Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities 2025 AWARDS Snapshots

Winners and finalists

Celebrating regional and remote community initiatives







From the **Minister**



The 2025 Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards once again shine a spotlight on the remarkable work being led across Western Australia's regional and remote communities.

Now in its 56th year, this iconic program continues to celebrate the innovation, resilience and dedication of local councils, organisations and volunteers who are committed to creating cleaner, more sustainable and vibrant communities.

Each year, the calibre of entries reflects the deep care and connection communities have with their environment. From litter prevention and waste reduction to water conservation, energy efficiency and cultural preservation, the projects submitted this year demonstrate a holistic approach to sustainability and community wellbeing. These initiatives not only improve the physical environment but also strengthen social bonds and foster a sense of pride and ownership among residents.

The Tidy Towns Awards are more than a competition – they are a celebration of community spirit, leadership and the power of collaboration. They highlight the importance of locally led action and the role every individual can play in shaping a better future for our towns and regions.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all entrants, finalists and especially the 2025 State Winner, Williams.

Their achievements exemplify what is possible when communities come together with a shared vision for a cleaner and more sustainable future. Through partnerships with local groups, schools, businesses and residents, they have delivered projects that will have lasting environmental and social benefits.

The State Government remains committed to supporting initiatives that promote environmental stewardship and community resilience. I thank everyone who contributed to this year's awards. Your passion and hard work are helping to make Western Australia's towns and communities beautiful, inclusive and inspiring places to live, work and visit.



Minister for the Environment; Community Services; Homelessness

28 November 2025





Governors' foreword

Western Australians have long demonstrated an enduring commitment to caring for their communities and their environment, and the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards are a proud celebration of that spirit.

As Co-Patrons of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council, my wife Darrilyn and I are both honoured to again celebrate the remarkable achievements of regional Western Australian communities through this long-standing program.

Now in its 56th year, the awards continue to showcase the dedication, innovation, and community spirit that define our towns and regions.

These awards are far more than a friendly competition, they are a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when individuals, councils, schools, and volunteers come together with a shared vision for a cleaner, more sustainable future.

As we travel around our great state, we both see so many inspiring examples of transformation and renewal.

From litter prevention and environmental restoration to creative community projects and sustainability initiatives, the efforts of this year's finalists demonstrate the resilience and pride that are hallmarks of regional life.

We are continually moved by the stories behind these initiatives.

Stories of people stepping up, giving back, and working together to make their communities better places to live, work, and visit. These contributions not only enhance the beauty of our environment but also strengthen the social fabric of our towns.

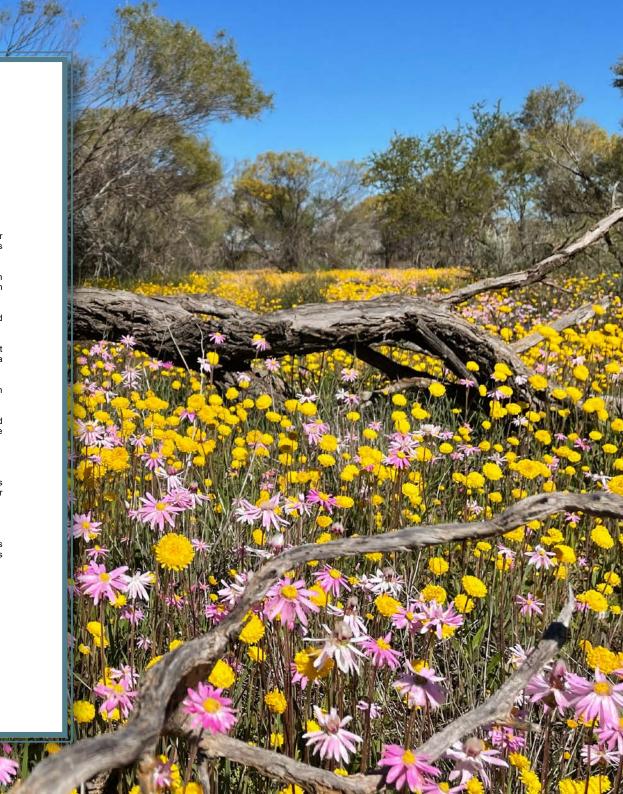
To all the 2025 finalists, congratulations.

Your commitment to positive change and your ability to inspire others make you all winners already. Thank you for your continued efforts to build vibrant, sustainable communities across Western Australia.

His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM Governor of Western Australia

Mrs Darrilyn Dawson





From the Chair



As the newly appointed Chair of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council, I am proud to introduce the 2025 Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards. These awards continue to celebrate the outstanding efforts of regional and remote communities across Western Australia in creating cleaner, more sustainable and socially connected environments.

Now in its 56th year, the program remains a vital platform for recognising community-led initiatives that promote litter prevention, environmental stewardship, heritage conservation and social inclusion. This year, we welcomed a number of new participants alongside many familiar faces – each bringing fresh energy and enduring commitment to the program.

The projects showcased in this Snapshots booklet reflect the creativity, resilience and collaboration that define our communities. Whether through environmental education, waste reduction, or cultural engagement, these initiatives demonstrate the power of grassroots action to make a lasting impact.

I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the overall State Winner for 2025: Williams. This community has demonstrated exceptional leadership and innovation, setting a benchmark for others to follow and inspiring us all with their achievements.

At the heart of these awards is the belief that strong communities are built through shared purpose and collective action. When individuals, groups and local organisations come together, they create lasting change – not just for the environment, but for the wellbeing and pride of their towns. The Tidy Towns program is a powerful reminder that keeping Australia beautiful is a responsibility we all share and one that is best achieved together.

To all entrants, finalists and winners – your dedication not only enhances the places you call home but also inspires others to take part in building a more sustainable future.

Thank you to our sponsors, judges and volunteers for your continued support. Your contributions make these awards possible and help foster a litter-free, vibrant Western Australia.

May this publication serve as a source of inspiration and a celebration of what can be achieved when communities come together with purpose and passion.



Elizabeth Carr AM

Chair



Williams

In Williams, community spirit doesn't just exist – it shines. This outstanding town has been named the 2025 State Winner for Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities, a well-earned recognition of its achievements in sustainability, wellbeing and

The Shire of Williams has set a high standard in maintaining a clean, welcoming and environmentally conscious town. Public spaces are beautifully maintained for locals and visitors by a dedicated team of gardeners, with thoughtful additions such as solar lighting, recycled signage and waterwise planting. Community-led clean-ups and beautification projects are held regularly, reflecting a deep sense of ownership and pride.

The Williams Community Resource Centre (CRC) is a cornerstone of social connection and wellbeing. It offers inclusive programs for all ages, including the Teens Club, Rhyme Time and the Evolve Festival of Health and Wellbeing. These initiatives support mental health, reduce isolation and foster intergenerational relationships through shared activities and learning.

Environmental sustainability is deeply embedded in the town's identity. The Williams Environmental Group has developed bushwalks, planted trees and restored riverbanks. The Echidna Trail and Wildlife Warriors program engage children in hands-on environmental education, supported by local volunteers and environmental organisations. These efforts promote biodiversity and a lasting connection to nature.

"There was real passion in Williams – locals proudly shared their impact and expert voices made it all feel authentic. Great things are happening and expanding Wildlife Warriors to teens is a fantastic idea."

