



EMBARGO 9.00PM: WEDNESDAY 1 AUGUST 2007

2007 Local Government Awards

**Presented at the Local Government Week Awards Evening
Wednesday 1 August 2007**

Winners and commendations for the following awards:

2005/06 AR Bluett Memorial Awards

2006 truelocal.com.au RH Dougherty Awards

Heart Foundation Kellogg Local Government Awards 2007

Local Government Multicultural Health Awards 2007

2007 Youth Week Awards

2005/2006 AR Bluett Memorial Awards

Every year the AR Bluett Memorial Award recognises councils that have achieved the greatest relative progress in the state. It has been operational since 1945 and is recognised as the greatest accolade a council can achieve. There are three Trustees/Judges: a representative of the Local Government Association, a representative of the Shires Association and a representative of Local Government Managers Australia (NSW Division).

The winner of the Local Government Association AR Bluett Award is **Randwick City Council**.

Highly Commended for the Local Government Association AR Bluett Award is **Gosford City Council** and **Penrith City Council**.

2006 truelocal.com.au RH Dougherty Awards presented in 2007

The purpose of the RH Dougherty Awards is to promote excellence in communication within Local Government. The Dougherty Awards aim to recognise and encourage greater understanding and accountability by councils to their local communities. The importance of building a partnership between community and council has been acknowledged by Local Government and consultation and two-way communication are taking place all the time.

Category: Excellence in Communication Division A: population less than 30,000

Award:
Goulburn Mulwaree Council
Rural Living Handbook

Judges comments: Goulburn's Rural Living Guide is an outstanding project, clever idea, clearly expressed and well produced. Its general application to all rural councils makes it an important contribution to environmental management. They have developed a vital and useful resource for residents and tree changers alike. Beautifully presented and a 'must have'.

Category: Excellence in Communication Division B: population 30,000 - 100,000

Award:
Coffs Harbour City Council
Wise Up with Our Waste

Judges comments: A well researched, joint, broad brush approach to an ever present problem.

Category: Excellence in Communication Division C: population more than 100,000

Joint Highly Commended:

Randwick City Council
Randwick's Home Energy Makeover

Judges comments: Randwick involved the whole community including business partnerships and local identity. Very worthy and professional.

and

Gosford City Council
2006 Summer Community Awareness Campaign

Judges comments: Innovative signage well aimed to reach visitors as well as residents along with great materials produced significant tangible results.

Award:
Fairfield City Council
Puff Free Parks

Judges comments: This was a great utilisation of local resources to highlight the message using an educational approach and schools – poster competition. It exudes passion and commitment by staff and councillors.

Category: Reporting to Your Community
Division A: population less than 30,000

Highly Commended:
Lockhart Shire Council
Council's Monthly Newsletter

Judges comments: This is a good new initiative delivering important community-building information, but also needed evidence of evaluation in the submission.

Category: Reporting to Your Community
Division B: population 30,000 - 100,000

Award:
City of Canada Bay
City of Canada Bay Resident's Guide 2007

Judges comments: Canada Bay has thought 'outside the square' to deliver its communications more effectively and at lower cost. A lesson for all councils that less can be more. Great new resource for residents; quality production and real results in delivering information and supporting local.

Category: Reporting to Your Community
Division C: population more than 100,000

Joint Awards:

City of Sydney
Local Action Plans

Judges comments: The originality and scale of the project and publication was hard to beat. Brilliant documents and comprehensive community engagement.

and

Randwick City Council
Randwick City Council Annual Report 2005 – 06

Judges comments: An excellent example of informing the community in a clear and concise manner without costing a great deal of ratepayer's money, really impressive.

Category: Reporting to Your Community
Division D: ROCS and County Councils

Award
Mid Coast Water
WaterWise Community Newsletters

Judges comments: Although no competitors, the project has met its objectives, is well laid out (if a bit busy), and is cost effective. MidCoast Water – great materials

Heart Foundation Kellogg Local Government Awards 2007

The 'Heart Foundation Kellogg Local Government Awards' have for 15 years recognised and raised awareness of local governments working with their communities to encourage healthier lifestyles. The aim of the award program is to recognise councils for the work they have done to promote and support heart health through good nutrition, physical activity and smoke free environments. The awards also encourage councils to continue this work of introducing sustainable structural changes, collaborating with like minded community organisations and reaching local communities with heart health initiatives through local projects.

Kellogg Australia has been a proud sponsor of the Heart Foundation Kellogg Local Government Awards for the past seven years. Through this sponsorship Kellogg recognises local governments working with their communities to promote overall good health through nutrition, physical activity and other health promoting initiatives. Support of this project is one part of the strategic alliance between Kellogg and the Heart Foundation to promote a healthy lifestyle for overall good health.

Category: Programs that Improve Heart Health in Priority Groups

Overall NSW State Winner:
Blue Mountains City Council
Bike to School

Comment: Bike to School Program is a health promotion intervention that seeks to use education and community development approaches to change behaviours at an individual level and build capacity and partnership for change at a community and organisation level.

The program encourages healthy, active lifestyles and sustainable transport options to and from school. Through engaging education, upgrading infrastructure and incentives, it aims to increase the number of people riding daily along safe bike routes within the City and reducing our increasing dependence on the car. By providing the opportunity to be more physically active through safe cycling on a regular basis, the program is a contribution towards prevention of chronic disease associated with lack of physical activity, particularly childhood obesity and heart disease.

Importantly we acknowledge the Blue Mountains City Council's efforts in focussing on improving the Heart Health of vulnerable families within their community.

