



MEDIA RELEASE

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Celebrating Excellence in Sustainability: Parkes takes top honours at KAB NSW Tidy Towns Awards

The winners of the Keep Australia Beautiful NSW (KAB NSW) 2024 Tidy Towns Awards were announced on 2 November 2024, at a ceremony hosted by 2023 winner Bathurst. The prestigious KAB NSW 2024 Overall Tidy Towns Award was presented to Parkes, earning the town the opportunity to represent NSW at the Australian Tidy Towns Awards in Beechworth, Victoria in May 2025.

KAB NSW has been running the Tidy Towns program since 1981 which celebrates, recognises and rewards projects that reduce litter, minimise waste, encourage recycling, promote heritage and culture, biodiversity, and waterways protection, celebrate community spirit and many other environmental areas.

Overall winner, Parkes, also won in the Biodiversity Conservation, Liveable Towns, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation and Community Spirit and Inclusion categories.

KAB NSW Tidy Towns Assessor, Doug MacDonald commented that “Parkes has demonstrated that it has taken sustainability seriously for many years, exemplified by their successful implementation of resilience projects and their recent focus on ecotourism, planned growth, and economic development. Council’s sincere sustainability culture among staff reaffirms their dedication to creating a thriving, environmentally conscious community for current and future generations.”

Val Southam, CEO of KAB NSW, said that “the Tidy Towns Awards inspire communities and councils across NSW to make a genuine and lasting contribution to their area through partnerships between local authorities, businesses, community groups, schools, and individuals. The commitment of the councils, organisations and individuals who entered is evident in the calibre of the entries received this year and I would like to congratulate this year’s winners and finalists and everyone that entered.” said Ms Southam.

The awards are hosted by Keep Australia Beautiful NSW with support from the NSW Environment Protection Authority, Bathurst Regional Council, JR Richards and Snowy Hydro.

Photos from the event and the awards winners’ book will be available shortly after the event at:

<https://www.kabnsw.org.au/celebrating-excellence-in-sustainability-parkes-takes-top-honours-at-kab-nsw-tidy-towns-awards/>

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 AWARDS AND EVENT SUPPORTERS



[ENDS]



KAB NSW 2024 Tidy Towns Awards Winners and Highly Commended Table

POPULATION CATEGORY	AWARD	RECIPIENT
OVERALL TIDY TOWNS AWARD		
Overall Winner	Parkes	
Population category A	Winner	Thredbo
Population category B	Winner	Bellingen
Population category C	Winner	Parkes
	Finalist	Tilligerry Peninsula
Population category E	Winner	Orange
Biodiversity Conservation		
Population category B	Winner	Bellingen Island Restoration Bellingen Shire Council
	Highly Commended	Teralba Public School Tiny Forest The Groundswell Collective & Teralba Public School
Population category D	Winner	Waders and Woodlands: Parkes Wetlands Parkes Shire Council
	Highly Commended	Keep Tilligerry Native Tilligerry Peninsula
Population category E	Winner	Queanbeyan River Corridor Rehabilitation Queanbeyan Landcare Inc
	Highly Commended	Cessnock Bushcare Renaissance Cessnock City Council
Circular Economy - Sponsored by NSW EPA		
Population category B	Winner	Bowerhouse Reuse Shop Bellingen Shire Council
Population category E	Winner	Wangarang Orange Return & Earn Wangarang Industries Ltd
	Highly Commended	ARC City to Soil Program Armidale Regional Council
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation – Sponsored by Snowy Hydro		
Population category A	Winner	Adaptation & Mitigation at Thredbo Thredbo Resort
Population category B	Winner	Towards Net Zero Bellingen Shire Council
Population category C	Winner	Raw Water Storage Lagoon - Big Battery Parkes Shire Council
Population category E	Winner	Building Momentum Towards Net Zero Bathurst Regional Council
Communication & Engagement		
Population category B	Highly Commended	Go Before You Go' Sustainability Campaign Bellingen Shire Council
Population category E	Winner	Wollongong's FOGO Heroes Wollongong City Council
	Highly Commended	New Aussies Recycle Too! Halve Waste
Community Spirit & Inclusion		
Population category A	Winner	Coomba and District Progress Association Coomba & District Progress Association.
Population category B	Highly Commended	Silver Seniors Soiree Branxton Community Hall

POPULATION CATEGORY	AWARD	RECIPIENT
Population category C	Winner	Homegrown Parkes Community Events Central West Lachlan Landcare Inc
	Highly Commended	Connecting Tilligerry Peninsula: TAG Tilligerry Arts Group
Population category E	Winner	Seniors Festival in the Cessnock LGA Seniors Reference Group and Cessnock City Council
	Highly Commended	Orange United Sports Club Orange United Sports Club
Heritage and Culture		
Population category B	Winner	Bellingen Memorial Hall - A Grand Design Bellingen Shire Council
Population category E	Winner	Orange 'The Local Fallen' Orange City Council
Litter Prevention - Sponsored by NSW EPA		
Population category A	Winner	Litter Prevention at Thredbo Thredbo Resort
Population category E	Winner	Summer Cleansing Wollongong City Council
Liveable Towns		
Population category C	Winner	GALING GINDHAY - Water Play for Parkes Parkes Shire Council
	Winner	Lake Endeavour Places to Swim Project Parkes Shire Council
Population category E	Winner	Orange Community Vegetable Garden Orange City Council
	Highly Commended	Machattie Lane Ecological Greenspace Bathurst Regional Council
Local Heroes		
Geoff Windsor Bathurst		
Resource Recovery		
Population category A	Winner	Resource Recovery at Thredbo Thredbo Resort
	Highly Commended	Coomba Park Sustainability Coomba & District Progress Association
Population category C	Winner	Landfill to Circular Hub: Moss Vale RRC Wingecarribee Shire Council Waste and Resource Management
Population category E	Winner	Residential Bin Assessments AlburyCity Council
Waste Avoidance		
Population category E	Winner	Orange High School - Don't Be Trashy Orange High School
	Highly Commended	Bathurst Waste 2 Art Bathurst Regional Council and NetWaste
Young Legends		
Population category E	Winner	Sustainable Scallywags Bathurst Regional Council

Population Categories

- Population Category A: ≤ 1,500
- Population category B: 1,501-5000
- Population category C: 5001-12,000
- Population category D: 12,001-23,000
- Population category E: > 23,001

CONTACT DETAILS

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

About the KABNSW Tidy Towns Awards

Since 1981, the 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.

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 to make NSW the least littered state in Australia, transforming littering behaviour to create a beautiful and more sustainable environment.

Over a 40-year history we have built a state-wide network of dedicated individuals, businesses, schools, community groups and government bodies striving to deliver a cleaner environment.

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