Julie Gibbings, judge





Williams also excels in waste management. The Bush Brothers Op Shop and Tip Shop promote reuse and recycling, while the Williams River Cleanup brings together residents of all ages to care for their environment. The Containers for Change initiative, raises funds while encouraging responsible recycling, led by the local St John Ambulance sub centre.

Cultural heritage is celebrated through NAIDOC Week activities, where Aboriginal Elders share stories, music and traditions with students. These programs foster cultural awareness and inclusivity, even in a community with a small Aboriginal population.

Youth engagement is a defining strength of Williams. Young people actively contribute through volunteering, environmental programs and community events. Initiatives like All the Little Helpers and the Save Our Country Kids (SOCK) road safety campaign instil lifelong values of service, care and responsibility.

The Williams Woolshed is a great contributor to the town's identity and sustainability, serving as a popular tourist stop that supports local businesses, promotes community values and acts as a hub for fundraising efforts.

Congratulations to the people of Williams – your passion, pride and perseverance have created a truly inspiring community. This award is a testament to your collective heart and hard work.





State finalists





Kalgoorlie-Boulder

Kalgoorlie-Boulder continues to lead in environmental sustainability and community action, earning recognition as a Tidy Towns finalist. The Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group (KBULG) operates a thriving community nursery that supplies thousands of native seedlings annually, supporting bushland restoration and urban greening. The 2024 Tree Planting Day saw more than 600 volunteers plant 3,000 seedlings, strengthening community connection to the natural environment. In March 2025, KBULG coordinated Clean Up Australia Day, where 90 volunteers removed nearly 10 tonnes of waste from a high-litter bushland site – demonstrating strong civic pride and environmental responsibility. These initiatives are complemented by creative recycling programs, youth engagement and cultural projects that reflect Kalgoorlie-Boulder's inclusive and proactive spirit. Through collaboration between local government, volunteers and community groups, the city continues to build a cleaner, greener and more connected future.







Moora

Moora is recognised as a Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities state finalist for its notable achievements in sustainability, waste management and community collaboration. The Moore Catchment Council led large-scale revegetation, seed collection and Carnaby Cockatoo conservation, improving biodiversity and land health. The Recycle Moore program collected 3.5 million containers, supporting 17 schools and offering accessible recycling options across the region. Moora's Waste & Recycling Facility provides practical solutions for mattress, battery and paint recovery, reducing landfill and promoting reuse. Social inclusion is championed through the Men's Shed and Bicycle Upcycling Project, which refurbished 40 bikes and empowered members with disabilities. Across all projects, Moora demonstrated innovation, inclusivity and strong partnerships between community groups, schools and local government.

Port and South Hedland

Port and South Hedland continue to demonstrate strong commitment to sustainability, waste management and community engagement. Led by Care for Hedland, the community delivered more than 30 clean-up events, removing nearly 950 kg of litter and engaging more than 500 volunteers. Environmental initiatives included turtle conservation, pest management and solar lighting to protect nesting habitats. The Food Waste Diversion Trial and Repair Café promoted circular economy practices, while the Containers for Change program refunded more than 42 million containers. Community wellbeing was supported through events like Celebrate Hedland, Pride Pilbara and the Pink Pilbara Breakfast, which raised \$150,000 for cancer services. Schools and early learning centres embraced sustainability through composting, worm farming and enterprise learning. These efforts reflect a proactive, inclusive approach to environmental stewardship and social resilience, driven by strong partnerships and local leadership.

Sandstone

Sandstone continues to show how small communities can achieve meaningful outcomes through resourcefulness, collaboration and pride. With a population of around 100, the town delivered improvements across all Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities categories. Streets and carparks were resealed, signage upgraded and greening expanded through new bores and tree planting - creating a more welcoming and vibrant town centre. Community wellbeing was strengthened by the opening of a local shop and café, a free bus service to Mount Magnet and regular events that foster connection. Waste and litter initiatives included legacy clean-up events, safe disposal of oil and batteries and a practical Containers for Change system run by volunteers. Heritage was celebrated through restoration of the Black Range Chapel, cemetery signage, Pioneer Park upgrades and a replica shearing shed. These projects reflect Sandstone's commitment to sustainability, liveability and preserving local identity - demonstrating what's possible with dedication and community spirit.



Litter Action

Dongara

Shire of Irwin

Roadside Rubbish Relics (RRR)











Litter Action

Recognises innovation and achievements in reducing and managing litter







Dongara - Port Denison

Roadside Rubbish Relics (RRR)

A dedicated group of volunteers - Glenys Bellis, Glenda Green and Sherry Martin - has made a lasting impact on the Shire of Irwin through their ongoing highway clean-up efforts. What began as a simple idea, inspired by one member's early experience collecting rubbish with the Boy Scouts, has grown into a consistent and meaningful contribution to the local environment and community.

The trio spend most weekends working along sections of the highway, typically on Saturdays and Sundays and sometimes starting on Fridays. Each session lasts at least four hours, often longer in favourable weather. Their goal is to maintain a clean and welcoming entrance to town while protecting the surrounding natural landscape.

Their work is supported by a network of generous community members. Christina from Seaspray Café provides food and drinks, Steve Featherstone donates fuel and assists with the removal of heavy waste and friends contribute bottles and cans for refunds. Additional donations from the community help cover fuel and refreshments, making the initiative a true team effort.

The group's efforts have led to a noticeable reduction in litter along the highway and have significantly improved the town's presentation. Their work has also fostered a strong sense of community pride and environmental responsibility.

State finalists

Carnarvon

Litter Legends

The Litter Legends program in Carnarvon is a volunteer-led initiative transforming local clean-up efforts into a movement of pride and connection. Spearheaded by Wayne and Jeannette, the group has inspired widespread participation, fostering community spirit and environmental responsibility. Originating from the shire's Clean Community Coffees pilot and supported by Keep Australia Beautiful WA's grants, the program has held 42 clean-up events across 17 sites, collecting 800 large bags of rubbish. Beyond cleaner streets, the program has shifted public attitudes - residents now thank volunteers, reflecting growing appreciation. Litter Legends is more than a clean-up crew; it's a symbol of local action, pride and stewardship.





Furnissdale

Litter-free Serpentine River

Furnissdale residents have shown remarkable dedication to cleaning the Serpentine River foreshore and roadways. Using crab scoops and hooks, they remove floating and submerged litter daily, especially near jetties. Initially, high litter levels endangered wildlife, with birds rescued from fishing line entanglements. The community-led Litter-Free Serpentine River campaign targets waste from day-trippers and fishers. In summer, residents swim along riverbanks to retrieve submerged debris and future plans include scuba divers for deeper cleans. Around 120 locals regularly participate, showcasing strong environmental stewardship. Their efforts have significantly improved the river's health and safety, turning a once-polluted area into a cleaner, more cared-for space.

Northam

Tidying the tourist drives in Northam

The Clean Up Northam Community is a volunteer group improving the shire's environment through monthly clean-ups and weekly efforts along Spencers Brook Road. Since joining Adopt-a-Spot in March 2025, they've removed 97 bags of rubbish, 18 tyres, eight bags of eligible 10c containers, four mattresses and 20 broken roadside markers. A major win was revitalising the visitor information bay, previously an illegal dumping site. After reporting it via Snap Send Solve, the shire cleared bulk waste and volunteers followed with a clean-up, collecting 15 more bags. Collaboration with the shire led to better site maintenance, bin installations and tree planting. These efforts enhance the area's appeal and discourage future dumping.





