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THE MOST SUSTAINABLE IN REGIONAL NSW: BLUE STAR SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS ANNOUNCED

MAITLAND TAKES TOP HONOURS

The second annual Keep NSW Beautiful (KNSWB) Blue Star Sustainability (Regional) Awards were announced on Saturday 5 November 2016 over dinner in beautiful Orange, NSW.

The dinner was hosted by regional ABC broadcaster Michael Croke, and it came in the middle of a weekend full of tours, case study presentations, and networking events hosted by KNSWB and the city of Orange, who were last year's big winners.

One by one, the most sustainable projects, people, and places in regional NSW were announced to a room full of smiling people from across the state.

The Blue Star Sustainability Awards have grown out of the iconic Sustainable Cities, Clean Beaches and Tidy Towns award programs. The Regional Awards, which are the newer, more environmentally conscious and modern imagining of Tidy Towns, recognise and celebrate the hard work of NSW citizens who promote responsible environmental management in their local area; they celebrate civic pride, community spirit and future planning in establishing the best projects and programs that will strengthen NSW communities for many years to come.

The biggest award of the night was the **Overall Regional Sustainability Award**, which was awarded to **Maitland**.

The Council, which received 4 category awards as well as the overall award, was lauded on the night for its healthy culture of volunteering, its Council-led environmental education and engagement program.

"The city of Maitland is an inspiration to us all," said KNSWB Chief Executive David Imrie.

"With a rich spirit of community – and of lending a helping hand – the beautiful city of Maitland has created a thriving culture that recognises the importance of improving their environmental and cultural health.

"They are setting an excellent example for what a regional town or city can really achieve if they make the environment and local heritage a top priority."

Also winning big were Lithgow City Council (4 awards), Tweed Shire Council (3 awards), Midcoast Council (3 awards) and Port Stephens, Wagga Wagga, and Cowra Councils, which received 2 awards each.

Please see attached for the full list of winners for the Blue Star Sustainability Awards.

--DETAILS OF ALL AWARDS ON FOLLOWING PAGE--

For media information, contacts for Maitland, winning project information, and interviews:

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Award Recipients in the 2016 Blue Star Sustainability (Regional) Awards

Waste Less, Recycle More Award		
Highly Commended	Cleaner Spaces, Positive Places	Raymond Terrace Tidy Towns (Port Stephens Council)
Highly Commended	The Majestic Store-Second Time Around	Gloucester Tidy Towns (MidCoast Council)
Highly Commended	Cooma 'Coompost Organics Farm' upgrade	Cooma Resource and Waste Services (Snowy Monaro Regional Council)
WINNER	Waste Collection Monitoring and Reporting	Wollondilly Shire Council
Hey Tosser Litter Action Award		
Highly Commended	Clean Up Bull Island	Tilligerry Landcare Group (Port Stephens Council)
Highly Commended	Big Belly Solar	Tidy Town Committee, Nambucca Shire Council
WINNER	Festival of the Stone Tour	Clean Coast Collective / Stone & Wood Brewing Co (Tweed Shire Council)
Going Green Education Award		
Highly Commended	St Joseph's College Lochinvar	(Maitland City Council)
Highly Commended	Sandcastles Eco Warriors	Sandcastles Early Education Centre Evans Head (Richmond Valley Council)
Highly Commended	Hillvue Public School	Tamworth Council
WINNER	Maitland Environmental Youth Forum	Maitland City Council
Community Environmental Achievement Award		
Highly Commended	Fingal Head Coastcare Inc.	Tweed Shire Council
Highly Commended	Sustainable Futures Conference Committee	MidCoast Council
WINNER	Lithgow District Men's Shed	Lithgow Tidy Towns Committee (Lithgow City Council)
Habitat & Wildlife Guardianship Award		
Highly Commended	Partnering for Conservation	Wingecarribee Shire Council
Highly Commended	Three NSW Environmental Trust Community Restoration & Rehabilitation projects	Lismore City Council
Highly Commended	Marrambidya Wetland Project	City of Wagga Wagga
WINNER	Rehabilitation and revegetation of PAC Park waterway	Parkes
Cultural Heritage Award		
Highly Commended	Cowra Shire National Trust Heritage Festival	Cowra Tidy Towns Committee (Cowra Council)
Highly Commended	Lithgow High School Aboriginal Cultural Programs and the Gawaymbanha Ngurambang Garden	(Lithgow City Council)
WINNER	Conserving Glebe Cemetery	Maitland City Council
Sustainable Systems Award		
Highly Commended	Tenterfield Care Centre	Tenterfield Shire Council
Highly Commended	Ferrero Australia - Lithgow Factory	(Lithgow Tidy Towns, Lithgow City Council)
WINNER	'Green Feet' Program	Stone and Wood Brewing Co. (Tweed Shire Council)

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Environmental Achievement Award		
Highly Commended	Helen Drewe	Lithgow Tidy Towns (Lithgow City Council)
Highly Commended	Kevin Graham	Cowra Tidy Towns Committee (Cowra Shire Council)
WINNER	Penny Drake-Brockman	Gloucester Tidy Towns (MidCoast Council)
Young Environmental Achievement Award		
Highly Commended	Maitland Grossmann High School Landcare Group	(Maitland City Council)
Highly Commended	Fingal Head Public School	(Tweed Shire Council)
WINNER	Benjamin Allen	Wagga Wagga Tidy Towns, Sustainable Community Committee City of Wagga Wagga