



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 6 July 2006

“Our local environmental heroes” ACT Sustainable Cities Award Winners Announced for 2006

The winners of the 2006 ACT Sustainable Cities Awards were announced by the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Mr John Hargreaves MLA, at a presentation lunch in Canberra today.

The ACT Sustainable Cities Awards recognises efforts by residents, community groups, businesses and government agencies to enhance their local environment. All entries received in the 2006 awards have acknowledged the importance of contributing to our standard of living and improving the quality of life for all Canberrans. The awards are sponsored by the Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council, a Canberra based organisation dedicated to prevention of litter and responsible disposal of packaging.

The Minister, award winners, finalists, sponsors and other guests attending the Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Awards presentation, helped celebrate the outstanding environmental endeavours and initiatives carried out by residents, community groups, businesses and government agencies in the ACT.

Entries were received in a total of 9 categories. In 2006 an additional awards category was included in the Sustainable Cities Program, the Urban Habitat Category. This category recognizes innovative and effective projects that sustain and enhance native biodiversity in urban environments.

Entries in the 2006 ACT Sustainable Cities Awards were received from the community, from industry and from government.. As in 2005 the number of entries received from local schools was a highlight, particularly, this year with the Australian National University entering projects in three categories.

Building on the success of the inaugural awards held in 2005, the 2006 program attracted twice the number of entries as in the previous year. “The increase in entries really shows the heightened awareness that Canberran’s have placed on developing initiatives to create a sustainable future for their city. As some of these entries have shown us, there are many low cost, low maintenance ways in which to develop a sustainable future, The Walking School Bus entered by YWCA is the perfect example of this community initiative”.

“All award entrants, finalists and winners should be proud of the efforts they have made in contributing to the environmental sustainability of the National Capital. All entries were of an exceptional standard, and I consider all those who entered our environmental heroes”, said Minister Hargreaves who launched the awards program in February and was on hand at the awards lunch to present the overall winner of the 2006 ACT Sustainable Cities Award.

Keep Australia Beautiful will continue to build on the success of the Sustainable Cities program currently underway in Victoria, New South Wales and the ACT, by launching a national Sustainable Cities campaign. Don Chambers, National Chairman, Keep Australia Beautiful said “we hope to be launching the national program in the next few months, and given the success of the campaigns in Victoria, New South Wales and here in the ACT, we expect this program to be embraced throughout urban Australia in the same way that Tidy Towns has been a mainstay in rural communities.

Congratulations to the team behind ANU Sliver Cell for being the overall winner in the ACT. They now join North Sydney Council in New South Wales and the City of Hume in Victoria as overall winners in their communities.

The Keep Australia Beautiful ACT Sustainable Cities Award Recipients 2006 are:

Category	Award	Name	Program/Project	Sponsor
Overall Winner		ANU	Sliver Cells	Australian Food and Grocery Council
Community Pride	Winner	Department of Urban Services	Colour in Canberra	Australian Food and Grocery Council
Environmental Innovation	Winner	Australian National University	Sliver Cells	Canberra International Airport
	Highly Commended	Ready Mix	Fyshwick Plant	
Water Efficiency	Winner	Perpetual Water	Perpetual Water Home	Office of Sustainability
Resource Efficiency	Winner	Australian National University	ANU IT Recycling	Department of Urban Services ACTNOWaste
Sustainable Transport	Winner	YWCA	Walking School Bus	Bunnings Warehouse
	Highly Commended	Australian National University Green	Timely Tredlies	
Sustainable Building	Winner	Fuji Xerox	Greenhouse	Master Builders Association
	Highly Commended-Community	Derek Wrigley	Retrofitted House	
	Highly Commended-Corporate	ACTEWAGL	Eco Living Display, Watson	
Sustainable Schools	Winner	Melrose Primary	Enviroschool	The Canberra Times
	Highly Commended	Gilmore Primary	Waste WiseGIFT	
Urban Habitat	Winner	Environment ACT	Garden Plants going bush	The Village Building Co
	Highly Commended	Gininderra Catchment Group	Frog Watch	
Young Legends	Winner	Hawker Primary		Win Television

For further media information or interviews please contact:

Alyssa Handy on 0402 086 668 or alyssa.handy@communicationlink.com.au

Don Chambers on 0408 654 209

Scott Lyall on 0419 016 401

Results of the Keep Australia Beautiful ACT Sustainable Cities Awards 2006 announced 6 July 2006

Attended by Guest of Honour John Hargreaves MLA, Minister for Territory and Municipal Services.