Sandstone

Respect your space, pick up the waste

The Shire of Sandstone is tackling litter with a focus on scrap metal recovery. Volunteers collect materials from old tip sites and rural roads, including abandoned stock grids, which are stockpiled to attract recycling companies. Support comes from Keep Australia Beautiful's Outback Packs, clean-up promotions and free kerbside collections. Large-item cleanup days have removed two truckloads of waste from local streets and yards. To reduce litter and improve aesthetics, the shire introduced bird-proof bin surrounds featuring flora and fauna-themed stickers. This multi-pronged approach reflects a commitment to managing historic waste, enhancing public spaces and preventing future littering.

Williams

Cleaning up Williams River

In March, 28 Williams residents aged four to 74 united to clean the town's eastern riverbed during the dry season. This timing allowed safe access and removal of heavy debris like tyres, car parts, cement and metal objects, some buried in mud. Unlike downstream areas, this section had less roadside litter but more substantial waste The event fostered intergenerational learning, with children gaining awareness of environmental responsibility. Two clean-up events this year have improved river safety and cleanliness, reinforcing the town's commitment to preserving natural spaces. The initiative highlights how collective action can protect and enhance local environments for future enjoyment.





Waste management Sandstone

Shire of Sandstone

Reuse, Reduce, Recycle - Waste isn't waste until we waste it













Waste management

Recognises innovation and achievements in reducing and managing waste



Sandstone

Reuse, Reduce, Recycle - waste isn't waste until we waste it

The Shire of Sandstone has made significant strides in improving the safe handling and reduction of hazardous and general waste. One of the key initiatives involves the responsible management of waste oil, which was previously discarded. It is now collected in a dedicated tank for recovery, while used car batteries are also separated and sent for recycling. To support these efforts, new signage has been installed at the local tip and shire depot, guiding residents on proper disposal methods and helping to keep hazardous materials out of landfill

Addressing long-standing waste issues has also been a priority. A former tip site, unused for more than 30 years, is currently being cleared. Large quantities of scrap metal have been removed and stockpiled for recycling. Additionally, old cattle grids - often abandoned roadside after replacement - are now being collected and added to the recycling stockpile. These actions not only promote reuse but also enhance the visual appeal of the surrounding area.

Upgrades to waste facilities across Sandstone have further supported these improvements. New, aesthetically pleasing bin surrounds have been installed and additional 240L wheelie bins have been placed at popular tourist locations. These bins can be emptied mechanically, reducing manual handling and minimising overflow in remote areas. Plans are under way to establish new recycling stations at the information bay and caravan park, ensuring easy public access to recycling services. A free caravan dump point has also been installed near the caravan park to discourage illegal waste disposal along roadsides.

State finalists

Brookton

Brookton District High School and community garden partnership

What began as a way for year nine and 10 students to earn volunteer hours has grown into a thriving, youth-led community garden. Since March 2025, four students have volunteered weekly, recently joined by a fifth, sparking wider school involvement. A full-day event saw all high school students rotate through garden tasks, promoting teamwork and personal growth. The garden benefits from community donations - cardboard for weed mats, hay for soil and manure for compost. This initiative reflects growth not only in the garden but also in student engagement and community collaboration.





Broome

Waste management and resource recovery

The Shire of Broome is advancing waste reduction at the Broome Waste Management Facility, overcoming remote location challenges. With the landfill nearing capacity, efforts focus on resource recovery and diversion. Two WasteSorted Infrastructure Grants funded an allweather e-waste drop-off and mechanical sorting of commercial waste, recovering over 28 tonnes of e-waste and 400 tonnes of scrap metal annually. Manual sorting improves safety by intercepting hazardous items like lithium batteries. A seasonal drop-off and reuse area encourages upcycling of furniture and tools, popular among residents. Free mulch is available through the green waste program. These initiatives reflect Broome's commitment to sustainability, circular economy principles and long-term cultural change through education and community engagement.

Meekatharra

Pallet Planter Project

The Pallet Planter Project, a collaboration between Yulella Aboriginal Corporation and Westgold Resources Limited, transforms industrial waste into community assets. Discarded pallets and Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs) are repurposed into durable planter beds used to grow native plants around accommodation camps and local gardens. This initiative diverts waste from landfill while promoting environmental sustainability and community wellbeing. It has created two casual jobs for Aboriginal community members, offering hands-on experience in construction, recycling and landscaping. These roles support skill development and future employment pathways. The project strengthens partnerships between Aboriginal organisations, the mining sector and the broader community, demonstrating how circular economy practices can deliver lasting social and ecological benefits.





Port and South Hedland

Hedland resource recovery initiatives

Care for Hedland, in partnership with the Town of Port Hedland, has launched impactful waste reduction initiatives. The Food Waste Diversion Pilot Program has prevented over 265 kg of food waste from reaching landfill, avoiding about 0.52 t of CO₂ emissions. The Repair Café promotes reuse and skill-sharing, extending the life of household items. The Timber Pallet Circular Economy Initiative repurposes industrial waste, fostering partnerships for material recovery. E-waste management efforts, supported by lifecycle assessments, ensure responsible recycling and informed decisions. These programs reflect a strong commitment to sustainability, innovation and community engagement. Together, they showcase Hedland's leadership in circular economy practices and regional environmental stewardship.

Williams

Bush Brothers' Op Shop and Tip Shop

The Bush Brothers' Op Shop and Tip Shop in Williams are central to local waste reduction and community support. Run by 10-15 volunteers, the Op Shop sells donated clothing, books, toys and household items at low prices. Unsold goods are redistributed to other op shops, charities and bookstores, while some fabric is repurposed into bags. The shop also donates items to families in need and community groups, fostering kindness and connection. Located on Albany Highway, it attracts locals and travellers, boosting its impact. Last year, it raised \$30,000 for the Anglican parish's \$160,000 budget, supporting global Christian work. The tip shop complements these efforts by salvaging reusable items from landfill and selling them affordably. Together, these initiatives reflect Williams' commitment to sustainability, social care and environmental stewardship.





Young Legends

Blayde Day

Tom Price

Blavde's Bins







Sponsored by Bank of I.D.E.A.S.

Recognises achievement by an individual or group/s of young people who have contributed to the sustainability of their community



Blayde Day

Tom Price

Blayde's Bins is a youth-led, environmentally conscious wheelie bin cleaning service founded by 13-year-old Blayde in Tom Price, Western Australia. What began as a way to save for his dream car has grown into a thriving small business that champions sustainability and community involvement. Blayde uses only eco-friendly cleaning products – many of which he researched and created himself – and runs the business entirely without fossil fuels. His equipment is transported via bicycle trailer and his pressure washer is powered by battery, reducing environmental impact and promoting cleaner practices.

The initiative has gained strong support from the local community and beyond. After being featured in the Pilbara News, Blayde's story reached audiences across Australia, prompting donations from people in the Eastern States who wanted to support his efforts. Rather than keeping the funds, Blayde reinvested them into the community, sponsoring three local groups and supporting the town's drive-in cinema. He also volunteers regularly with local clubs and organisations, demonstrating a strong commitment to giving back.

