

Tidy Towns Sustainable Community Awards

State category award winners - background information from submissions

Community Action: Hedland

General Appearance: Hedland

Hedland, with a population of 16,000, is a diverse community involved in mining and port activities, pastoral stations, and tourism. The Tidy Towns committee has done a fantastic job with 180 volunteers contributing more than 1,330 hours to various projects that benefit the whole town.

Youth has been a priority for Hedland with programs including the completion of Port and South Hedland skate parks and the Hedland Schools Veggie Patch Project.

The Hedland Youth Strategic Plan was developed and the Hedland Youth Leadership Council, Hedland Youth Precinct Development Group and the Hedland Youth Stakeholder Action Group were established

There have been strong partnerships to drive community projects such as the Soroptimist International Australia Day Breakfast and the Welcome to Hedland Night.

The Hedland New Residents Welcome Program aims to make new residents welcome and assist them in developing networks in a new community. The program involved the production of a welcome kit containing information, maps, timetables and details of services, facilities and organisations in the town.

Other initiatives include:

- establishment of Shay Gap Friends of the Park to support and look after the park
- the Heds-Up project that promotes and encourages healthy active lifestyles through the participation of school communities
- provision of a small grant scheme to support not-for-profit organisations in achieving sustainable community development opportunities
- Get to Know Your Neighbour community safety events
- charity ball to raise funds which are distributed back into the community, past recipients include Royal Flying Doctors Service
- the Hedlines newsletter which focuses on South Hedland
- the work of the Care for Hedland Environmental Association, including the Hedland Garden Club.

Recycling and Waste Management: Kambalda

Kambalda is a nickel and gold mining town 55km south of Kalgoorlie, and is located on the banks of Lake Lefroy, a large salt lake.

Major achievements this year included a spectacular new recreation centre, the continued upgrading of local parks, and plans for major upgrades to the airport. The caravan park was upgraded and is now an accommodation village and new town entry banners reflect the character of Kambalda.

In 2008, the CanCans Tidy Towns group reformed, the town participated in Clean-up Australia Day, and a ball was organised to raise money for Bluey Day. The local country club, which does not have paid staff, is now run by a dedicated group of volunteers.

Recycling was instigated as a result of student involvement and Plastic Bag Free Thursdays demonstrated to retailers and customers there are alternatives to plastic bags.

Kambalda Primary School students assisted in a prickly pear eradication program by mapping the sites for a local council spraying program. Trees were planted around the town in parks and on traffic islands.

Water is scarce in the Goldfields and the residents of Kambalda are always looking for ways to save water. The Community Arts Network Western Australia (CANWA) production about water issues, 'Rock Hole / Long Pipe' brought together members of the European and Indigenous communities to celebrate and learn about water conservation.

Kambalda has a new water tank that has improved water quality and ovals are now spiked and gardens mulched to help retain water. More people are installing grey water systems and newly constructed houses are being landscaped with water-wise gardens and efficiency measures.

Natural Heritage Conservation: Greenbushes

This historic mining/timber town 270km south of Perth is situated between Balingup and Bridgetown on the south-west highway.

The Greenbushes Pool Project is a major project initiated by the Greenbushes Ratepayers and Residents Association and is undertaken in conjunction with the Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes and Talison Minerals.

Greenbushes Pool is situated on an 'A' class reserve that is of great cultural significance and an important natural heritage area. It is a recreation area and is used for swimming, picnics and gala days.

The association has developed a management plan for the pool to conserve the native biodiversity of the reserve and maintain essential ecological processes; manage weeds; promote community awareness of landscape values; manage the impacts of passive recreational activities; and develop low maintenance recreational facilities such as a viewing deck, boardwalk and appropriate interpretive signage.

Students from Greenbushes Primary School tested the water and studied the number of macro-invertebrates as part of the Waterwatch/ Ribbons of Blue program. Students and volunteers planted riparian species around the fringes of Greenbushes Pool with the various species grown by the Bridgetown Community Landcare Nursery.

The association approached the Blackwood Valley Landcare Group and Green Corps to help identify and remove weeds from the reserve and any non-native species of wattle were also removed.

The Greenbushes Discovery Centre's popular annual guided Wattle Walk provides people with an opportunity to learn about native and non-native wattle species.

Enhancing Cultural Identity: Cuballing

Cuballing is 192km south-east of Perth in the Central Wheatbelt area and has a population of approximately 890.

Cuballing's first bed and breakfast opened this year and there is a new art gallery and museum in the town centre. A resident has printed a 2009 calendar that highlights the town's heritage assets, local clubs, organisations and businesses.

Events run in 2008 included a vintage machinery display, the first free outdoor movie night and the successful Cuby Country Festival.

Infrastructure improvements included visitor facilities at the cemetery, a new sun-cover for the playground, and additional lighting at the tennis courts.

The new War Memorial has enhanced the town's cultural identity and is a focal point for the community on ANZAC day.

The townscape committee has involved the local indigenous community in meetings where decisions about the town are being made.

Water Conservation: Dampier

Dampier is located on the Pilbara coast, approximately 1,500km north of Perth and has a population of around 1,300 permanent residents as well as 800 people who fly in and fly out to work in the region. Dampier has long been established as a major shipping port and houses export facilities for the iron ore, salt and natural gas industries.

Because of the region's low rainfall and high temperatures, water conservation is an important priority for the Dampier community. The Dampier Community Association continues to show leadership in this area and they have worked hard to ensure the community is well educated about, and continues to take action on, water-wise initiatives

An education campaign in collaboration with local industry encouraged locals to follow water restrictions with the aim to keep water use to between 4,000 and 5,000 kilolitres per year. An expert was made available to advise gardeners on how to set up drippers and sprays for maximum efficiency and to advise heavy water-use households of ways to reduce consumption.

The Shire and Pilbara Iron were approached about installing spring-loaded taps and water saving shower heads at public ablution blocks in the town and practical water saving tips and information was included in a fortnightly newsletter produced by the Dampier Community Association.

The Dampier Community Association identified 137 swimming pool owners in the area and developed a targeted campaign to educate them about the water savings from using a pool blanket to reduce water evaporation. A pool blanket can reduce swimming pool evaporation by 97 per cent, which is up to 12,000 litres of water a month. The group also negotiated with a local supplier and promoted the purchase of pool covers and a \$200 rebate from the Water Corporation. Many people in the town took up the offer and were pleased to discover how much less water per week was being used.