MEDIA RELEASE

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Penguin named Tasmania's 2026 Tidy Towns Overall Winner

Penguin has been named the Overall Winner of the 2026 Keep Australia Beautiful Tasmania Tidy Towns Awards, recognising the work of local volunteers and community groups to restore public gardens, improve recycling and care for shared spaces. The winners were announced on Wednesday 25 November at the Palais Theatre in Franklin.

Penguin will represent Tasmania at the 2027 Australian Tidy Towns Awards, to be held in May in Williams, Western Australia. Williams won the 2026 national title.

The judges commented that Penguin's strength was the breadth of its community involvement. Volunteers are restoring the heritage-listed Perry Ling Gardens, planting native coastal species and improving habitat for local wildlife. Through '1 Hour for Penguin', residents give their time to care for shared spaces around the town.

The community has also worked with Central Coast Council to keep Penguin's distinctive penguin-themed bins and expand public recycling. At EcoFest Tasmania, volunteers, businesses and community groups share practical skills and show how reuse, recycling and composting can be built into a major community event.

Val Southam, Director of Keep Australia Beautiful Tasmania, congratulated Penguin and this year's award recipients.

"It's good to have the Tasmanian Tidy Towns Awards back and to be able to share what communities around the state are doing. What stands out about Penguin is how many people are involved and how easy they've made it for others to pitch in. We're looking forward to seeing Penguin represent Tasmania at the national awards in Williams next May," Ms Southam said.

Tasmania has a long and proud history of success in the Australian Tidy Towns Awards, with seven national titles since the awards began in 1990, including Launceston's win in 2025.

The awards followed the *Waste and Recycling in Practice* seminar. Keep Australia Beautiful Tasmania thanks Huon Valley Council for welcoming the event to Franklin, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania as the major supporter and Recycle Rewards for sponsoring the Litter Prevention Award.

Photos from the event and the awards winners' book will be available shortly after the event at: https://www.kabtas.com.au/2026-tidy-towns-winner/

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KAB TAS 2026 Tidy Towns Awards Winners Table

CATEGORY	RECIPIENT
Overall Tidy Towns Award	**Penguin**
Behaviour Change & Engagement	**EcoFest Tasmania** Penguin Makeover Community
Biodiversity Conservation	**Penguin Heritage & Coastal Garden Renewal** Penguin Makeover Community
Heritage & Culture	**Heritage Sketch 2025** City of Launceston
Litter Prevention *Sponsored by Recycle Rewards*	**Penguin Makeover Litter Control** Penguin Makeover Community
Liveable, Inclusive & Connected Communities	**Thoroughfare – Street Art Festival** City of Launceston
Local Heroes	**Gerry White** Huon Valley
Resource Recovery & Waste Reduction	**Waste NOT Hub** Penguin Makeover Community
Water Conservation & Protection	**Abels Bay Seagrass Monitoring** Abels Bay/Eggs and Bacon Bay Coastcare
Young Legends (≤ 25)	**BinSight: Reducing Recycling Contamination** City of Launceston & UTAS

CONTACT DETAILS

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

About the KAB TAS Tidy Towns Awards

The Tasmanian Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards celebrate the outstanding achievements of councils, communities, schools, and organisations working to create more sustainable, resilient, and liveable communities.

This annual program recognises projects that deliver measurable environmental outcomes, including initiatives in resource recovery, biodiversity protection, sustainable transport, energy efficiency, and community engagement. Entries showcase innovation, collaboration, and leadership in sustainability, providing a platform for communities to share ideas and inspire action across the state.

About KAB TAS

Keep Australia Beautiful Council–Tasmania (KAB TAS) is a not-for-profit organisation and part of the national Keep Australia Beautiful network. It works with councils, schools, volunteers and community groups to prevent litter, reduce waste and care for local places. Its programs include the Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards and the Sustainable Schools Program.