



Media Release

Ntaria (Hermannsburg) wins 2023 Northern Territory Sustainable Community Tidy Town Award

The proud MacDonnell Regional Council township of Ntaria (Hermannsburg) has won the 2023 Northern Territory Sustainable Community Tidy Town accolade announced in Katherine on Friday night.

Keep Australia Beautiful Council (NT) CEO, Heimo Schober said Ntaria's (Hermannsburg) award was a reflection of the continued dedication and hard work by the community residents and its key stakeholders over the range of categories in the last 12 months.

"The residents living in the semi-arid MacDonnell Rangers region of Northern Territory continue to embrace the Territory Sustainable Community Tidy Towns actions and program," Mr Schober said.

"The community residents are actively engaged and committed to improving liveability and wellbeing, keeping Ntaria proud and strong, making it a deserving stand-out community at this year's awards.

"The township has a strong culture of continuous improvement, community drive with active participation, which has led them to win the prestigious award.

"Ntaria (Hermannsburg) continues to demonstrate great community collaboration, pride and leadership, they share their heritage and culture proudly, participate in community events and actively engage in local sustainability practices and education, that sets a wonderful example for other remote Territory townships to follow.

"The MacDonnell Council Staff, Traditional Owners and the residents of Ntaria (Hermannsburg) are very deserving of this award and I congratulate them on their success."

MacDonnell Regional Council were awarded a majority of the categories at the 2023 Territory Sustainable Community Tidy Town Awards yet again.

"It is inspiring to see a Regional Council consistently producing Territory Sustainable Tidy Town winning Communities," Mr Schober said.

As the Territory's 2023 Tidy Town winner, the MacDonnell region community of Ntaria (Hermannsburg) will represent the Northern Territory at the Keep Australia Beautiful, Australian Sustainable community Tidy Towns Awards in Gascoyne Junction Western Australia in 2024

Keep Australia Beautiful Council (NT) also gave the Northern Territory remote and isolated communities a glowing report-card for the year with commendable projects and community actions being recognised and acknowledged. Continuous improvements are still being made with new norms and new standards being achieved that improve liveability and quality of life.

The Northern Territory Sustainable Community Tidy Towns Awards program recognises and acknowledges the commitment, collaboration and hard work undertaken by remote and regional community key stakeholders, schools, individuals, stores, Rangers, Aboriginal Corporations, businesses and Councils. It showcases commendable projects, innovative ideas and initiatives that improve social and environmental development, plus circular economy sustainability actions in regional areas of the Northern Territory towards UNSDG's and 2030 plus 2050 climate targets.

For further information visit www.kabcnt.org.au

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Keep Australia Beautiful Council (NT) – Territory Sustainable Community Tidy Towns Awards 2023 Results Table