Blayde's Bins has become more than just a business – it's a source of inspiration for other young people. Blayde actively encourages his peers to explore entrepreneurship, sparking initiatives such as can collecting, lawn mowing and pet minding. His leadership shows how young people can make a meaningful impact through innovation, generosity and environmental responsibility. Blayde's journey highlights the power of youth-driven projects to foster resilience, build community spirit and promote sustainable living, proving that age is no barrier to creating positive change.

State finalists



Helen Tipton

Carnarvon

Helen Tipton, Community Development Team Lead at the Shire of Carnaryon. has delivered over 112 programs and events this year, reflecting her commitment to fostering creativity, inclusion and sustainability across all age groups. Her work includes youthled public space transformations and events promoting wellbeing and cultural connection. A standout initiative was the artist mentorship program, part of the youth precinct transformation, which empowered two local artists one now mentors students and led a successful 'paint along' event. She excels at identifying collaborative opportunities, often involving local businesses to boost engagement and economic development. Her efforts consistently create lasting impact, making Carnarvon more inclusive, vibrant and environmentally conscious.



Ella Dale

Karratha

Ella Dale, Head Girl at St Luke's College, founded Greener Karratha in 2024 to address extreme heat and limited shade in the Pilbara. With school support, she transformed an unused space into a nursery propagating drought-tolerant trees like River Red Gum and Currajong. Using recycled materials and water-efficient systems, the project aligns with Karratha's Environmental Sustainability Strategy. Through the Future Female Leadership Program, Ella connected her work to UN Sustainable Development Goals and gained skills in media, fundraising and project management. Despite early outreach challenges, she built a strong social media presence and expanded the initiative's reach. Greener Karratha has propagated more than 400 seedlings and donated 200+ trees to community groups. It also inspired an edible garden program at St Luke's, embedding sustainability into education. Ella's leadership showcases how youth-driven action can foster environmental resilience and community collaboration.

Manea Senior College Bunbury

Year 11 and 12 students at Manea Senior College created the Grow for Purpose Garden, a student-led sustainability project combining food production with biodiversity conservation. They managed all aspects - from planning and construction to maintenance building seed shelters, fencing and an aquaponics system producing seasonal vegetables and herbs donated to Foodbank. The garden also supports local wildlife, focusing on species like the blue-banded bee and phascogale. In partnership with Perth Zoo, Tronox and Aboriginal women connected to the bee as a totem, students introduced pollinator-friendly plants, nesting boxes and habitat zones. Supported by the Men's Shed and conservation experts, the students recently presented their work with confidence and technical knowledge. The project exemplifies youth leadership, blending environmental care with social impact and inspiring meaningful change in their community.





All the Little Helpers

Williams

Young people aged 12 to 17 in Williams play a vital role in community life, showing initiative and pride in supporting their town. Their contributions range from fundraising and homework help to cleaning up after sports and assisting with events. Many return from boarding school during holidays to lead school holiday programs, offering bush walks, Lego days, painting and crafts. They also sell tickets at expos, help the Community Resource Centre, support Woolshed fundraisers and maintain sporting facilities. These youth aren't just participating - they're actively seeking ways to serve, demonstrating a strong sense of responsibility and care. Their efforts help keep Williams vibrant and connected, proving that young people are essential contributors to community wellbeing and resilience.

Walpole Primary School – UR Walpole

Walpole

Year six students at Walpole Primary School showed outstanding leadership through the UR Walpole program, a student-led environmental initiative aligned with the school's motto - Nature, Culture, Future. In 2025, students explored the theme 'Air' through hands-on projects, studying atmospheric movement, pollution and sustainable practices like food drying and pollination. They also created artworks and music inspired by wind and breath. A highlight was their collaboration with WOW Wilderness Ecocruise, where they observed ocean currents and collected plastic at Circus Beach. These experiences connected science with environmental action. Students worked in teams, conducted inquiries and presented findings to peers and the community, inspiring families to adopt eco-friendly habits. The Department of Education formally acknowledged the program for boosting engagement. UR Walpole continues to empower students to lead by example, fostering environmental responsibility and community connection.





Heritage and Culture

Broome

Broome Senior High School













Heritage and Culture

Recognises a community's outstanding commitment to the conservation and celebration of a community's Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage and culture.

Broome

Year nine Sustainable Leaders Program



The program incorporates two-way science, blending Aboriginal ecological knowledge with Western scientific approaches. This dual framework fosters mutual respect, acknowledges Aboriginal ways of knowing and builds a holistic understanding of environmental stewardship. Students learn safe handling techniques, sustainable catch practices and the importance of protecting ecosystems - knowledge they can share with their families and communities.

A strong leadership component is embedded in the program. In its final phase, year nine students mentor year six students from local primary schools, guiding them through on-Country experiences and sharing the knowledge they've gained.

Through partnerships with organisations such as Clontarf, Together We Ride, Alive and Kicking Goals, Broome Bird Observatory and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, students are exposed to realworld applications and career pathways in environmental and cultural fields. The program not only builds environmental awareness and cultural pride but also empowers students to become leaders and advocates for sustainability in their communities.

State finalists



Albany

Avenue of Honour

The restoration of Albany's Avenue of Honour on Mount Clarence has revitalised a key commemorative site honouring soldiers from World War I, World War II and the Korean War. Originally planted in the 1950s, the site had deteriorated over time. Led by Jane from Veterans Assist Great Southern, the project involved landscaping, native plantings, plaque refurbishment and a sustainable maintenance plan. Over 100 plagues were restored and reinstalled, with contributions from RSL Albany Sub-Branch, South Regional TAFE, Pardellup Prison, Albany Men's Shed, APEX Albany and First Nations descendants. The initiative has improved accessibility and visual appeal, strengthened community ties and fostered long-term partnerships.



Boddington

Boddington Visitors' Centre upgrade

The Boddington Visitor Centre has been transformed through a community-led initiative that preserves local stories, culture and history. Contributions came from diverse groups, including an Aboriginal elder who shared cultural artefacts, bush tucker and traditional medicine knowledge. Non-Aboriginal organisations like the Peel Harvey Catchment Council and Friends of the Reserve added environmental and historical insights, while artists and historians enriched the centre with murals and themed displays. Key features include a 3D model of the Newmont gold mine, a shearing corner, railway history and local art. Located on the scenic Hotham River and surrounded by an award-winning park, the centre shares space with a restaurant and library, creating a vibrant hub for locals and tourists. This collaborative effort ensures Boddington's heritage from mining and agriculture to Aboriginal culture and creativity - is preserved and celebrated for future generations.

Corrigin

Corrigin Pioneer Museum open day

On 4 May 2025, the Corrigin Pioneer Museum held its first Open Day in decades, celebrating the region's agricultural and social heritage. The event aimed to reconnect the community with the museum, attract new members and honour the pioneering spirit of the Wheatbelt. More than 100 volunteer hours from 30+ locals, along with support from the Shire of Corrigin, Rotary, schools and businesses ensured its success. Around 300 people attended, including 50 children. Highlights included heritage learning activities, live music, a vintage organ performance and demonstrations of historic machinery like a 1928 Rugby Truck. The event strengthened community bonds and highlighted the importance of preserving local history. It also laid the foundation for future events, including the Dusty Boots Easter Festival in 2026. The museum's future relies on passionate volunteers and strong community support to keep Corrigin's legacy alive.





