

Tuesday 5 April 2011

Australian Tidy Towns awards in Beechworth

Beechworth is set to host the Australian Tidy Towns Awards 2010/2011, to be presented at the Beechworth Memorial Hall on Saturday 16 April 2011.

Beechworth won last year and is now the host of the 2010/2011 awards. The awards have been held at a variety of locations over the years and for the past two years were hosted by the Governor General at Yarralumla. Beechworth is only the second town in Victoria, after Horsham in 2001, to win the overall National award since they commenced in 1990.

Rutherglen is a finalist in the national awards this year after winning the Victorian Tidy Towns Awards in October last year, and is competing against Lithgow in NSW, Stanthorpe in QLD, Westonia in WA, Waikerie in SA, New Norfolk in Tas and Barunga in NT to win the National award.

The awards are judged on a range of community initiatives that show community involvement and environmental improvement. Coordinator of the Rutherglen Tidy Towns Committee, Frances Walsh said that the judges were impressed that Rutherglen's modern services had not impacted the town's rustic charm that has been maintained since the 1850s when gold was discovered in the area. "Rutherglen was judged on a number of initiatives such as the 150th anniversary of the discovery of gold, the restoration of St Stephens Church and the rail trail between Rutherglen and Wahgunyah," Ms Walsh said.

"Back-to-back winners from Indigo Shire would be such a great achievement for the communities. All of the towns in the area really have a strong sense of community, and to have this recognised nationally is a great way to acknowledge all of the hard work that so many people put into their towns", Ms Walsh said.

The award presentation will be held at the Beechworth Memorial Hall from 5pm – 7pm on Saturday 16 April. Organisers are looking forward to welcoming guests from around Australia, plus the Keep Australia Beautiful committee and judges, to the awards. A guided tour of the town will be held for guests to showcase the qualities that won the Beechworth area the national award. To register to attend the awards, please visit the Keep Australia Beautiful website www.kab.iamevents.com.au/tidytowns . Once registered for the event, you can also register for the walking tour.

****ENDS****

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Caption: Members of the Beechworth Tidy Towns Committee accepting their national award from Keep Australia Beautiful at a ceremony in Canberra last year.