Category	WINNER
Overall Winner/ National Finalist	*Ntaria (Hermannsburg) , overall 2023 Territory winner representing Northern Territory at National Awards in May 2024 at Gascoyne Junction Western Australia. Their community plans include all 17 UNSDG's, consistently tidy clean community now, well maintained, very good waste management practices by residents, best practices bench mark waste facility, separation of waste with resource recovery, reducing waste into landfill, chilled water refill stations and bubblers, water conservation new groasis waterboxx technology, trees planted for beautification, introducing food security, cultural heritage maintained and displayed, native bee pollination highway. This beautiful community has high level of pride and self esteem with strong connection to country and culture, residents take ownership and responsibility guiding their community's direction. Council staff have a very positive attitude
Community Citizen 2023	Jeff MacLeod (Retired CEO MacDonnell Regional Council) is a true believer in livability and quality of life actions and strategies, a natural leader and a highly respected leader, highly influential and valued MacDonnell Regional Council Team Leader, has always been a strong advocate and Champion for Sustainable Community Tidy Towns program, many years championing the cause for MacDonnell Regional Council communities to become continually better to achieve SCTT award wins.
Best Homeland	Irgul this picturesque homeland is located in the virtually uninhabited saltwater country on Cobourg Peninsula, the homeland itself is very well maintained very tidy and neat, with manicured gardens, they minimise waste into landfill, separate waste and recover materials for recycling, make use of renewable energy with solar panels as main source of energy, they set a great example for other Homelands and Outstations to follow.
Best Small Community	Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff) The community has pulled together over the last 12 months with all key stakeholders working towards the shared goals of making Ikuntji beautiful. Best practices landfill & waste Management, separation of waste materials into resource recovery collection bays, local school is working with council to deliver community education
Best Medium Community	Ntaria (Hermannsburg) , overall winner representing Northern Territory at National Awards in May 2024, community plans include all 17 UNSDG's, consistently tidy, clean community, well maintained, good waste management practices, separation of waste with resource recovery, reducing waste into landfill, water conservation initiatives, introducing food security, cultural heritage maintained, very high self-esteem and community pride.
Best Large Community	Nhulunbuy (Gove) continually holding gains as they progressively move preparing for transition to 'normality', setting high benchmark standards within their immediate region, looking to increase tourism population but well aware of aged and infrastructure services limitations challenges ahead, this community is always willing to assist and support their neighboring communities towards continuous improvement.
Best Regional Council	MacDonnell Regional Council continually leading and positively progressing forward setting the benchmark (and new norms) for other NT Regional Councils to follow and aspire towards across all Keep Australia Beautiful categories. MRC

	<p>continue to incorporate UNSDG's into community plans, a 'No Single Use Plastic Policy', and 'Chilled Water Bubbler Refill Stations' installed into their communities to help reduce problematic single use plastics MRC communities, reducing ground litter, reducing plastics into landfills, improving environmental health. This Regional Council is continually leading the way forward right across all North Australia.</p>
Best Homelands Association	<p>DEMED Aboriginal Corporation is one of many Northern Territory Homelands/Outstation Corporations. DEMED are very supportive of and actively engaged in the Keep Australia Beautiful program, and are continuing to lead and grow stronger Homelands as some move towards Aboriginal Tourism enterprise opportunities. DEMED are assisting their Homelands/Outstations with waste separation, resource recovery, increased food security, beautification, skills, knowledge, and employment.</p> <p>DEMED's transitioning to waste circular economy, improving food security, implementing water conservation and energy waste reduction programs are all linked to KABC(NT) Sustainable Community Tidy Towns program educational awareness. DEMED are also moving to incorporate all 17 UNSDG's into their Homelands/Outstations community development plans and are also encouraging Aboriginal Tourism enterprise opportunities that incorporate the sharing of Aboriginal culture and experiences.</p>
4 gold Star Accreditation	<p>Milyakburra, Santa Teresa, Mt Liebig, Areyonga all these communities have consistently maintained a Litter Rating Index (LRI) of 95 or above for the last four years and by so doing has achieved the 4 Gold Star accreditation rating that signals their sustainable and continued commitment to keeping Country Beautiful with potential of attracting tourists and visitors into their communities if wanted.</p>
'Dame Phyllis Frost' Litter Control & Prevention	<p>Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff) The active community members of Ikuntji have commenced their journey towards 4 Gold Star accreditation, removing ground litter collectively over the last 12 months as a community group led by the 'key stakeholders' and continually improving. They are being recognised for their collective Litter Control Management Actions.</p>
Waste Management	<p>Apatula (Finke) This very remote and isolated community of approx. 300 residents now boasts the latest 'benchmark' landfill site within its region, and with a fantastic design that is supportive and compliments our new NT Government Waste Circular Economy policy. This Landfill site was proudly built by MacDonnell Regional Council trained staff and includes security fencing, specifically color-coded universal animation signage, and individual drop-off bays for the various specific material sorting. Finke is able to collate the necessary data to help make informed waste management decisions whilst minimising waste impact on their immediate environment and increasing the recovery of resources for inclusion back into the end market recycling loop. They are well and truly ready and waiting for the Waste Circular Economy policy initiatives Territory new end markets to be established.</p>
Community Participation (Tripartite)	<p>Ntaria (Hermannsburg) The community residents have taken the initiative and lead to work collaboratively together with all key stakeholders to improve within the area of Waste Management, to collectively share resources, knowledge, and skills, that will result in reduced ground litter pollution and increased recovery of resources. They have also commenced works to beautify the community, increase food security and trial new water conservation technologies.</p>
Resource Recovery Management	<p>Borroloola Roper Gulf Regional Council community of Borroloola has become a collection centre and regional leader in beverage container resource recovery for some time now. They have achieved the great milestone with 1.8 million containers recovered over the last 12 months and they've inspired others to follow their model template as we transition into waste circular economy. All the 1.8 million containers were forward on to Mataranka Container Depot for inclusion into the recycling loop.</p>
Mobile Phone Recovery	<p>East Arnhem Regional Council East Arnhem Regional Council communities have been collecting unwanted mobile phones for some time now and are regional leaders in this specific material recovery and return back into the recycling loop. These existing practices and template can help other Regional Councils</p>

