



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Leading the Way in Sustainability - Orange named 2025 KAB NSW Tidy Towns Winner

The winners of the Keep Australia Beautiful NSW (KAB NSW) 2025 Tidy Towns Awards were announced on 12 October at a vibrant ceremony hosted by the 2024 titleholder, Parkes. The prestigious title of Overall Tidy Towns Winner 2025 was awarded to Orange, recognising its continued leadership in sustainability, community collaboration, and environmental innovation.

With this award, Orange will represent New South Wales at the Australian Tidy Towns Awards in Launceston, Tasmania in May 2026.

Orange, a long-time Tidy Towns participant and previous state winner in 2018, 2016 and 1982, continues to set the benchmark for excellence in environmental stewardship and community engagement. This year, the town also received top honours in the Biodiversity Conservation, Community Spirit and Inclusion, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation and Waste Avoidance categories.

KAB NSW Tidy Towns Assessor Doug MacDonald praised Orange's ongoing commitment:

"Orange's dedication to sustainability remains strong and highly visible. The town demonstrates consistent action across nearly all key competition areas, supported by a particularly wide and well-connected network of community organisations. What stands out is the ability of these groups to collaborate seamlessly and effectively working together as one for each other's causes."

Since 1981, the Tidy Towns program has recognised and celebrated outstanding efforts to protect and enhance the environment across NSW communities. From reducing litter and minimising waste, to promoting local heritage, biodiversity, and community spirit, the program highlights the impact of grassroots action and innovative thinking.

KAB NSW CEO, Val Southam, congratulated all winners and finalists:

"The Tidy Towns Awards continue to inspire regional communities across the state to step up, collaborate and innovate for a more sustainable future. The entries received this year reflect the passion, resilience and ingenuity of local councils, community groups, schools and individuals. I commend Orange and all entrants for their leadership and commitment to building thriving, sustainable communities."

The awards are hosted by Keep Australia Beautiful NSW with support from the NSW Environment Protection Authority, Parkes Shire Council, Snowy Hydro, Rollers Australia, Central West Lachlan Landcare, Total Groundworx, Westlime, Moduplay Group and Steve Magill Earthmoving.

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

<https://www.kabnsw.org.au/leading-the-way-in-sustainability-orange-named-2025-kab-nsw-tidy-towns-winner/>

Thank you to our 2025 Tidy Towns Awards Partners, Sponsors & Supporters



[ENDS]



## KAB NSW 2025 Tidy Towns Awards Winners and Highly Commended Table

POPULATION CATEGORY	AWARD	RECIPIENT
<b>OVERALL TIDY TOWNS AWARD</b>		
<b>Overall Winner</b>	<b>Orange</b>	
Population category A	<b>Winner</b>	Coomba Park
Population category C	<b>Winner</b>	Forbes
Population category D	<b>Winner</b>	Singleton
Population category E	<b>Winner</b>	Orange
<b>Biodiversity Conservation</b>		
Population category D	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Farmers Creek Revegetation</b> Lithgow Oberon Landcare
	Highly Commended	<b>Birds, Bees and Butterflies Urban Walks</b> Singleton Council
	Highly Commended	<b>Gardens of Stone Visitor Centre</b> Australian Ecosystems Foundation (Lithgow)
Population category E	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Planting for the Future</b> Orange Youth Action Council
	Highly Commended	<b>Bridges Hill Park Signage Project</b> Cessnock Tidy Towns
<b>Circular Economy - Sponsored by NSW EPA</b>		
Population category A	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Recycling Hub</b> Sarah Jane Huntley & the Coomba & District Progress Association
Population category D	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Circular Organics in the Eastern Riverina</b> Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils
<b>Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation – Sponsored by Snowy Hydro</b>		
Population category D	Highly Commended	<b>Singleton Council - The Energy Wise Program</b> Singleton Council
Population category E	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Electrify Orange Campaign</b> Orange City Council
<b>Communication &amp; Engagement</b>		
Population category B	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Let's Get it Sorted Waste Education</b> Bega Valley Shire Council
Population category D	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Grow it; Know it; Share it!</b> Slow Food Singleton
Population category E	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Tours: Telling Stories and Halving Waste</b> Halve Waste, AlburyCity Council
	Highly Commended	<b>What's Killing Our Trees?</b> Wingecarribee Shire Council
<b>Community Spirit &amp; Inclusion</b>		
Population category A	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Welcome to Coomba</b> Coomba & District Progress Association
Population category B	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Greta Seniors Monthly Morning Tea</b> Greta Sustainable Community / Tidy Towns Committee
Population category C	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Welcome to Forbes Events</b> Forbes Shire Council
Population category D	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Singleton's Early Childhood Art Exhibition</b> Singleton Heights Pre-School
Population category E	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Rainbow Festival</b> Orange City Council
	Highly Commended	<b>Cessnock Community Garden</b> Cessnock Community Garden Association

POPULATION CATEGORY	AWARD	RECIPIENT
<b>Heritage and Culture</b>		
Population category B	Highly Commended	<b>Greta Migrant Camp Photographic Display</b> Greta Sustainable Community / Tidy Towns Committee
Population category C	Highly Commended	<b>Ben Hall Trial Reenactment</b> Forbes Shire Council
<b>Litter Prevention - Sponsored by NSW EPA</b>		
Population category A	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Butt Bins</b> Coomba & District Progress Association
<b>Liveable Towns</b>		
Population category A	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Coomba Park Foreshore Halfcourt</b> Coomba & District Progress Association
	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Coomba Masterclass</b> Kirsty Duncan & the Coomba & District Progress Association
Population category D	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Grow it; Know it; Share it!</b> Slow Food Singleton
	Highly Commended	<b>Back Pack Pals</b> Dyson Family Foundation (Singleton)
Population category E	Highly Commended	<b>Lake Canobolas: Places to Swim</b> Orange City Council
<b>Local Heroes</b>		
<b>Fred Maw</b> (decd.) Orange		<b>Diana Thorning</b> Singleton
<b>Resource Recovery</b>		
Population category A	Highly Commended	<b>Brunch Cafe/Recycling Hub</b> The Brunch Café, Sustainability Hub & Coomba & District Progress Association
Population category E	Highly Commended	<b>Waste &amp; Resource Recovery Strategy 2026-31</b> Cessnock City Council
<b>Waste Avoidance</b>		
Population category A	Highly Commended	<b>The Brunch Cafe</b> Coomba & District Progress Association
Population category C	Highly Commended	<b>Recycling and Circular Economy</b> Toronto Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group
Population category D	Highly Commended	<b>Snowy Valleys Council Zero Waste Strategy</b> Snowy Valleys Council
Population category E	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Zest Fest: Refills not Landfill</b> Orange City Council
<b>Waterways &amp; Marine Protection</b>		
Population category C	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Lake Ainsworth Aquatic Weed Management</b> Lennox Head Landcare and Partners
<b>Young Legends</b>		
Population category B	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Robertson Public School Young REPS</b> Robertson Public School Young Robertson Environment Protection Society (REPS)
Population category C	<b>Winner</b>	<b>UHSC Sustainable Schools Odyssey</b> Upper Hunter Shire Council
	Highly Commended	<b>The Forbes Youth Action Team</b> Forbes Shire Council
	Highly Commended	<b>Waste and Landfill Reduction</b> Queanbeyan West Public School
Population category D	Highly Commended	<b>Singleton - Our Community-Our Future</b> Singleton Clontarf 120

## Population Categories

- Population Category A:  $\leq 1,500$
- 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.