Cue

Historic buildings

The Shire of Cue continues to prioritise heritage preservation through extensive restoration and public engagement. Key sites include the bank building, which received specialist stonework and will host the Cue Parliament Calcutta event in November 2025. The shire building remains open daily, showcasing its historic council chamber and displays. The rotunda has been repainted and the municipal building - home to the Community Resource and Tourist Information Centre – has been restored for safety and functionality. Upgrades to the Masonic Lodge, railway station and the bank support guided heritage tours. The shire also acquired Bells Emporium and shops at 65 Austin Street, with restoration under way. The Bell & Co store is being restored with care to preserve original features like the 'flying fox' money system. These efforts reflect Cue's commitment. to preserving its heritage while enhancing community use and cultural tourism.

Toodyay

Noongar Trail

Launched in April 2025, the Noongar Trail is a community-led cultural initiative spanning 11 locations across Toodyay's town boundary. The nine kilometer trail features over 60 interpretive signs sharing Noongar language, history and culture. Sites like Gnilgil (Redbank Pool) and Gugulja (Avon River) offer immersive, on-Country experiences. Guided by Noongar Elders and knowledge holders, the trail ensures cultural accuracy and respectful representation. Funded by diverse community supporters, it remains community owned and widely embraced. The Shire of Toodyay supports the trail through its Reconciliation Action Plan, with brochures and a large outdoor map available at the visitor centre. Future developments include a cultural learning space at Gugulja and Boyagerring Brook, featuring a yarning circle, seasonal learning areas and a natural amphitheatre. The trail complements regional initiatives like the Bilya Koort Boodja Centre and fosters cultural understanding, education and reconciliation.





Community Containers for Change

York

River Conservation Society Inc





Community Containers for Change Award

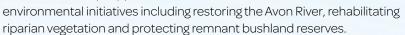
Sponsored by WARRRL

It's not the amount of refunds that are assessed but the positive benefit to the community



River Conservation Society

The River Conservation Society Inc. (RCS) located in the Shire of York, has been involved in the Containers for Change scheme since its launch. Funds raised through container collection directly support RCS's



RCS has developed a highly effective and inclusive collection system. Each month, volunteers deliver and collect bags from households, businesses and clubrooms. A large bespoke bin – crafted from recycled materials – is located at the clubhouse and regularly filled by community members. Additional bins are placed at high-traffic events such as the York Agricultural Show, York Races, Heritage Weekend and local festivals.

At the clubhouse compound, a custom-built sorting station – designed by a member – allows volunteers to sort containers efficiently without bending, using repurposed farm waste bags. The group's meticulous sorting practices have earned them special access to the recycling depot outside regular hours, reducing double handling and improving efficiency.

The initiative has fostered a strong culture of sustainability within the community. The society has also invested in kayaks to support on-water clean-up efforts, enhancing their conservation impact. The program not only benefits the environment but also strengthens community engagement, with volunteers of all ages and backgrounds contributing their skills to make a meaningful difference.



State finalists

Broome

Native Animal Rescue – Wildlife for Change

Wildlife for Change is a community-led recycling initiative in Broome that supports Native Animal Rescue Broome (NARB) through the Containers for Change program. By collecting eligible containers at locations like Broome Markets, Bunnings and shire events, the project has diverted thousands of items from landfill and raised around \$5.000 for wildlife care. These funds help rehabilitate injured animals, including Roxy the Loggerhead Turtle, rescued with severe propeller injuries and now thriving thanks to communityfunded support. The initiative promotes environmental stewardship, strengthens local partnerships and empowers residents to take meaningful action.





Kalgoorlie-Boulder

Turning containers into community support

Northern Star Resources has expanded its volunteer-led container collection program between 2024 and 2025, driven by sustainability advocate Donna Thompson. Monthly volunteer calls have led to new collection points at Gidgi Site and Boulder Road, with bins placed near vending machines across mine sites and camps. Volunteers also collect from contractors, with proceeds supporting schools, charities and groups like the Royal Flying Doctor Service WA. At Evolution Mining, employee Terry Cookson collects containers from sites and businesses. donating \$2,500-3,000 annually to HeartKids in honour of his grandson. These efforts reflect a strong culture of environmental and social responsibility. Donna and Terry's leadership has inspired widespread participation, creating a coordinated initiative that reduces waste and delivers meaningful community support.

Port and South Hedland

Care for Hedland

Care for Hedland operates as an Authorised Refund Point under WA's Containers for Change Scheme, promoting recycling and community engagement. Initiatives include the Community Group of the Month, encouraging donations to local groups and Containers Talk newsletters sharing updates and events. Staff uphold high service standards and safety awareness, introducing warning cards to reduce contamination and receiving training on safe needle disposal. Supported by BHP, Town of Port Hedland, WARRL and 130+ volunteers annually, the program fosters collaboration through a Sustainability Advisory Group formed in June 2024. The Hedland Men's Shed contributes by collecting thousands of containers, supporting both recycling and men's wellbeing. Plans are under way for permanent Drop & Go points at shopping centres, improving accessibility and expanding impact.





Sandstone

Recycling station fascination

Sandstone is boosting its Containers for Change participation with two new recycling stations designed to separate cans, plastics and glass. Initially fitted for 240 L bins, the stations will soon transition to 1000 LIBC pods for greater capacity. In the absence of a nearby return facility, a local volunteer transports bulk collections to Geraldton, reducing emissions and costs. This system supports efficient sorting and maximises proceeds donated to the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The initiative empowers residents and visitors to recycle effectively despite the town's remote location. It demonstrates how small communities can implement practical, low-resource recycling solutions that benefit both the environment and essential services.

Williams

Williams St John Ambulance sub centre bins

Williams has placed Cash for Cans bins in central community locations, relocating them to support events like the Twilight Markets, Gateway Expo and sporting fixtures. Through the Containers for Change program, proceeds from collected containers are directed to the Williams St John Ambulance sub centre. These funds help support emergency services at local events and across the district. The initiative reflects Williams' commitment to sustainability and community wellbeing, turning everyday recycling into vital support for essential services.







Leadership Award Sue Rodgers













Leadership Award

Awarded by judges in recognition of outstanding leadership







Sue Rodgers

Clean up Northam community

Sue is a passionate realist dedicated to keeping her home town of Northam clean and safe. Known locally as 'the lady who stops to pick up rubbish', she leads by example, inspiring others through her daily activism and collaboration with the shire. Sue's efforts have mobilised community groups and even her own family, turning observers into active participants. Her leadership is rooted in social connection, not authority and she's widely respected for her energy and commitment. Her influence is evident in the town's responsiveness, from storm clean-up activities to coordinated bin collections, reflecting the high regard in which she's held.





Environmental Sustainability

Albany

Keep Albany Beauitful











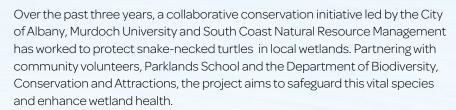
Environmental Sustainability

Sponsored by Kings Park and **Botanic Garden.**

Recognises an outstanding community's achievements in adaptation to environmental change in water, nature or energy.



Snake-necked Turtle conservation project (Keep Albany Beautiful)



Snake-necked turtles play a key ecological role by consuming dead animals and controlling populations of midges and snails, thereby maintaining water quality and ecosystem balance. However, climate change and human activity have increasingly threatened their nesting success and long-term survival.

