsland Shire Council

The South Gippsland Shire held its first ‘Living for the Future’ Sustainability Festival in March 2010. Featuring 53 exhibitors and 14 specialist speakers, the festival was attended by 850 people and showcased local people’s knowledge and skills. The festival included a children’s program, practical demonstrations, information stalls and displays. There is now a Sustainability Newsletter being produced for the region’s schools. The festival provided a stimulus for real participation and action on sustainability in the Gippsland area.

The Green Living Fair
Wahgunyah Progress Association Inc.

The Green Living Fair was held for the first time in 2009. Hosted by Valhalla Wines, the initiative demonstrated how easy it is to live sustainably by making changes that not only save money and improve health, but benefit the environment. An example of this philosophy is the winery itself. Constructed out of straw bales, it runs off green power and features worm composting toilets and recycled waste water reticulation. The fair involved 28 local and government businesses, organisations and groups and achieved good attendance from across the region.

Sustain the Bool
Warrnambool City Council

Warrnambool City Council has launched a two-year ‘Sustain the Bool’ program aiming to increase awareness and action on environmental sustainability. The program delivers easy access to information, hands on activities and gives funding to community led activities. Smart Living Workshops have targeted energy reduction, sustainable gardening, winter warming, sustainable transport, water usage and waste reduction. The program is promoted via ‘Captain Sustain the Bool’, an environmental super hero who is featured in a weekly local newspaper column and radio sessions.
Recommend A Friend!

With your help, KABV continues to recognise the work of every town, every city, every beach, every day. We want to continue to recognise our communities in the years to come.

Entry into the awards has many benefits including:

- increased community participation and ownership in local environments
- increased local tourism and media coverage
- the opportunity to represent Victoria at the national Keep Australia Beautiful Awards
- access to the broad networks of Sustainability Victoria.

But most importantly it’s a chance to recognise the hard work that is happening in your communities every day.

Do you know of an organisation or individual that deserves recognition for their environmental work? Tell us about it!

Send us their contact details and we’ll get in touch to find out if they would like to find out more about KABV

Email contact details to kabv@sustainability.vic.gov.au
In 2010, $6 million of State Government funding was announced to implement the Creating Cleaner, Safer Places Victorian Litter Strategy. The funding support projects that make it easier for people to do the right thing with litter, and incorporate the critical elements of litter behaviour change programs including education, infrastructure and enforcement.

Roadside Litter Grants
- Grants of up to $50,000 excluding GST per project are available.

Public Place Recycling Grants
- Funding of up to $25,000 excluding GST is available per site.

Victorian local governments, waste management groups, community organisations and government agencies with community infrastructure and planning responsibilities are all eligible to apply.

Applications close Monday 22 November 2010 at 2.00 pm

For more information please visit www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/littergrants

Climate Communities Grants Program

The Climate Communities Grants Program is a Victorian Government initiative designed to promote and support local actions to tackle climate change. It provides local groups across Victoria with information, advice and grants of up to $50,000 each to take practical action on climate change in their own communities.

The first 19 projects to receive Climate Communities funding were announced last month. These projects cover a range of community based activities including the promotion of a bike path, energy efficiency workshops, community gardening groups and sustainable leadership programs. Projects were chosen based on their potential to build community resilience, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and trial new ideas to help tackle climate change.

For more information on successful projects and the grants program contact your local Climate Communities Facilitator, call 1300 363 744 or visit www.climatecommunities.vic.gov.au/grants

Together we can take action.
New Ways to Recycle Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) or ‘Problem Plastic tops the Pops’
Barwon Regional Waste Management Group

To combat Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), a lightweight, flaky and bulky plastic used to pack around whitegoods that causes havoc at recycling plants, the Barwon Regional Waste Management Group identified a way to collect EPS from businesses. Teaming with GDP Industries they bought a new processing machine, developed an EPS recycling facility, and organised a pick up and drop off collection service. The processed EPS is being sold to Newtown Concrete, where the EPS is mixed with concrete to create lightweight concrete pavers.

