



Wallace Rockhole wins two national 2021 Australian Sustainable Communities Tidy Town Awards

Keep Australia Beautiful has announced category winners of the 2021 Australian Sustainable Communities -Tidy Towns Awards.

The finalist for Northern Territory, Wallace Rockhole was the winner in the **Environmental Communication and Engagement** category and a joint winner in the **Heritage and Culture** category.

The proud MacDonnell Regional Council township of Wallace Rockhole won the Northern Territory Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Award in 2020 to become the Northern Territory Finalist in the 2021 Australian Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards and won two national categories.

Keep Australia Beautiful Council (NT) CEO, Heimo Schober said Wallace Rockhole's continual dedication and commitment to keeping their community at its best, tidy and beautiful all the time, makes it a stand-out.

"The residents living in this harsh beautiful MacDonnell region have embraced the Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns program for so long, with every community member working together in proud corporation and collaboration to achieve well-earned prestigious National Awards yet again," Mr Schober said.

"The township's strong pride and culture of environmental continuous improvement and community participation helped the MacDonnell Desert community win two categories in the challenging 2021 national competition.

"The MacDonnell Council Staff, Traditional Owners and the residents of Wallace Rockhole all deserve these wins for their efforts and dedication to ensure their community is consistently the Tidiest Town and a Sustainable Community.

"I congratulate the MacDonnell Regional Council for their support inspiring Wallace Rockhole to win these Awards," Mr Schober added.

"Yet again, the MacDonnell Regional Council has won national categories at the 2021 Australian Sustainable Communities Tidy Towns Awards," Schober said.

Australian Sustainable Communities – Tidy Towns judge Gail Langley acknowledged Wallace Rockhole's development from humble beginnings of several tin buildings into a thriving community housing a successful local store, art centre, campground and a tour business that are all Indigenous owned and operated.

"At the heart of Wallace Rockhole are the First Nations people and a community that is wholly run and maintained by the Arrernte people," commented Ms Langley.

"Indigenous culture and heritage are very strong in Wallace Rockhole. Through stories and sharing of knowledge by the Traditional Owners, the environmental awareness is maintained, creating unique affinity with Country that if not maintained, will be lost to generations in the future," added Ms Langley.

Heimo Schober, Chief Executive Keep Australia Beautiful Council Northern Territory commended all the finalists in this year's Australian Awards and Wallace Rockhole for their consistent high community standards and quality of life.

"Entrants in the Sustainable Communities – Tidy Towns competition, who are largely volunteers, are some of the most dedicated and passionate people we are fortunate enough to be involved with.

"In addition to a healthy dose of competition, the awards bring together community leaders, environmental champions, young legends and waste warriors from every corner of our great country to share experiences, learn from and inspire each other.

This is the true Sustainable Communities – Tidy Towns spirit."

The winners' book and photographs are available at www.sustainablecommunities.com.au.

For further information visit www.kabcnt.org.au

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