In 2025, the project expanded to include two additional lakes, integrating turtle tracking, citizen science and habitat enhancement. Thirty trained Albany community volunteers monitored 271 turtles and protected 245 nests using metal nesting facilities that reduce predation and damage from lawn maintenance. Parklands School students actively participated, observing nesting and hatching processes, which fostered environmental awareness and stewardship.

The project has delivered measurable ecological and community benefits. It has reduced the need for veterinary interventions, increased safe nesting sites and raised public awareness about wetland conservation. By combining scientific research with community engagement, the initiative strengthens the resilience of Albany's wetlands and ensures the continued presence of snake-necked turtles as freshwater scavengers essential to ecosystem health.



State finalists

Darkan

Water Tanks at the Men's Shed

Funding from the Community Water Supplies Partnership (CWSP) program enabled the installation of two large rainwater tanks at the Darkan Men's Shed. Connected to the shed's expansive roof. the tanks efficiently collect rainwater to irrigate the Railway Reserve Park gardens and provide supplementary water for bushfire brigades during fire season. This initiative addresses Darkan's increasingly warm and dry climate by ensuring a reliable water source for both environmental and emergency use. It supports the growth of droughttolerant vegetation and enhances public green spaces. The project strengthens community resilience and reflects a broader commitment to sustainability and ecological health.





Kalgoorlie-Boulder Bushland rehabilitation

In 2024–25, the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group (KBULG) operated a vibrant community nursery at Karlkurla Bushland Park, supporting bushland restoration and community engagement. Thousands of drought-adapted seedlings were donated to schools, events and public spaces, enhancing biodiversity and urban greening. In partnership with the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, KBULG maintained six regeneration zones and promoted ecological connectivity. The Annual Tree Planting Day on 28 July 2024 drew more than 600 participants - KBULG's largest turnout - who planted 3,000 native seedlings. The event coincided with the opening of the Karlkurla Nature Playground and fostered community pride, environmental stewardship and a lasting connection to the bushland.

Margaret River

Margaret River Community Nursery

Founded in response to the closure of the region's only commercial native nursery, Margaret River Community Nursery Inc. is a volunteer-run initiative supporting bushland regeneration and biodiversity conservation. Operating on a Shire reserve, volunteers propagate 58 native species from 35 genera, nurturing more than 12,000 plants. These support key projects including restoration in Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, Cape to Cape Track, Wooditjup Bilya foreshore and coastal erosion mitigation. The nursery fosters intergenerational learning, welcoming students, TAFE learners and older locals to share skills. With a 10-year goal of supplying one million native plants, it builds a resilient, community-owned supply chain for climate adaptation and ecological restoration.





Moora

Moore Catchment Council

Moore Catchment Council (MCC) has led environmental sustainability efforts in Moora through collaboration with farmers, landholders, volunteers and schools. Key projects include largescale revegetation and seed collection, enhancing biodiversity and land health. Jim Hamilton's property at Hamilton Lake showcased dramatic improvements during a judges' visit. MCC partners with local rangers to ensure use of locally appropriate seed stock. Community engagement is central, with initiatives like the Native Plant Giveaway, Owl Workshop and a bus tour of revegetation sites. MCC also supports Carnaby Cockatoo conservation through nest box installation and monitoring. Its integrated approach combines science, land management and cultural initiatives to deliver impactful outcomes.

Port and South Hedland

Vertebrate Pest Management Program and Amber-Coloured, Solar-Powered Bollard Lighting

Port Hedland's Vertebrate Pest Management Program (VPMP) is a biannual initiative protecting biodiversity by reducing invasive species like foxes and feral cats. A key success is the protection of flatback turtle nests, previously facing up to 88 per cent predation. Targeted pest control has significantly reduced nest destruction. Complementing this, ambercoloured, solar-powered bollard lighting was installed in April 2025 to minimise light pollution and reduce disorientation for nesting turtles and hatchlings. These lights also enhance pedestrian safety using energy-efficient technology. Together, these initiatives reflect Port Hedland's commitment to sustainable biodiversity management and coastal protection, balancing conservation with community needs.





Environmental Education

Walpole

Walpole Primary School

UR Walpole







Environmental Education

Sponsored by Western Australia Landcare Network (WALN)

Recognises an outstanding community for its innovative environmental advocacy and/ or awareness program or initiative



WalpoleUR Walpole

UR Walpole is Walpole Primary School's flagship environmental education program, running annually since 1996. Held in term two, this cross-curriculum, whole-school initiative is guided by the school's motto Nature, Culture, Future and is designed to create authentic learning experiences that connect students to local and global environmental issues. Each year, a new theme is explored through hands-on, inquiry-based activities that foster student engagement and community involvement.

In 2025, the theme was 'Air', with students across three classes investigating its role in everyday life and natural systems. Activities included exploring how air dries food, understanding atmospheric composition and examining how air circulation influences weather and ocean currents. Students also studied air pollution and mitigation strategies, discovered how plants use wind to disperse pollen and explored the creative use of air in music and art. These activities encouraged students to think critically and creatively about sustainability and science.

A key contributor to the program's success is WOW Wilderness Ecocruise, whose team provides expert knowledge, resources and immersive experiences. Their involvement, along with support from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, local volunteer fire and rescue services, Aboriginal Elders, artists and parents, enriches the program and strengthens community ties.

The program continues to achieve meaningful outcomes, including increased environmental awareness and action among students and families.

State finalists



Kalgoorlie-Boulder

Aboriginal Food and Medicinal Garden

The Aboriginal Food and Medicinal Garden at the Museum of the Goldfields expanded significantly in 2024-25 through a partnership between the museum, Gold Fields Mining and Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group. Originally established in 2022, the garden promotes traditional Aboriginal knowledge of native plants' nutritional and medicinal uses. More than 75 new native species were added, alongside a firepit, yarning circle and interpretive signage. Goldfields Aboriginal Community Services rangers and Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison participants audited plants and removed non-native species. In May 2025, students from Kambalda District High School planted 54 more species and trialled the Aboriginal Bush Garden Education Program.



Karratha

The Youth Shed's Solar Buddy Program

The Youth Shed's Solar Buddy Program in Karratha empowers young people to address global energy poverty through hands-on sustainability learning. Led by science teacher Mr Okonkwo (Mr O), more than 50 participants built solarpowered lights via STEM activities, which were donated to children without reliable electricity. Mr O's personal stories of growing up in Nigeria without light deepened participants' understanding of inequality and inspired empathy. The program taught solar technology and the impacts of fossil fuels, encouraging critical thinking and compassion. Despite facing challenges themselves, participants wrote heartfelt letters to accompany the lights. Its success has sparked interest from neighbouring communities like Wickham, highlighting the power of youth-led action in sustainability and humanitarian outreach.

Kununurra

Kununurra Community Garden Kitchen – Earth Stewardship Program

Led by Amanda Milburn, the Kununurra Community Garden Kitchen (CGK) coordinates a vibrant volunteer network focused on environmental education and resilience through permaculture. Amanda, a Nature-Based Therapist and nationally recognised educator, bridges schools, elders and community groups to deliver immersive, hands-on learning. The Earth Stewardship Program engages schools in Kununurra and remote communities like Halls Creek, Warmun, Wyndham, Kundat Djaru and Yakanarra. Students learn practical skills in food growing, land care and sustainability through culturally relevant education. Achievements include curriculum integration, strong partnerships and a thriving online community of over 1,450 members. CGK fosters personal growth, community connection and ecological awareness.