Baw Baw Shire E-Waste Collection
Baw Baw Shire Council

Baw Baw Shire Council has established an E-Waste Collection Service to prevent electronic waste from entering local landfills. This initiative was a priority due to the limited capacity of current landfill sites and the harmful toxins from e-waste that can leach into the soil. By working with landfills and the Gippsland Regional Waste Management Group, the service has diverted approximately 50 tonnes of e-waste from landfill in the last nine months.

Beechworth Lions Club
Beechworth Tidy Towns Committee

For the past three years the Beechworth Lions Club has been collecting used reading glasses via their ‘Lions Recycle for Sight Campaign’. Since beginning the initiative, the club has collected nearly 16 kilograms of used glasses that have been repaired, graded and sent to bushfire and flood victims throughout Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. Collection bins are located in a local pharmacy for people to drop off their unwanted glasses.

Zero Waste in Wandong – Heathcote Junction
Wandong – Heathcote Junction Community Group Inc.

The Wandong – Heathcote Junction Community Group, with the support of Mitchell Shire and local community members, have conducted numerous activities to keep their township and surrounding areas free of waste. The activities include monthly ‘adopt a road’ duties, rubbish control at the Wandong Music Festival, regularly removing litter from the Wandong and Heathcote Junction Railway Station, collecting cans, postage stamps and bottle tops for recycling, and participating in Clean Up Australia campaigns. They have also created a community grant to pay teenagers assisting in clean ups and graffiti removal around the town.
Lane Builders Contractors
Horsham Tidy Towns Committee

Lane Building Contractors are the first builders in the Wimmera to be accredited Master Builders Association Green Living Builders. The company have undertaken several sustainable innovations on their sites, including sending brick and concrete waste to a local farmer for crushing and re-use, making timber scraps available to locals, recycling all metal materials and providing bins on site for tradesmen to use. This has led to an annual reduction of 5.5 cubic metres of bricks, 1.35 tonnes of tin and metal scrap, 14.3 cubic metres of plastic and 20.5 cubic metres of cardboard.

Koo Wee Rup Community Health

Koo Wee Rup Community Health is a large facility made up of a hospital, nursing home, respite centre, and hostel. In recent times the facility has introduced a number of waste and recycling collection initiatives, including becoming a community collection point for batteries, phones, corks and plastics. The facility even uses old toilets and sinks as flowerpots for herbs and other plants in the garden. To further reduce waste, 100 per cent biodegradable incontinence pads are being introduced for the residents.
**Wimmera Threatened Flora Project**  
**Horsham Tidy Towns Committee**

Within the Wimmera region there are numerous remnant vegetation populations. Many of these plants are the last remaining specimens of their species and need to be located, protected and nurtured. To ensure the plants survive, Department of Sustainability and Environment scientists are working with the community to undertake the Wimmera Threatened Flora Project. Once located, the plants are monitored and threats such as rabbits, weeds, human disturbance and ecological function breakdown are managed. The project is currently working on over 30 nationally rare or threatened species and has successfully reintroduced several species to the region.

**Gemmill’s Wetland**  
**Kiwanis Club of Mooroopna**

The Kiwanis Club of Mooroopna has worked hard to reinstate Gemmill’s Wetland. The club are transforming the neglected riverbank and wetland from an eyesore and trash zone into a beautiful community space. Local flora and fauna are already coming back into the area, and the area will reduce water use, decrease rubbish, offer havens for wildlife, and community recreational spaces. The area links to other parts of the Mooroopna parkland system and walking trails.

**Boxthorn Free – The Way To Be**  
**Lake Boga Tidy Towns Committee**

The drying out of Lake Boga and its surroundings during the recent drought has provided ideal conditions for certain weeds to grow, including damaging Tamarisk and Boxthorn. Through the work of Swan Hill Rural City Council, the Department of Sustainability and Environment, and several local groups, Lake Boga Recreational Reserve, Lake Boga Golf Club, Lake Daisy Patch Reserve and Turtle Lagoon are now all weed free. The areas have been replanted with native species and are thriving.