1. Community Pride Award

This award recognises effective strategies to maintain and enhance the urban environment; litter reduction; graffiti reduction and reduction in vandalism.

Presented by Ms Chris Jeffreys, Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council.

Winner in the Community Pride category is awarded to the Department of Urban Services for their Colour in Canberra project. As part of the ACT Graffiti Management Strategy, the Department of Urban Services initiated a program to prevent graffiti on traffic control boxes in Canberra. Some of the objectives of the *Colour in Canberra* program were to reduce the incidence of graffiti and bill postering by reducing the number of blank canvases; enhance the streetscape of Canberra by the addition of colourful community art; offer a high quality program that would promote the art skills of all participants interested in art; and, to reduce the financial cost associated with graffiti removal. Thirty two traffic control boxes located at various high profile intersections around Canberra were painted by local Canberrans aged 7 and up.

2. Environmental Innovation Award

Encourages break- through, creative solutions and innovative products, services, systems or projects which enhance sustainable living.

Presented by Mr Noel McCann, Canberra International Airport.

Highly Commended in the environmental innovation award was the new operating plant in Lithgow Street, Fyshwick for Readymix. This new site was an opportunity for Readymix to build a plant that set new standards not only in regards to safety and production capability but also in terms of environmental performance. Readymix set an environmental performance objective of zero waste by designing a plant that would generate less waste in the production process and any waste generated would be recycled. The Lithgow street plant has been in operation for a little over 12 months and has achieved many of their objectives. Most notably left over concrete is taken to the Cooma Road quarry where Readymix is about to commence a research and development study aimed at re-crushing the concrete into aggregates suitable for use in concrete. This has reduced waste by an average of 80 tonnes per month.

Winner of the environmental innovation category was awarded to the Australian National University, Sliver Cells project. Dr Klaus Weber and Prof. Andrew Blakers of the Australian National University invented Sliver solar cell technology as part of a research program substantially funded by Origin Energy. Sliver technology is a disruptive technology within an established conventional industry. The high efficiency and low cost of sliver solar cells means that sliver technology has an excellent chance of dominating PV technology and the PV industry. Origin Energy has constructed a new factory in Adelaide for the production of sliver solar panels. Recent studies have indicated that Sliver technology could reduce the costs of PV technology to a point where it will be competitive with wind energy and 'zero emission' coal.

3. Water Efficiency Award

Promotes, practical, successful examples that will inspire and promote water saving practices in the ACT.

Presented by Ms Jenny Gilles, Office of Sustainability.

Winner in the Water Efficiency category was awarded to Perpetual Water for their *Perpetual Water- Home*, system. The *Perpetual Water- Home* system was developed 3 years ago as a way to save, recycle and re-use grey water in Canberra households, during extreme drought and water restrictions. The *Perpetual Water- Home* is a fully automated system that uses patented, state of the art filtration process called Active Absorption Filtration to purify grey water to a class "A" standard. The *Perpetual Water-Home* gives the average household the ability to **save and recycle up to 67% of the water they use on a daily basis**. Up to 720 litres can be recycled a day – that's **263,000 litres per year** of restriction free water that can be saved and reused.

4. Resource Efficiency Award

Encourages excellence in either litter reduction, recycling or waste management and is open to individuals and community groups only.

Presented by Minister John Hargreaves. Category sponsored by Department of Urban Services / ACTNOWaste.

Winner in the resource efficiency award goes to the Australian National University through ANUgreen for its ANU IT Recycling and Furniture Redistribution Program. As part of the university's goal to establish opportunities to transform waste into a resource which can be reused on campus and elsewhere. At the ANU computers and peripheral IT equipment are a large, toxic, and growing waste stream driven by a constant turnover of equipment due to technical obsolescence. Computers, and in particular cathode ray tube monitors, contain heavy metals that can leach out into the environment. In total the ANU through the ANUgreen IT recycling program was able to recycle and reuse 487 PC's, 713 Monitors and 233 printers, amounting to approximately 21.8 tonnes of IT waste. This is a part of the 4111 computer and IT items that have been recycled by the university since 2002.

5. Sustainable Transport Award

This award encourages practical, successful examples that will inspire others, examples include - Car pooling, public transport use, etc.