Williams

Williams Wildlife Warriors

Williams Wildlife Warriors is a free afterschool program hosted by the Williams Community Resource Centre, engaging pre-primary to year six students in environmental learning and nature play. Held each term and during holidays, sessions attract eight to 32 children, with more than 80 participants involved to date. Facilitated by Gemma and supported by partners like Williams Environment Group, Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC), Newmont Boddington, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and Educated by Nature, activities include tree planting, water testing, seed bomb making, dye workshops, river clean-ups, wildflower walks and cultural sharing. Each session explores a different environmental or cultural theme. encouraging children to connect with local ecosystems.

York

River Conservation Society

The River Conservation Society in York has transformed the old tennis court site into the Gogular Bilya Environmental Discovery Centre beside the Avon River. Developed with the Shire of York, Wildflower Society and Balladong Noongar people, the centre features educational displays, cultural workshops and a native garden showcasing waterwise and firewise plants. A History of the River Walkway, co-designed with Noongar elders and artists, enhances cultural value, Inside, the centre houses a herbarium with 3.500+ native specimens, a seed collection, library and community spaces. It hosts art groups, tai chi and citizen science projects, including a study confirming the native water rat's presence. Youth engagement is strong, with tree planting and habitat creation activities. The centre is now a beacon for environmental education, cultural exchange and community connection, promoting sustainable gardening and biodiversity awareness in a changing climate.





Community Action and Wellbeing

Kununurra

The Kununurra (KNX) Community Garden Kitchen (CGK) - KNX Food Security and Food Relief Project





Community Action and Wellbeing

Sponsored by Rural Aid Australia

Recognises the achievements of a community in creating a healthy, vibrant community that has actively engaged groups from all sectors





Kununurra

The Kununurra Community Garden kitchen food security and food relief project

The Kununurra Community Garden Kitchen (CGK) is a vibrant, inclusive initiative that promotes community connection, education and wellbeing through sustainable practices and cultural engagement. Originally established as a community garden and later expanded to include a kitchen component, CGK has become a vital support hub for the Kununurra region.

The initiative provides free weekly meals, clothing, hygiene items and emergency relief, consistently serving the community without interruption. This dependable service supports food security and fosters strong social ties, particularly among vulnerable groups and visiting language communities.

CGK is deeply committed to education, offering workshops in permaculture, syntropic agriculture, cooking, arts and sustainable living. These programs engage youth, volunteers, job seekers and school groups, promoting skill development and long-term wellbeing.

Strong partnerships with organisations such as the WA Police Force, PCYC, Save the Children (54 Reasons) and the Waringarri Corporation enhance youth engagement, reduce anti-social behaviour and expand community activities. These collaborations continue to evolve, strengthening local support networks.

Through its dual focus on food relief and education, CGK promotes sustainability, cultural inclusion and community resilience. Its merged not-for-profit model reflects strong community ownership and adaptability, making it a cornerstone of support and empowerment in Kununurra.

State finalists

Badgingarra

Orchard and Rest Area

Since 2024, the Shire of Dandaragan and the Badgingarra community have transformed the town's main rest stop into a vibrant, productive space. The staged project replaced gravel with bitumen, added shelters, seating and mulch and established a community orchard with fruit trees aged two to eight years. Despite supply challenges from the shot-hole borer quarantine, planting continued in 2025. Volunteers - including passing travellers - helped plant, prune and maintain the orchard, which now offers free seasonal fruit and fosters social interaction. Additional amenities like BBQs, a playground, mini-golf and public toilets have made the site a popular destination. The project's success has influenced broader shire planning.





Gingin

Connecting Youth Expo

On 16 April 2025, the Shire of Gingin hosted its first Connecting Youth Expo, empowering young people through leadership, enterprise and access to services. Supported by grants, sponsors and local businesses, the event attracted 220 youth and 230 students who engaged with the Instruckta training truck. A passport system encouraged interaction with service providers, while 60+ Gingin District High School students contributed via the enterprise program. Twelve students ran microbusiness stalls under a dedicated marquee. Youth-led entertainment included music, dance, karate and a talent show. Services represented included mental health, emergency services, apprenticeships and road safety. Volunteers from Scouts and cadets supported the event. Its success has inspired a new initiative - Palettes and Plates - to expand youth enterprise across neighbouring shires. The shire has also embedded the YME? YNot? program to support youth entrepreneurship long term.

Kalgoorlie-Boulder

Karlkurla Nature Playground official opening

Opened on 28 August 2024 by Premier Roger Cook and Mayor Glenn Wilson, the Karlkurla Nature Playground is one of WA's largest and most inclusive regional playgrounds. Designed by Nature Play WA with input from Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group, it blends with the bushland surroundings and caters to children of all abilities. Features include an accessible flying fox, multi-level play fort, archeology-themed sandpit, balance boardwalks, a river and bridge and wheelchair-friendly paths. Upgrades to lighting, toilets and parking enhance safety and access. A mural by Danielle Champion celebrates First Nations culture and native flora and fauna. The playground is clean, well-used and hosts events like school excursions, parkruns and tree planting days. It has become a vibrant hub for recreation and connection, enhancing Karlkurla Bushland Park's value and promoting wellbeing and community spirit.





Meekatharra

Fashion Walk

The Barndi Mayu Fashion Show, held on 26 October 2024 at Meekatharra District High School, celebrated cultural pride, youth empowerment and community spirit. Over 30 young models walked the 'red-dirt runway' in garments and jewellery created through months of collaboration between youth, Elders, families, artists and mentors. Elders played key roles in outfit creation, storytelling and event support, while the community gathered for music, dance and shared meals. Noongar model and designer Shannon McGuire added cultural depth. With 120+ attendees, the event was recognised in regional media and won Community Contributor or Event of the Year at the 2025 Meekatharra Community Awards. Barndi Mayu has sparked enthusiasm for an annual tradition, showcasing the power of collaboration in celebrating identity, creativity and belonging.

Waroona

Waroona Community Resource Centre – Connecting Waroona

The Waroona CRC exemplifies community spirit through skilled staff and 36 volunteers delivering essential services like tech support, internet access, livestock wand services and agency support for TRANSWA and Services Australia. The Family Support Services team offers confidential aid, advocacy and access to the No Interest Loan Scheme, with 1061 consultations and 3262 services delivered in 2024. The Staying in Place program helps seniors remain at home, while the annual Christmas Food Hampers initiative distributes 200 hampers across Waroona, Preston Beach and Lake Clifton. The Community Car Service, run by 13 volunteer drivers, ensures access to medical appointments. The weekly Community Kitchen, led by Programs Officer Candice and six volunteers, supports food security and social connection for 25+ residents. Events like workshops, health sessions and social activities - including the Aging Well High Tea and Cuppa with a Copper - promote wellbeing and engagement across the district.





General Appearance

Northam

Clean-up Northam Community
Entrance Beautification Project









General Appearance

Recognises improvements to a community's general appearance including, but not restricted to, town entries/ approaches, sporting areas, public parks and gardens, private homes and streets including footpaths and verges



Northam

Tidying the tourist drives into Northam

Clean Up Northam Community, in collaboration with the Shire of Northam, has made commendable progress in improving the town's general appearance. Their efforts have focused on key visual entry points, including the entrance drives and information bays, which now offer a more welcoming and well-maintained impression to residents and visitors alike.