**The Skink Link – Friends of Chinaman’s Creek**  
**Rosebud West Community Renewal**

The Friends of Chinaman’s Creek have been committed to protecting and enhancing the flora and fauna of Chinaman's Creek, including the rare Swamp Skink Eugenia Coventry, for a number of years. The group has transformed the area into a thriving habitat for the rare skink, whose numbers have trebled in the last eight years. The group also monitor the creek’s water levels, water quality and fauna, helping to identify and manage pollutants and assessing the success of regeneration projects.
Racecourse Reserve
Rotary Club of Rutherglen

The Rutherglen Gun Club took over the management of Racecourse Reserve after many years of neglect. The gun club worked with the Department of Sustainability and Environment to rehabilitate one of the largest intact examples of grassy woodlands in north-east Victoria. While installing a shooting range, they have reinstated indigenous plants and birds on an adjoining portion of crown land. A guided walk through the reserve was held in October 2009 to celebrate the introduction of new native plants and the removal of several vermin from the area.

Caring for our Environment through Community and Council Revegetation Projects
Swan Hill Rural City Council

Swan Hill Rural City Council, with the support of local community groups, focussed on two significant projects to enhance and protect their local environment. The Milloo Street Wetlands have been restored to a healthy environmental condition, which involved removing noxious weeds, foreign flora and rubbish. The area has been landscaped into ponds fed by swales, which help to clean and aerate the water, and over 90,000 native plants have been introduced. Three public parks have also been restored, including weeding and planting programs. The area is now popular for recreation activities.

Possum Bridge over the Hume Highway
Violet Town Action Group

A specially designed bridge for native animals has been constructed and suspended across the Hume Freeway at Violet Town. The rope bridge is a narrow net stretching 70 metres across the freeway and already more than 50 ringtail possums have been recorded crossing it. With habitat fragmentation being one of the major threats to the conservation of biodiversity, the bridge is designed to protect native fauna from the dangers of the road below, helping them to move around their habitat freely and safely.
Young Ambassadors
Coal Creek Community Park and Museum

The Coal Creek Community Park and Museum has been encouraging teams of young people from local schools to research the history of the various types of buildings on the Coal Creek site. The research is being used to make DVDs that include interviews with locals with links to the buildings and businesses. The DVDs have created an engaging permanent record of Coal Creek’s history, retaining knowledge in the community.

Horsham North Action Centre
Horsham Tidy Towns Committee

The Horsham North Community Action Centre, run by a community development officer, was established to deal with social problems existing in the area’s public housing. As part of the centre’s Community Action Plan a beautification program has been established, involving the community in 65 backyard “makeovers”. The work was done by long term unemployed in the area, resulting in increased morale and community pride for all those involved.

Lake Boga Environment Change
Lake Boga Tidy Towns Committee

With the prolonged drought having a severe impact on Lake Boga, the Department of Planning and Community Development chose the township to conduct research on the effects of the drought on the community. A broad range of people were interviewed including representatives from different age groups, retired residents, workers, and those living beside the lake, in the township or on rural properties. The findings were compiled into ‘The Drying Lake’ report, which will be used in future planning and responses to townships hit with a crisis.

Heywood Community Government Partnerships
Promoting Heywood and District Committee Inc.

Heywood is a very small town that has developed effective partnerships with all levels of government to ensure its continued growth. Through the ‘Promoting Heywood and District Committee’ the town is working to improve local health services and establish a community bank, recreational areas, an historic precinct and a plan for the town’s future. Successful grant applications have seen the development of a Youth Skate Park, BMX Track, playground equipment and the Fitzroy River as a recreation area.
Rainbow Airstrip Development
Rainbow Timber, Water and Plantation Reserve Committee

The Rainbow Towns Committee has been working closely with several government organisations and local community groups to develop a parcel of public land for mixed use. The land has been made available as an airstrip for the Air Ambulance and for recreational planes, and the Department of Sustainability and Environment uses it for fire fighting in the nearby national parks of Big Desert and Wyperfeld. An aviation enthusiast is now looking to lease an area of the land to build a hangar, which will be available to other airstrip users.