Presented by Gary Stewart from Bunnings Tuggeranong and Bruce Husking from Bunnings Belconnen

Highly Commended in the Sustainable Transport Award is ANUgreen, Timely Tredlies project. The Timely Tredlies project provides staff at the ANU access to bicycles for travel around the university. The program aims to reduce the environmental impact of intra-campus travel by providing a healthy, efficient and hassle free alternative to using a fleet motor vehicle. There are currently 32 bicycles at 28 different locations around campus. The Timely Tredlies program has been very well received by the campus community. The feedback from users has been very positive and the bikes are noticeable around the campus.

Winner in the Sustainable Transport Award goes to the YWCA for their *Walking School Bus* project. The *Walking School Bus* provides a tangible example of how schools and their communities, government agencies, community organisations and corporations can work together to tackle the problem of increased car usage in an effective and practical manner. The programme also focuses on “travelling smart” by encouraging students to walk to school and addresses the problems of childhood obesity and community connectiveness. Each *Walking School Bus* comprises two Volunteers who walk along an agreed route, collecting children waiting at designated pick up points and walking them to school. Since its initial inception in 2004 the *Walking School Bus* has made significant achievements. There are 17 schools participating in the program, with 31 routes established. Throughout Canberra *Walking School Buses* are walking over 60 times a week, with 5 other schools planning to establish the program in terms two and three in 2006.

6. Sustainable Building Award

Recognises practical, successful examples that will inspire others e.g. passive building designs, ecologically responsible building materials, sustainable construction methods etc.

Presented by Mr Gerry Stanley, Business Development Manager, ACT Master Builders Association

Highly Commended Community in the Sustainable building category is presented to Derek Wrigley for his retrofit of an existing developers house in order to make it as self reliant as possible, within economic limits to see how free, natural energies could be used to obtain better living conditions without relying on expensive fossil fuelled energy. The retro fitted house in Mawson has an energy efficiency rating of 6, through initiatives such as southern solar reflectors, sun shading of northern windows, vertical ventilation, water conservation including grey water re- use and heat storage.

Highly Commended Corporate in the sustainable building category is awarded to ActewAGL for their Eco Living Exhibition consisting of 3 state of the art energy and water efficient display homes at Majura Rise Estate, North Watson. The primary objective of this project was to educate and raise awareness within the community of practical and innovative water and energy saving design solutions for sustainable living. The display homes, which are GreenSmart certified, showcase an integrated approach to sustainable design in terms of energy and water conservation.

Winner of the Sustainable Building Award goes to Fuji Xerox Australia. In 2005 Fuji Xerox Canberra moved into a purpose built building located in the Amtech Technology Park in Symonston. A number of “eco friendly” features have been incorporated in the building, some of these features include; Installation of Clipsal C-Bus System strictly controlling the use of lights and air conditioning within the facilities, Individual card swapping system allowing lights and air conditioning to be switched on only in required work unit, Installation of two rain water tanks with a capacity of 10,000 litres each, Waste recycling activities to continue and improve the new site and recycling programs in place for cardboard, paper, metal, pallets and plastics waste.

7. Sustainable Schools Award

In this category a school must demonstrate some of or all of the following;

- Practical, successful examples that will inspire others;
- Environmental education in the classroom;
- School ground environment work; and
- Integration of schools with the wider community

Presented by Ms Ann Gibbs Jordan, The Canberra Times

Highly Commended in the Sustainable Schools Award was presented to Gilmore Primary School in recognition of their Gilmore Improvement Friendship Teams (GIFT) program. Since 2004 Gilmore Primary, in association with Menslink has conducted a mentoring program. For 45 minutes each week 4 groups of 4 boys (Year 3-6) work with mentors from Menslink on a variety of gardening projects within and for the school environment.

The projects have included:

- Establishing a greenhouse;
- Building, planting a fern garden;
- Irrigation system for the fern garden;
- Establish and maintain two worm farms;
- Building and planting an Australia native garden
- Building garden beds for each class for growing vegetables and flowers;
- Building compost bins for school recycling of compost materials; and
- Educating K-2 classes on managing the worm farm, irrigation system and vegetable garden maintenance.

The focus of this project is mentoring with gardening and improvements to the environment acting as the medium. The project has developed significantly and now incorporates the whole school with a school focus to reduce waste and to value and appreciate our environment.