A major area of concern addressed by the group was the visitor information bay, a prominent stop for tourists travelling between Perth and Kalgoorlie. The site had unfortunately become an illegal dumping ground. Clean Up Northam Community promptly reported the issue to the shire using the Snap Send Solve app. The shire responded quickly, deploying machinery to remove the bulk waste. Volunteers then conducted a thorough clean-up, collecting an additional 15 bags of rubbish. The site is now regularly maintained, with increased mowing and upkeep by shire staff.

This partnership has proven highly effective. The shire has committed to installing bins to discourage future dumping and new trees have been planted to enhance the area's visual appeal. These improvements have not only restored the site but also reinforced community pride.

The proactive involvement of volunteers has made a noticeable difference. People of all ages are contributing to the upkeep of their town, demonstrating a strong sense of ownership and care. The Spencer's Brook community, in particular, exemplifies this spirit, showing pride in their surroundings and the road leading into Northam.

State finalists



Carnarvon

Beautiful Streets: 6701

Carnarvon's Beautiful Streets: 6701 campaign has evolved into a vibrant movement for public space revitalisation. Led by the Beautiful Streets Working Group - residents, business owners and Shire staff - the initiative has transformed neglected areas into community hubs. The Future is Me Urban Art Program, co-designed by local youth, brought murals to the Shire offices, Carnarvon Central shopping centre and Robinson Street, sparking upgrades at the skate park and Egan Street. These included planter boxes, infrastructure and Carnarvon's first road mural Robinson Street beautification added wicking planters, tree planting, interactive art and nature play. A community art hub now hosts workshops and creates anti-vandalism window decals and mentorship. Together, these efforts blend creativity, collaboration and pride, reimagining Carnarvon's streetscapes and fostering inclusion.



JerramungupOur Town, Our Pride

Our Town, Our Pride is a community-led initiative in Jerramungup that promotes cleanliness, civic pride and environmental care. Supported by the shire, residents, businesses, schools and community groups, the project ensures public spaces remain tidy and welcoming year round. Activities include litter collection, verge and garden maintenance, graffiti removal and park beautification. A native bushland area enhances biodiversity and attracts wildlife. Local authorities manage upkeep, while residents and business owners maintain shopfronts and footpaths. Volunteers from gardening and environmental groups enhance green spaces and schools promote litter awareness and responsibility. Visitors reinforce the culture of care through positive feedback. A bin sticker campaign further encourages cleanliness and shared responsibility. The initiative reflects Jerramungup's strong community spirit and commitment to maintaining a beautiful, sustainable town.

Port and South Hedland

Care for Hedland litter clean ups

Care for Hedland leads litter management in Port and South Hedland, coordinating over 32 clean-up events annually. The Adopt-A-Spot program engages the community in monthly clean-ups at eight locations. During turtle nesting season (October-March), volunteers conduct daily beach clean-ups alongside turtle monitoring, removing around 15 kg of litter monthly. Care For Hedland also participates in major campaigns like World Clean Up Day, WA Beach Clean Up and corporate events with BHP and Fortescue. In recent efforts, 133 participants collected 863 kg of waste and 46 kg of recyclables. Outreach includes school visits, radio interviews, newsletters and Captain Cleanup's visit, reaching over 1,700 people. Strong partnerships with BHP, Town of Port Hedland, Volunteering WA, Tangaroa Blue and volunteers foster environmental stewardship and community pride.





Sandstone

Oasis in the outback

The Shire of Sandstone has enhanced its appeal through coordinated upgrades and maintenance. Infrastructure improvements include resealing Oroya Street and carparks at key locations, plus new footpaths linking the caravan park to central facilities. Town presentation was elevated with new entry signage, café and visitor signs and designated caravan parking with clear wayfinding. Greening efforts continue with two new bores supporting tree planting and irrigation. Sustainable streetscape gardens and bypass tree planting reinforce Sandstone's 'oasis in the outback' identity. Fencing upgrades improved visibility of water tank murals and Pioneer Park's heritage machinery. Locally commissioned signage and vibrant play equipment add to the welcoming atmosphere. These enhancements reflect Sandstone's commitment to continuous improvement, community pride and creating a memorable experience for residents and travellers alike.

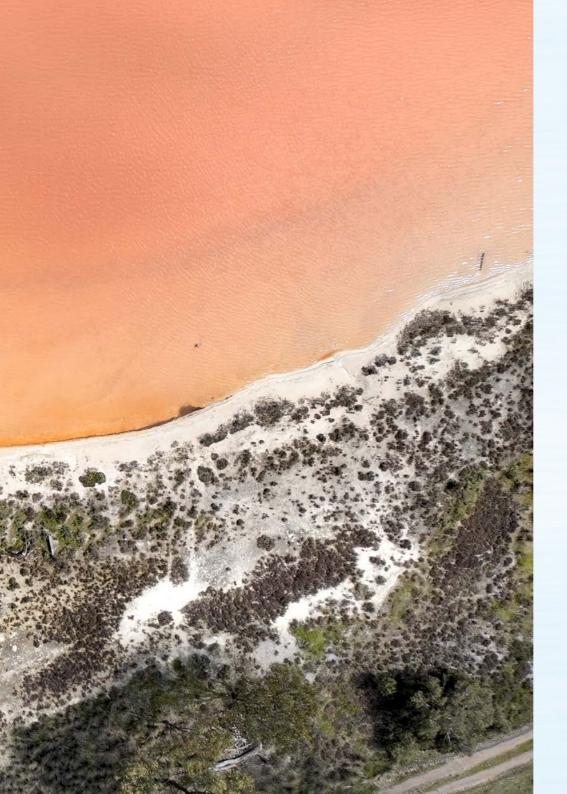
Williams

Our community, our pride

The Shire of Williams' beautification program enhances town aesthetics and fosters community pride. Key initiatives include regular maintenance of public gardens and verges, solar lighting in areas like Lions Park and promotion of community-led clean-up and planting days. Shire staff, volunteers and local groups collaborate to maintain clean, safe and vibrant spaces. Sustainability is central, with waterwise planting, solar lighting and recycled materials reducing environmental impact and long-term costs. The shire's garden crew delivers high-quality landscaping, transforming public areas into attractive, functional spaces. Partnerships with sporting clubs and community groups ensure recreational areas are wellkept and promote intergenerational connection. This coordinated approach boosts tourism, wellbeing and a sense of belonging, reflecting Williams' values of sustainability, inclusivity and community spirit.







Award frames

Each award frame this year has been uniquely handcrafted by Men's Sheds from across Western Australia, using locally significant timbers such as virgin bush wood, old farm posts, and materials from historic sites like the Esperance Jetty and Brunswick Showgrounds. The story behind each frame is printed on the back.

We sincerely thank the following Men's Sheds for their generous contribution and craftsmanship:

Merredin Community Men's Shed Inc., Busselton Men's Shed Inc., Walpole Menshed, Mens Shed Narrogin, Brunswick Junction Community Men's Shed, Men-in-Sheds Inc. Esperance, The Mens Shed of Collie, Wongan-Ballidu & District Menshed Inc., and The Mens Shed Geraldton Inc.

Your work has helped make each award a lasting and meaningful keepsake.













For more information, contact: tidytowns@kabc.wa.gov.au www.kabc.wa.gov.au