Rail Trail
Rotary Club of Rutherglen

The rail trail between Rutherglen and Wahgunyah opened in November 2009 and is proving to be a great asset to the local community. Forming the Murray component of the Murray to Mountain Rail Trail, the project has been funded by all levels of government and involves the shires of Alpine, Indigo and Greater City Wangaratta. The off-road track is being utilised by local walkers and cyclists, with many cycling groups travelling regularly from Melbourne and Canberra to use the trail.

Swans and Region Community Planning Process
Swan Hill Rural City Council

The City of Swan Hill Community Plan was developed through a collaborative process between the council and the town. A community planning process was instigated by the council to generate broad community discussion and input into ‘What Makes a City Perfect’. Information was gathered from the community via planning workshops, surveys, residential barbecues, street talks and public meetings. With over 360 community members involved, the final plan is made up of 10 key areas, including water saving initiatives, exploring opportunities for renewable energy and strengthening partnerships within the community. The plan is now in the implementation phase.

Violet Town Bush Nursing Centre
Violet Town Action Group

The Violet Town Bush Nursing Centre has undergone significant growth over the past seven years. Following the expansion of the Nursing Home in 2003, a Community Outreach Health Service was established which now includes a Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist, Counsellor, Rural Outreach Worker, Social Worker and Community Nurse. A Medical Clinic also opened in November 2009, offering the town its first full time doctor service. These services have increased community security, with the knowledge that health services are available whenever they are needed.
Baw Baw Shire Council Kindergarten
Baw Baw Shire Council

12 kindergartens within Baw Baw Shire are participating in the ‘Kids Saving Water for Our Future’ program. The program aims to reduce mains water consumption at kindergartens, promoting educational programs for kinder children. Involving several Committee of Managements, parents and children, the program has seen rainwater tanks installed at all 12 kindergartens. Tank water is used for toilet flushing and garden watering, and participants have decreased potable water consumption by 520 kilolitres, or 34 per cent per annum.

Stanley Spring Ditch Dam
Beechworth Tidy Towns Committee

The Stanley Spring Ditch Dam is an initiative of the Stanley Spring Ditch and Wetlands Committee of Management. The committee created the dam by regenerating weed-infested land, establishing a wetlands area in the centre of Stanley. The dam is a dedicated water storage area for fire fighting purposes and was used to fight the devastating fires of Black Saturday. It has also been embraced by locals for swimming, kayaking and yabbying, and the tracks are used by walkers, horse riders and visitors to Stanley.

Water Wise Holiday Parks
Bellarine Bayside Foreshores Committee of Management Inc.

The Bellarine Bayside Foreshores Committee of Management has undertaken a range of water saving initiatives across its holiday park infrastructure as part of its Water, Energy and Waste Reduction Action Plan. Over the past three years initiatives have included installing AAA showerheads, dual flush toilets, battery powered digital timers and low-flow tap fittings in amenity blocks. Three rainwater tanks have also been installed, and old water piping continues to be upgraded. These initiatives have produced a 15 per cent reduction (5,800 kilolitres) in total water consumption for the 2008/09 financial year.

