

Tuesday 12 July 2011

Media Invitation

Beechworth and Rutherglen will be judged next week to see if either of them are Victoria’s tidiest town.

Interview and photo opportunities will be available with the Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Judge Terry O’Brien, Beechworth Tidy Towns Coordinator Iris Mannik and Rutherglen Tidy Towns Coordinator Frances Walsh.

Beechworth

When: Tuesday 19 July 2011 between 10am – 4pm

Where: Indigo Shire Council Beechworth Office

Rutherglen

When: Wednesday 20 July from 1pm, and Thursday 21 July from 9.30am until 12.30pm

Where: Rutherglen High School, Sheridans Bridge Road, Rutherglen

Beechworth Tidy Towns Judge’s Itinerary

10am	Meet and greet at Indigo Shire Council Offices, Ford Street Beechworth.
10.15am	Judge the Heritage and Culture Award at the Beechworth Powder Magazine.
11am	Coffee at the Beechworth Bakery. Judge the Lake Sambell Management Committee for the Community Leadership award.
11.30am	Judge the Community Government Partnership Award for the Lake Sambell boat ramp, walking track, and amenities block. Judge the Havelock Road Wetlands and Indigenous Resource Area for the Water Conservation Award.
1pm – 1.30pm	Judge Indigo Shire’s Organic Waste Trial for the Towards Zero Waste Award. Judge Pam Keating’s ‘Loads of Clothes’ Market for the Environmental Innovation Award.
LUNCH	
2pm - 2.30pm	Judge the Beechworth Harvest Festival for the Community Action Award. Judge Alice Thwaites for the Young Leaders – Individual award
2.45pm	Judge the Protection of the Environment Award - Kill Off Pest Bee
3.30pm	Judge the Reguven8 Project for the Young Leaders Award – Group

Rutherglen Tidy Towns Judge’s Itinerary

WEDNESDAY	
1pm	Judge the Young Leaders Award – Group at Rutherglen High School
2pm	Judge Arts Rutherglen for the Community Government Partnership and Community Leadership Awards at the Rutherglen Town Hall

2.45pm	Judge the Rutherglen Apex Club for the Service With and Through the Community Award
3.30pm	Judge Valhalla Winery for the Environmental Sustainability Award
4.30pm	Judge Rutherglen Land Care for the Protection of the Environment Award
THURSDAY	
9.30am	Judge the Winemakers of Rutherglen for the Towards Zero Waste Award
10.30am	Judge the Rutherglen RSL Club for the Cultural Heritage Award
11.15am	Judge the Rutherglen Gold Battery Committee for the Community Government Partnership Award
12.30pm	Judge Paul Shelley for the Efficient Energy Award

Beechworth and Rutherglen competing to be Victoria's Tidiest Town

Beechworth and Rutherglen will have the chance to show why they are Victoria's tidiest town, when Keep Australia Beautiful Judge Terry O'Brien tours the towns next week.

The judging for the Keep Australia Beautiful Australian Sustainable Communities Victorian Tidy Towns Awards 2011/2012 will take place in Beechworth on Tuesday 19 July, and in Rutherglen on Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 July.

Coordinator of the Rutherglen Tidy Towns Committee, Frances Walsh said that last year the judges loved the town's rustic charm that has been maintained since the Gold Rush. "The Rutherglen community really look out for one another, and take a lot of pride in their town. The Tidy Towns awards are a fantastic opportunity to have this recognised," Ms Walsh said.

Beechworth Tidy Towns Committee Coordinator Iris Mannik will show the judges what everyday actions have been achieved within the community to make Beechworth a better place to live, work and visit. "Beechworth has eleven entries the ten Tidy Town categories, including the overall award. We have a strong, proud and vibrant community, and the Tidy Towns Awards is a chance to showcase all of the positive actions the community takes to protect and enhance the local environment," Ms Mannik said.

"We have a rich history from the 1850's gold rush era, and we as a community constantly strive to preserve, enhance and promote this heritage. The diverse range of initiatives nominated for the Tidy Towns Awards includes environmental sustainability, cultural and historical preservation and beautification for the town," Ms Mannik said.

The awards recognise and promote the achievements of local communities and individuals to protect and maintain their local environment and history, and help rural and regional communities become environmentally, economically and socially sustainable. The awards are judged on a range of initiatives that show community involvement and environmental improvement.

Indigo Shire is no stranger to the Tidy Towns spotlight, with Rutherglen winning the Victorian Tidy Towns 2010/2011 award, and Beechworth taking home the 2009/2010 national award.

The Awards will be announced at a ceremony to be held in Rutherglen, the previous winner of the award, on Saturday 22 October.

“Back-to-back state winners from Indigo Shire were such a great achievement for the communities, and to do it again would be unbelievable. We wish both Beechworth and Rutherglen the best of luck,” Ms Mannik said.

****ENDS****

For further information, please contact:

- Indigo Shire Council Media and Communications Officer Claire Gilmartin, 03 5728 8000
- Iris Mannik, Beechworth Tidy Towns Committee, 0429 917 216
- Rutherglen Tidy Towns Committee, Frances Walsh 0417 364 441
- Keep Australia Beautiful Publicity, Lara Shannon, 0415 076 015.

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