Scone awarded as the state's Tidy Town for 2022

Keep Australia Beautiful NSW has announced **Scone** as the overall winner of the **Keep Australia Beautiful NSW 2022 Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards** at an event on 4 March (postponed from November 2022 due the November floods) hosted by the 2021 Award winner, Singleton.

Scone has been practicing principles of sustainability as a matter of survival for many years and although new to the Sustainable Communities Tidy Town Awards, their projects and programs entered in 2022 were exemplary.

Keep Australia Beautiful CEO, Val Southam said that 'Scone has an inspiring ability to overcome challenges and motivate the community to work towards a better future. We could not be prouder to announce Scone as the NSW Tidy Towns overall winner.'

KAB NSW Tidy Towns Assessor, Doug MacDonald noted that "it was evident that they have been committed for a long time and that their thinking is clear and purposeful".

Scone's projects were as diverse as the individuals and groups involved in seeing through each of the 7 initiatives entered, and what has made Scone stand out is a clear collective vision for what a sustainable Scone looks like.

Scone took out multiple category wins, the Scone District Garden Club won their respective population category for Habitat & Wildlife Conservation, and the Scone Literary Festival took home the Heritage & Culture Award.

The principle and four (4) students at Belltrees Public School deserve a special mention, winning two Highly Commended Awards in Waterways & Marine Protection and Young Legends categories, and being crowned the Winner of the Communication & Engagement category for their inspirational project 'Regenerative Agriculture at Belltrees'.

Scone Tidy Towns Committee Chair, Ian Judd, was over the moon with the announcement made at the annual Tidy Towns Awards Dinner on Saturday night at the Singleton Civic Centre, saying just how much the Tidy Towns Awards mean to the Scone community and for environmental progress across the state.

"To be called a Tidy Town is a badge of honour, a reflection of a community focused on striving for sustainable excellence. It is about the people and the relationships developed by community, schools, Councils, and business to create an environmental, social and economically sustainable community. It is about the love people have for their town and the pride they have for showcasing it to others. Tidy Towns is the way towards developing a great town - it is bloody brilliant."

KAB NSWs Awards Program Manager, Elliot Stephens, said that "The ability of Scone's community groups to collaborate with one another and work towards a shared goal is the perfect demonstration of what the Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns program is all about, and we are eagerly looking forward to receiving entries when the 2023 Tidy Towns Program opens in late March."

The 2022 Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards Winners Book is available for download from
https://www.kabnsw.org.au/download/7792/?tmstv=1677484231

[ENDS]

EDITOR'S NOTE:

ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES – TIDY TOWNS AWARDS

Since 1981, the Sustainable Communities – Tidy Towns Program has been rewarding and recognising projects around litter, waste management, recycling, heritage, community spirit and other environmental areas in towns both large and small across the breadth of NSW.

We endeavour to deliver an inclusive and positive platform that encourages shared learnings and inspires environmental action at the local level. The program recognises and celebrates those rural and regional communities who are pioneering the path towards a more sustainable future

For more information about the NSW Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards visit: https://www.kabnsw.org.au/sustainable-communities-tidy-towns/

ABOUT KAB NSW:

Keep Australia Beautiful NSW (KABNSW) is the state's premier organisation for litter reduction and environmental sustainability. Independent and not-for-profit, our focus is to engage communities and collaborate with industry, businesses, state and local government to promote sustainable behaviour changes for the future prosperity of our State.

Keeping Australia beautiful is about more than keeping litter out of our environment and over a 40-year history our programs have adapted to incorporate all aspects of sustainability. We have built a state-wide network of dedicated individuals, businesses, schools, community groups and government bodies striving to deliver a cleaner and more sustainable environment.

Through five core programs we work with communities across regional, metropolitan, and coastal NSW to educate and motivate environmental initiatives.