Winner in the Sustainable Schools category was Melrose Primary School for their Enviroschool project. The School's leadership, staff, students and community are utilising the existing facilities to develop a holistic program that focuses on environmental sustainability. Sustainability initiatives have included students, parents and staff contributing to working bees that established internal courtyard gardens – beds established include succulent plants, bird attracting plants, native grasses, bulbs, “school colours” flowers and vegetables. On the outside the Garden of Life was established to house a large veggie garden and a magnificent Chook Palace. Staff are trained in wastewise principles and practices, organizing all the students into rosters to work in the various areas of environmental interest. All classes use recycling bins for food, paper and other recyclable materials. Classes share the jobs: composting, feeding the worm farms, hatching and caring for the ducks and chickens, feeding the turtle, fishes, yabby and stick insects.

Through its efforts Melrose Primary now features a set of values about care and inclusion in all aspects of caring for our local environment, an integrated approach, a fully involved community, a vision for future sustainability, a student population who really care and take action and a dedicated leadership team that develops vision and embraces change that supports sustainability.

8. Urban Habitat Award

This category recognises innovative and effective projects that sustain and enhance native biodiversity in urban environments.

Presented by Steve Morrisset, National Sales Manager Village Building Company

Highly Commended in the Urban Habitat category is the Ginninderra Catchment Group for the ACT and region frog watch project. The ACT and Region Frogwatch Program is a community frog monitoring and education program which conducts a Frogwatch Census in spring each year. It is an extremely popular activity that involves over 200 volunteers who monitor at about 140 sites. Frogwatch aims to educate the community about the importance of frogs and their habitats, frog behaviour and ecology. Frogwatch conducts annual training seminars that educate community volunteers about local frog populations, how to identify different frog species, and the habitat requirements required for frogs to thrive. The Ginninderra Catchment group has also developed a Frog watch kit that is distributed throughout ACT schools to develop awareness.

Winner is Environment ACT for their Garden Plants going Bush project. The Weeds Awareness program, *Garden Plants Going Bush* has run in the Territory since 1998. This work is not only an example of an environmental project that is increasing public awareness, but one that also has community groups and Government working closely together. Under the ‘Weedbuster’ banner and supported by the ACT Government and the Australian Government’s Natural Heritage Trust this project under the ‘*Landcare in your backyard*’ program involves three components designed to:

- Increase public and the nursery industry's awareness of potentially adverse environmental impacts associated with many common garden plants escaping into bushland areas; and,
- Provide advice on how home gardeners and the horticultural industry can take positive action to improve the condition of their local remnant vegetation by using alternative and commonly available non-invasive native and exotic plant species that can be used in their gardens to replace the invading species

9. Young Legends Award

Recognises environmental achievement through youth initiative or leadership by a community, which encourages and promotes sustainable youth initiatives and environmental education.

Presented by Don Chambers, Chairman, Keep Australia Beautiful, on behalf of, Win Television

Winner in the Young Legends Award Hawker Primary School for their School Environment Leadership Program. In 2006 Hawker Primary has appointed six students as "environment leaders". The job of these environment leaders is to promote Waste Wise practices with the wider community and other schools. This award recognizes this initiative. Currently the Environment Leaders are working on four projects:

- During the 2006 open day, environment leaders will act as guides to talk about recycling practices to visitors of the school;
- Working with Hawker preschool to raise awareness and establish effective recycling practices;
- Conduct a training day for SRC representatives from other schools; and
- Promote Waste Wise practices as part of a community DEST Science Week grant by being explainers at a Waste Wise display at Hawker Shopping Centre.

2006 Overall Sustainable Cities Awards Winner-

Presented by

Mr John Hargreaves, MLA, Minister for Territory and Municipal Services
with

Don Chambers, National Chairman, Keep Australia Beautiful

And

Ms Chris Jeffreys, Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council.

And the winner is.....

The Australian National University- Sliver Cells Project...for its breakthrough technology and for its potential on the world market

Australian National University, Sliver Cells project. Dr Klaus Weber and Prof. Andrew Blakers of the Australian National University invented Sliver solar cell technology as part of a research program substantially funded by Origin Energy. Sliver technology is a disruptive technology within an established conventional industry. The high efficiency and low cost of sliver solar cells means that sliver technology has an excellent chance of dominating PV technology and the PV industry. Origin Energy has constructed a new factory in Adelaide for the production of sliver solar panels. Recent studies have indicated that Sliver technology could reduce the costs of PV technology to a point where it will be competitive with wind energy and 'zero emission' coal.