Horsham House
Horsham Tidy Towns Committee

Horsham House is an impressive Federation home set in English cottage gardens. Like most homes built in the Federation era, the guest house was inefficient in water and energy use. Modifications have been made to improve the home, including fitting temperature sensitive valves to sinks and showers, replacing the old hot water system with an energy efficient heat pump and using non toxic, environmentally safe cleaning chemicals so that grey water can be collected for the garden. The measures saw water consumption drop by 67 per cent in 2008.
Water Harvesting
Jeparit / Rainbow Football Club

Rainbow is a small rural community with an annual rainfall of 300mm. Currently on stage 5 water restrictions, the town needed to find new water sources to green their public areas. The result has been the development of several large ponds connected by underground pipes. Water is transferred from each pond by a mobile wind and solar pump. The harvested water in the ponds is used to green several public areas including the football ground, town gardens and cemetery lawns.

St Mary’s Catholic School
Rotary Club of Rutherglen

St Mary’s Catholic School values the environment and aims to teach students how to care for the earth for current and future generations. The school has undertaken a number of water conservation initiatives, including installing water tanks and waterless urinals, planting drought tolerant gardens, fitting flow restrictors to taps, and collecting waste water for use in the garden.

St Arnaud Water Wise Project
St Arnaud Community Action Group

St Arnaud has struggled to maintain its gardens and sporting facilities due to drought conditions. To alleviate the situation the town has undertaken several measures to make the community virtually drought-proof. The measures involved repairing and reinstating an old water storage system used during the gold rush era, diverting storm water, using an old swimming pool for storage and using recycled water from the local treatment plant. All facilities are connected with pipes and pumps, providing water to public facilities including the Queen Mary Botanic Gardens, the Lord Nelson sporting complex and the lawn tennis courts, which are now in prime condition all year round.
Beechworth Montessori School Sustainable House Tour
Beechworth Tidy Town Committee

The Beechworth Montessori School Sustainable House Tour was developed in 2008 to give locals the opportunity to learn about sustainable house design. Tours are conducted through sustainable homes in the community that feature passive solar design principles and sustainable construction materials and techniques. The tours also give people a chance to talk to owners and builders of the homes.

The Rosebud West Retrofit Taskforce
Rosebud West Community Renewal

The homes of 148 low income householders are now warmer and more energy efficient thanks to the Rosebud West Retrofit Taskforce. The Taskforce has successfully installed low-flow showerheads, insulation, energy efficient lighting, window coverings and compost bins in the homes. With the help of the team, many households also had dual flush toilets installed by SE Water and fire safety audits conducted by the CFA. The taskforce has also provided householders with the knowledge and skills to reduce their waste and energy use. The initiative provided full time employment for a period of 12 months to three people.

St Mary’s Catholic School
Rotary Club of Rutherglen

St Mary’s commitment to saving the planet and improving the environment has resulted in the school setting some impressive objectives. Some of the major achievements to date include installing solar panels and a new hot water system, planting a drought resistant garden, maintaining a worm farm and implementing engineered approaches to water and energy savings. Future plans include indigenous planting schemes and storing rainwater for school use.

Seymour Youth and Fitness ‘GREEN’ Club Initiative
Seymour Youth and Fitness Club

This volunteer-run facility provides an excellent service for a range of young, old, disadvantaged or disabled people in a healthy and caring environment. Several water and energy saving measures have been installed in the club, including solar panels, water tanks, roof insulation and window tinting. These measures will reduce running costs, freeing up funds for the purchase of higher-quality equipment.
VT Retrofit Buildings
Violet Town Action Group

The installation of 4kwh of solar panels, redesigning a roof, tinting windows, and constructing an edible garden are just some of the inexpensive improvements that the community of Violet Town have undertaken to improve the comfort and efficiency of their Community Complex and Early Childhood Centre. An impressive array of energy and water saving devices have also been installed, including timers on the heating system, solar hot water and ‘helicopter’ fans.