	<i>pave the way ahead as we transition into waste circular economy in Northern Territory.</i>
Best Territory Tidy Town School (Rural & Remote Schools)	Wallace Rockhole School <i>This School is very conducive to learning and School Principal and Teacher Maryse has been passionately teaching sustainability in the most beautiful school environment. The students at Wallace Rockhole school have always played a large role in community education by sharing their learnings with family after school. The staff have always been supportive of working with community council to help deliver shared goals. The school plays a major role in community understanding and learning of sustainability gaining related knowledge, skills and values. The attending students are being professionally informed, involved, and understand the importance of individuals acting, being committed to, and taking new learning steps towards sustainability. Their learning and actions have a positive influence on the wider region as well as community residents.</i>
Clean Green Healthy School (Major Hub Schools)	Good Start Early learning Centre (Wulagi) <i>This early learning education centre is leading the way in Eco-Tots sustainability education. They cater for the 0 – 5 year age group and have incorporated a heavy sustainability teaching within the students daily activities and coaching. The centre has helped tailor and create the Eco-Tots program adapted from Eco-Schools which was successfully trialed and shared with the world in early 2023. The Centre achieved first global Bronze and Silver Eco-Tots accreditation and teach sustainability in a way that develops simple understanding of sustainability achieving desired practices through investigation and hands-on learning, creating student understanding and responsibility.</i>
Environment Action	MacDonnell Regional Council (Community Chilled Water Refill Stations and Bubblers) <i>This project was a result of the MRC's 'No Single-Use Plastic' policy and is removing problematic single use plastics from remote community landfill sites. These chilled refill stations had been successfully trialed and rolled out to MRC 13 communities. The chilled water refill stations have achieved a number of benefits that include reduced ground litter, reduction of plastic waste into remote community landfills, and reduction of beverage sugar intake. It is hoped that the other NT Regional Councils adopt similar 'No Single-Use Plastic' policy and introduce the installations of chilled water bubbler refill stations that benefit health and environment as we transition to waste circular economy.</i>
Water Conservation	Ntaria (Hermannsburg) <i>This community is creating a positive active water conservation culture among its residents and they have continued strengthening this culture with the introduction of new 'waterboxx' technology. Their pilot trials hope to propagate trees and bushes in desert communities with this condensation technology and if successful will be expanded to growing remote desert community vegetables and fruits. This technology allows local residents to green their communities without the need for water usage through irrigation.</i>
Circular Economy	Katherine <i>the people of Katherine have been very supportive of the KTC circular economy strategies introduced this year which include their 6 month kerbside recycling trial, the Tip Shop, and additional container depot. The community supported CE strategies are reducing waste into landfill and successfully recovering valuable resources for inclusion back into the recycling loop under circular economy principles.</i>

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