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POPULATION CATEGORY	AWARD	RECIPIENT
Resource Recovery & Waste Minimisation - Sponsored by NSW EPA		
Population category A	Winner	**Reclaim, Recycle, Reuse for Reward** MiiMi Aboriginal Corporation
	Highly Commended	**Blokes, Bottles & Bins** Jerilderie Men's Shed Inc
Population category B	Highly Commended	**A Moving Feast: Small Acts of Kindness** Bungendore Rotary Group
Population category D	Winner	**Singleton Council** Singleton Tidy Towns
	Highly Commended	**St Brigid's Waste Warrior Warfare** St Brigid's Primary Raymond Terrace
Population category E	Highly Commended	**Zero Waste Grocery Shopping** Flame Tree Community Food Co-op
Litter Prevention - Sponsored by NSW EPA		
Population category B	Winner	**We CARE Eurobodalla** Eurobodalla Shire Council
Population category C	Winner	**NSW Visitor Economy Litter Prevention** Take 3 for the Sea
Population category E	Winner	**Butt Free Byron Shire Phase #2** Byron Shire Council
Circular Economy		
Population category D	Highly Commended	**Lifeline Tipshop** Lifeline Broken Hill Country to Coast Tipshop
Population category E	Highly Commended	**Greening the Green** Albury City Council
Communication & Engagement		
Population category A	Winner	**Regenerative Agriculture at Belltrees** Belltrees Public School
	Highly Commended	**Murrurundi Seed Library** Murrurundi Preschool
Population category C	Winner	**The Two-Week Red Bin Challenge** The Great Aussie Waste Challenge
Population category E	Highly Commended	**Minecraft Sustainable Design Competition** Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
Community Spirit & Inclusion		
Population category A	Winner	**Spring Hill Comes Together** Spring Hill Activities Group/Spring Hill Land Managers
	Highly Commended	**Adopt a Spot** Murrurundi Landcare Tidy Towns Committee
Population category B	Winner	**New Playground for Social Inclusion** Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
Population category C	Winner	**Upper Hunter Shire Council Hall Crawl** Upper Hunter Shire Council
	Highly Commended	**Kurri Kurri Community Educational Garden** Kurri Kurri Community Services
Population category E	Winner	**Hampers of Hope** Hampers of Hope (Griffith)
	Highly Commended	**Mount Lindsay Rotary Park Project** Orange City Council

POPULATION CATEGORY	AWARD	RECIPIENT
Heritage and Culture Award		
Population category A	Winner	**Murrurundi 150th Train Festival** Murrurundi and District Historical Society Inc
	Highly Commended	**The Bowraville Dray and Main Street** Bowraville Chamber of Commerce
Population category B	Highly Commended	**Remembering Our Past** Branxton Community Hall
Population category C	Winner	**Literary Festival Patrick White Oration** Scone Literary Festival
Population category E	Winner	**Flame of Hope and Reconciliation** Orange City Council
	Highly Commended	**Rusten House Art Centre** Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
Habitat & Wildlife Conservation		
Population category A	Highly Commended	**Bush Tucker Native Garden** Blandford Public School
Population category B	Winner	**Kindra Conservation** Coolamon Landcare Group Inc
Population category C	Winner	**Highways and Byways Healing the Land** Scone District Garden Club
Population category D	Winner	**Muscle Creek Rehabilitation Project** Muswellbrook Shire Council
Population category E	Winner	**The Enhancement of Waratah Wetlands** Orange City Council
Recycled Organics		
Population category C	Winner	**Kurri Kurri Community Educational Garden** Kurri Kurri Community Services
Waterways & Marine Protection		
Population category A	Winner	**Bowraville Connections - Stage 3** Nambucca Valley Landcare
	Highly Commended	**Dirty Dusty Paddocks to Water Wonderland** Belltrees Public School
Population category E	Winner	**Tuggerah Lakes Changemakers' Course** Central Coast Council
	Highly Commended	**Surfrider 'Ocean Friendly' Drain Buddies** Surfrider Foundation South Coast
Young Legends		
Population category A	Highly Commended	**Paddock to Plate, Garden to Classroom** Belltrees Public School
Population category D	Winner	**St Brigid's Waste Warrior Warfare** St Brigid's Primary Raymond Terrace
OVERALL SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES TIDY TOWNS AWARD		
Population category A	Winner	Murrurundi
	Finalist	Bowraville
Population category B	Highly Commended	Koolewong-Tascott-Point Clare
Population category C	Winner	Scone
Population category E	Winner	Queanbeyan-Palerang
Overall Winner	**Scone**	