Western Port Secondary College
Western Port Chamber of Commerce and Industry

With a strong track record of achievements in energy efficient actions, Western Port Secondary College is continuously investigating new opportunities to reduce their greenhouse emissions. Results to date have seen electricity consumption down by 31 per cent and gas consumption reduced by 63 per cent. Students actively track progress on energy use via a Schools Environment Tracking System (SETS) device. The college has developed strong partnerships with the local community, the Mornington Peninsula Shire, Warringine Park, and CERES, and have taken on a leadership role on environmental initiatives with other schools.
Indigo Shire Junior Council - Beechworth Representatives  
Beechworth Tidy Towns Committee

This great initiative allows local schools to propose their ideas directly to the Indigo Shire Council via the Junior Council representatives. Both Beechworth and Indigo Shire’s Junior Councillors have been active in fundraising ventures for their local communities as well as the children of Atauro Island and East Timor. The communities are kept abreast of issues affecting young people via news articles, school assemblies and community newsletters.

Lake Boga Primary School  
Lake Boga Tidy Towns Committee

Students from Lake Boga Primary are provided with training in leadership skills and are given ample opportunity to demonstrate what they have learnt. Students within the school have formed a Junior Landcare group, Red Cross and School Council, which is the voice for the student body. Four students attended the national 2009 Kids Congress, presenting a workshop to 250 students. A Federal Government grant for sporting equipment has enabled the development of a popular after school sports program. 72 of the 80 students at the school are active participants.

Rutherglen High School  
Rotary Club of Rutherglen

Several Year 9 students from Rutherglen High School take part in a leadership program, which has seen them working with the Rutherglen Gold 150 Committee to research and promote the history of gold in the area. The work also focuses on local Indigenous history and culture. The team also work with other Year 9 students to assist with fundraisers and other community projects throughout the year. It is a great opportunity for the young people to improve their leadership skills and work with different groups from the community.

EASY – Environmentally Aware Sustainable Youth  
Swan Hill Rural City Council

After attending a three day conference on Youth Leadership in Albury, this young group have initiated a number of activities, including an energy reduction challenge between Manangatang P-12 College, Swan Hill College and MacKillop College. The group came up with their catchy name EASY to relate better to young people, planning activities that could make a difference in their community. EASY has encouraged pupils to evaluate their own personal footprints and find ways to reduce their impact, and the Swan Hill Council consults with them on environmental issues.
Tyabb Primary School

The Green Team at Tyabb Primary School have been busy running ‘rubbish free lunches’ and ‘bin free grounds’ initiatives this year, along with undertaking energy, waste and water audits, caring for the gardens and school chooks, and creating a ‘SETS Team’, which actively tracks resource usage at the school. They have successfully secured community water grants and Landcare grants to assist them in their activities. The community has recognised the students by awarding the school three Mayoral Sustainable Schools Awards and a Ride2School leadership award.

Jack Smyth
Violet Town Action Group

One person can make a difference as Violet Town has found out with Jack Smyth. The local electrician with a young family was concerned about the type of environment his children were growing up in. After a lot of research Jack has become a ‘green’ electrician, travelling to communities to educate them on the benefits of solar. His business has grown from one staff member to six, and now focuses on installing solar and other energy-saving devices in homes based locally and interstate. Jack continues to be involved in a broad range of community projects while running a successful business.
Finalists

Active Schools

Bilbirooroo Community Wetlands & Bimblemeer
Bilnarring Primary School

Bilnarring Primary School's impressive suite of sustainability initiatives from 2006 - 2009 have resulted in a 23 per cent reduction of waste going to landfill, a 90 per cent reduction in water use, and a 10 per cent reduction in energy use. To add to this, the Bilbirooroo Community Wetlands and Bimblemeer Sustainability Areas Revegetation Program has had a positive impact on the area’s biodiversity, increasing indigenous plants and wildlife. The area has an extensive network of tracks, boardwalks, and interpretive signs, and is used as a hands-on education facility for the school and community.

Beechworth Kindergarten and Community Child Care Centre
Beechworth Tidy Towns Committee

The Beechworth Kindergarten and Community Child Care Centre has installed rain water tanks, shade sails and an edible garden, which is being used to teach children where food comes from. The community is kept informed about the initiatives through newsletters, the local newspaper and involved parents.