Highly Commended:
Bankstown City Council
Sport a Month

Comment: Sport A Month commenced at the beginning of 2005 with the objective of assisting the community of Bankstown in participating in physical activity. With over 7,000 people to date participating in the program the Bankstown Council can be proud of their success. They have formed excellent partnerships with local associations, clubs, leisure facilities and governing bodies to organise “come and try” clinics giving the community an opportunity to try out new sport.

Highly Commended:
Randwick City Council
Are You Up for Fitness

Comment: Are You Up for Fitness is a fun program for children of all abilities aged 8 to 12 years. Children participate in a range of physical activities that help improve co-ordination, fitness, strength and flexibility as well as assisting with weight management. Participants attend the program on a weekly basis and it helps to reinforce key messages about exercise, healthy eating and how these elements work together to create healthy bodies. This fun, non-threatening environment encourages children to participate regardless of their ability.

Category: Provisions and Use of Facilities to Improve Heart Health

NSW State Runner Up:
Gosford City Council
Peninsula Leisure Centre

Comment: Peninsula Leisure Centre is a multi purpose facility designed to meet the community need and expectations. A major focus of the design and implementation was to include facility and equipment that caters for improving the health of the community especially the elderly. The success of the centre has come from its ability to configure and adapt the facilities in many different areas for the benefit of the community.

Prior to the centres development, no opportunities existed for the Seniors to exercise under controlled conditions. This is now offered by the centres staff and accounts for over 400 visits per month to the centre! Participants have seen improvements in self esteem, weight and body change leading to associated health improvements.

Highly Commended:
Fairfield City Council
Western Sydney Cycling Network

Comment: Fairfield City Council has constructed a comprehensive network of cycleways. This commitment demonstrates an understanding of the link between active living and the social and built environment. With 120km of off road routes cycling is now a viable alternative to driving in Fairfield and this initiative has successfully increased community use of bicycles for health and social outcomes.

Highly Commended:
City of Sydney
Juanita Nielsen Centre – Gym Outreach Partnership Program

Comment: The Juanita Nielsen Centre has created a unique relationship with numerous local Mental Health, Homeless Disadvantaged and Drug & Alcohol Outreach centres. They have recognised the great need for the local area to assist those with mental illness and drug & alcohol related problems, in providing health and fitness as part of their recovery and rehabilitation. The Juanita Neilson gym provides allocated time for these individuals to privately utilise the gym as part of their rehabilitation program.

Category: Implementation of Plans & Policies to Support Heart Health

Highly Commended:
Ku-ring-gai Council
Active Ku-ring-gai Program

Comment: The objective of the program was to “design, promote and implement a successful Active Ku-ring-gai Program”, which in turn will focus on the prevention of chronic disease associated with the lack of physical activity. The commencement of 2007 saw the implementation of additional activities including Pilates in the Park, Tai Chi, Gym with out Walls and Tuesday night tennis competition. Congratulations Ku- ring-gai Council.

Highly Commended:
City of Canada Bay
Public Health Forums

Comment: City of Canada Bay Council brought together the Council, Concord Repatriation Hospital and the Health and Wellbeing Industry Network to create a relationship in which to deliver a holistic response to major public health challenges faced by the community. Together they delivered 9 health forums focused primarily on the promotion of Heart Health.

Local Government Multicultural Health Awards 2007

In recognition of Local Government's contribution to multicultural health, the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW, Multicultural Health Communication and the NSW Department of Health established an Award program in 2006 for councils to showcase their work. The 2007 Award continues to recognise and encourage good practice in councils' work with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities on health issues, and aims to ensure that these initiatives are promoted and accessible. The 2007 Award has been extended from health communication resources to include communication strategies, and multicultural health projects and programs.

First Place Winner:
Fairfield City Council
Getting Fresh Food Safety Training Program

Comments: This excellent project has been rolled out to other councils, includes training for council officers as well as for the community, and draws upon international expertise. The program has also been taken up by the NSW Food Authority.

Second Place Winner:
Newcastle City Council
Water Safety for African Refugees

Comments: Newcastle worked well with community elders on this special project, which is seeing wider uptake by Surf Lifesaving Australia.

Third Place Winner:
Fairfield City Council
Health Orientation Tours

Comments: A long term project well linked to Fairfield's strategic plans.

Highly Commended:
North Sydney Council
Immunisation Brochure

Highly Commended:
Willoughby City Council for their MOSAIC Multicultural Program

Highly Commended:
Bankstown City Council
Driving Safely In and Around School Zones.

2007 Youth Week Awards 2007

The Ministry for Youth in conjunction with The Department of Community Services and Local Government Association of NSW and Shires Association of NSW provides these awards to councils for their Youth Week Programs.

Youth Week is an opportunity for young people to develop, organise and manage events and activities which showcase their skills and talents. Local councils play an important part in helping young people make these events and activities happen. These awards recognise and acknowledge the role played by local councils in assisting young people to coordinate Youth Week programs.

Winning councils were selected by a judging panel of young people who looked closely at each council's overall Youth Week program. Councils were judged on:

- The level of youth participation in all activities and events
- The capacity for young people to show their skills and talents
- The capacity for young people to raise issues of concern and to be heard, and
- How Youth Week activities are linked with the Council's Social Plan.

Category: Best Local Youth Week 2007 Program

Award:
Baulkham Hills Shire Council

Category: Best Ongoing Commitment to Local Youth Week Programs 2007

Award:
Campbelltown City Council

Category: Most Innovative Youth Week 2007 Program

Award:
Eurobodalla Shire Council

Category: Best Small Council Youth Week 2007 Program

Award:
Eurobodalla Shire Council

Local Government Week sponsored by:

truelocal
/ .com.au