

Tuesday 31 January 2012

DOES THE LATROBE VALLEY HAVE VICTORIA'S TIDIEST TOWN?

Nationals Member for Morwell Russell Northe is calling on local communities to consider nominating for the 2012 Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria awards.

Mr Northe said with a number of categories available within the *Tidy Towns – Sustainability Communities Awards*, there is an opportunity for many groups to enter their sustainable, environmental and community-based actions.

“Under the Tidy Towns - Sustainable Communities Award there are 11 separate awards including the Victorian Tidy Town of the Year,” Mr Northe said.

“This is an excellent opportunity for our communities to demonstrate the pride that we all share in the towns in which we live,” he said.

“Entering the awards has many benefits, such as increased community participation and pride, ownership and responsibility of local environments, and increased local tourism. It is a fantastic way to show your support of your town and be actively involved within the community.

“We have had many finalists in these awards, from Yallourn North’s Historical Society and Old Brown Coal Mine Museum, to Latrobe City Council and Gippsland Regional Waste Management Group’s Kitchen to Compost Trial in Churchill.

“This goes to show that regardless of the size of the community we can all participate successfully in these awards,” Mr Northe said.

Minister for Environment and Climate Change Ryan Smith said the awards were a great way to recognise Victorians who take practical action to improve their local environment.

“For thirty years these awards have been encouraging Victorian communities to look after their local environment and be proud of the community they live in.

“I support these awards because they encourage practical and local efforts to improve our environment,” Mr Smith said.

Entries for the *Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities Awards* close on 11 May.

For more information visit www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/kabv.