Lake Boga Primary School
Lake Boga Tidy Towns Committee

To achieve a closer link between the community and school, the Lake Boga Primary School applied for a Commonwealth Government Active After Schools Program (AASP) grant. The grant provided money for sporting equipment, which is used by the school and community. Children can choose from nine different physical activities and the popular program has enrolled 72 out of the school’s 80 students. Last year the program won the award for the best in the state, beating 800 other participants.

Mildura West Sustainability Out and About
Mildura West Primary School

At Mildura West Primary School there are many opportunities for hands on learning, giving students the opportunity to make a difference. To date students have reduced waste to landfill, saved and recycled water, used less energy and increased biodiversity in the school grounds and at local parks. A target has been set to reduce, waste, water, and energy use by 20 per cent annually and increase biodiversity by 10 per cent.

Murrayville P-12 Community College
Murrayville Community Inc.

Murrayville P-12 Community College, together with the community, has achieved a great deal for a town with a population of 250. To enhance their way of life a number of projects were undertaken to improve facilities, such as landscaping the main street, extensive renovations to the town hall to create a museum, improvements to the cemetery, interpretive signage, marking many historic sites and constructing a World War 1 Honour Board in the RSL rooms.
St Mary’s Catholic School
Rotary Club of Rutherglen

With a very impressive list of achievements, this school has been involved in a range of sustainability activities. Initiatives include indigenous plantings, and transferring storm water from downpipes to main storage tanks for garden use. Records of water and energy use are regularly monitored and maintained.

Rutherglen High School
Rotary Club of Rutherglen

An agricultural program at Rutherglen High School has been in place for a number of years with students actively working on horticultural and viticultural programs. The students are involved in a wide range of environmental and agricultural projects as part of their normal daily activities. The projects include planting and maintaining vegetable gardens, raising animals in a practical and environmentally-sensitive way and minimising water and energy use.

Swan Hill Specialist School Community Farm Garden
Swan Hill Rural City Council

A permaculture garden has been created in some spare land at this Swan Hill School. Although it’s still early days, the site has already achieved a great deal. Students from schools in the local area work with students from the Specialist School to learn life skills in a fun hands-on way. Cooking and eating of produce and hospitality are important goals for the students. With continued developments, such as the planned hay bale wall and playground, it is hoped the garden will eventually become a community hub for many activities.
Beechworth

The community of Beechworth is located in north east Victoria, in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range. The town has preserved its rich heritage from the gold rush era of the 1850s and its residents aim to protect, enhance and promote the town’s history, while moving towards a sustainable future.

The 2009 Victorian and 2010 National Keep Australia Beautiful Tidy Towns winner has entered a number of new initiatives from a range of active community groups into this year’s awards. These include the Golden Horseshoe Festival, preservation of the historical Beechworth Cemetery, educating the community about the importance of the humble honeybee, repairing old reading glasses for communities in need, creating the Stanley Spring Dam by regenerating a local wetland area, holding annual sustainable house tours, youth representation on the Indigo Shire Junior Council and teaching kindergarten children about sustainability.

Dartmoor

Dartmoor is made up of just over 200 people and is located 30kms from the South Australian border in south west Victoria. The tight-knit township is virtually rubbish free through the work of the local community. The town is situated in a plantation timber and grazing region, and includes the Glenelg River and National Park, and the unique Memorial Tree Carvings located in the town’s centre.

Dartmoor’s small population have worked hard to create a sustainable community. They have worked on many projects including teaching school children how to grow their own vegetables, recycling water from public toilets to maintain town gardens, installing rainwater tanks in most residences, creating a walking track beside the Glenelg River and planting more than 5,000 native plants. The town prides itself on being litter free, and groups of volunteers maintain the town’s public spaces and help to restore historical monuments from the town’s timber industry past.

Horsham

Horsham is a central hub of Victoria’s Wimmera region. Boasting a population of approximately 13,000, the town’s CBD, sporting facilities, parks and gardens are always well maintained and tidy. Despite suffering the effects of drought for more than 10 years, the town and its community show immense pride and commitment to sustainability through their various projects and initiatives.

Some of the projects entered in this year’s awards include refitting the historic Horsham House to reduce water and energy use, creating the Horsham North Community Action Centre, rejuvenating the North Horsham residential area, coordinating and hosting the ‘50 Years of Wimmera Rock’ event, identifying and protecting threatened flora in the Wimmera area, and reducing construction waste.

Lake Boga

The town of Lake Boga is located in Victoria’s Mallee region, in the north west of the State. A traditionally favoured destination for many tourists who came to enjoy a range of aquatic activities on the town’s lake, the area suffered devastating economic and social impacts when the lake dried up during the drought. Residents in the local community decided to take action to ensure the survival of their township.

With a population of approximately 750, the town’s residents, community groups and the Swan Hill Rural City Council have undertaken a number of projects to improve the town’s infrastructure and environmental sustainability including cleaning out the accumulated rubbish and weed growth from the dry lake bed, partially filling the lake following a recent release of water, the establishment of the Lake Boga Flying Boat Museum which included the restoration of a Catalina Flying Boat, researching the effects of drought on a community and developing a popular after school program for students.
Rosebud West

Situated on the Mornington Peninsula, Rosebud West is a community of approximately 4,500 that is heavily dependent on tourism. Hundreds of visitors camp on the Capel Sound Foreshores during the summer holidays. The town was designated as an area in need of community rejuvenation in 2007, which saw the establishment of a renewal program under the guidance of Anglicare. Government, schools, private businesses, community groups and individuals have all embraced the program.

Benefits from the program have included extensive revegetation works to Chinamans Creek and Drum Drum Alloc Creek, rehabilitation of the Tootgarook wetlands, protection of a rare swamp skink, an innovative theatre arts project and the 3940 Arts Mural project.

Rutherglen

Located in north east Victoria, Rutherglen is a community of 2,000 that is blessed with the great wines, the beautiful Murray River, ancient river red gums, idyllic pastoral scenes and historic buildings. The main street of Rutherglen is very attractive and surrounding streets, parks and highways are virtually litter-free. The township was established in the gold rush of the 1850s and has worked to preserve its original characteristics while adding modern conveniences.

The Rutherglen community, via the shire, a network of local community groups and schools, has a strong commitment to sustainability and heritage. A number of initiatives were entered into the awards this year, including 150th anniversary celebrations of discovering gold in the town, the regeneration of Racecourse Reserve into a nature reserve and shooting range, restoration of the historic St Stephens Church, the establishment of a rail trail between the town and Wahgunyah, and a holistic approach to sustainability at St Mary’s Catholic School.

Violet Town

Violet Town is located in central Victoria, to the north east of Melbourne. With a population of approximately 680, the town sits below the majestic Strathbogie Ranges and has attractive tree-lined streets and generous public spaces. The Violet Town community may be small, but its many enthusiastic community groups have worked to make Violet Town a great place to live and visit.

Some of the initiatives they have put in place include the inaugural Quilt Airing Event which colourfully decorates the town and attracts tourists, retrofitting the civic centre building and its surrounds, installing an innovative possum bridge over the Hume Freeway to protect local fauna pathways and improving the services offered by the local Bush Nursing Centre.

Wahgunyah

A north east Victorian town, located south of Corowa on the mighty Murray River, Wahgunyah is made up of just over 800 people. A predominately rural area, the land is mainly used for grazing, although there are also several great vineyards.

Through the support of the Indigo Shire and the work of its proactive community groups, schools and individuals, Wahgunyah has a number of projects and initiatives that are making the town a more sustainable and vibrant place to call home. These include the coordination and hosting of an annual Anzac Day Service, the restoration of the town’s Memorial Garden overlooking the river, the establishment of a Green Living Fair held at Valhalla Winery, and transforming the local primary school into a water and energy saving space.