

## **JUDGES COMMENTS FOR THE PRESENTATION OF AWARDS AT WYNYARD**

**23 NOVEMBER 2012**

Last year at New Norfolk, we wined & dined and enjoyed Derwent Valley hospitality at the home of one of the state's leading football clubs. Today, we continue the tradition of getting together in the town of the previous year's Tidy Towns winner, enjoying Waratah Wynyard's hospitality at one of the state's very picturesque golf clubs . . . . . and we're on the verge of acknowledging some of the outstanding examples of sustainability that have



Mr. Barrie Muir

taken place over the past 12 months around this great state of ours.

During my almost 6 weeks on the road, it was a real pleasure catching up with old friends and meeting so many new ones. While the weather wasn't always as kind to me as I would have liked, it was very pleasant most of the time and setting out 3 weeks later than usual meant that I was greeted by a lot more colour than in the past few years and a lot less rain – which seemed to follow me everywhere last year! Judging in the spring

is certainly much better . . . . . and through the Power Point display which has been playing for most of the time since you arrived, I have tried to share with you some of the great things which I saw as I moved around the state.

At *this* point I would like to acknowledge the generous support I received from the following members of the Innkeepers Group:

- Waterloo Inn (Swansea);
- Voyager Motel (Burnie);
- Edgewater Motel (East Devonport);
- Tullah Lakeside Lodge
- Chancellor Inn (Queenstown); and
- Tall Timbers Hotel (Smithton).

Innkeepers have been a wonderful supporter of KAB Tasmania for many years now and once again it is a DOUBLE thank you. On several of my visits, I was accompanied by one of my KAB colleagues (either Geoff Marsh or Rob Simmons) who had planned to meet with council or other community members, while I was carrying out my judging duties, to discuss the Tasmanian pilot program which is associated with the National Litter Program.

This year, there was a most interesting deviation from my usual looking around a town / a city / a beach or a school. I was invited to look at (judge if you like) a whole community. Our

inviting you to enter under population categories makes this possible. Well, when I'm asked to judge Brighton or Kingborough or Clarence, I'm invited to look at a number of towns or suburbs or adjacent communities anyway but this was the first time that a municipality had made this request – and it was most interesting!

It meant that I was looking at the categories across a number of different towns or communities – places which might not have otherwise been visited. This probably wouldn't work with all municipalities because of the distances one would need to travel – although one can cover quite a few kilometres in one day! And this wouldn't prevent a town **within** a municipality entering on its own behalf as well. It certainly offers food for thought.

Once again, a number of the towns I visited **could** have been a FULL entry if it had realised **how well** it related to all 8 of the judging criteria. This means that we are going to need to improve how we communicate with each other regarding the judging criteria so that – in turn – you can let us know when you enter, how much time you would like me to spend in your town. As I indicated to you last year, err on the side of allowing too much time rather than NOT ENOUGH. And as I also said, “Don't under-estimate how good you really are . . . you really have nothing to lose!!”

As there are quite a few people here who haven't joined us at an awards ceremony before, there are a couple of things which I have said on previous occasions but which bear repeating:

- There is no entry fee to be involved and there is no submission to prepare. All you need to do is basically tick a box inviting me to come and appreciate the wonderfully sustainable things you are doing.
- There are 8 categories that I need to address if I am looking at the town, city or beach as a “full entry”. If you are a full entry, be sure, when preparing your itinerary, to include at least one example of each category, even if you don't think your example is very strong. Six or 7 strong categories can easily cover 1 or 2 not so strong! If I have visited you within the past year or so, unless there have been any significant changes in categories I have already checked out, it's OK to assume that I can add to what I have already seen – but it's wise to keep me right up to date.
- And a little reminder that **litter prevention** isn't so much about picking up the mess that others have left but rather about educating the community & developing strategies **to stop them littering**. Including a visit to a school can often be a good way to respond to this category – in fact, I

believe that a visit to a school could well be an excellent example to call on for ANY of the categories.

- Until KAB National decides to make Health & Well-being a category in its own right, KAB Tasmania has made this an award category, so important do we consider it to be when unravelling the meaning of “sustainability”. Given the amount of time and money being spent on walking tracks, cycle tracks, aged care, children’s play areas, not to mention men’s sheds, community sheds, community houses, community gardens, etc, etc, it’s clear that many communities share our view on this matter. What we are talking about here is emotional & physical sustainability!! **And without this**, environmental, political, economic and all of the other aspects of sustainability will count for very little!!
- Another point I suggested last year bears repeating. As I’m being shown around checking out examples of the various categories, I do enjoy meeting any community members who might have been involved.

With the disappearance of funding and the consequent demise of the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative program, believing in the extreme importance of schools in spreading the

sustainability gospel, KAB Tasmania decided to resurrect its schools program – with the new title, Sustainable Schools Program. With the help of the Wrigley Company and the Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council, KAB Tasmania has access to numerous educational materials to assist teachers and community groups in providing excellent learning outcomes for students and the general public.

As we are expecting a great number of entries from schools next year, the judging of this program will very likely be done by our Education Officer, Ruth Whelan, to give me a little more time to deal with the other 3 KAB programs.

This doesn't mean, however, that I no longer wish to visit schools when I come to your town or city. **On the contrary!!**

As I suggested earlier, schools can still be used as an example for ANY of the categories – and don't forget that one of the categories is titled “Young Legends”, a category that is sometimes overlooked when I am being shown around. For those towns which don't have a school, this doesn't mean that you can't show me how the young are involved in community activities. And YOUNG doesn't necessarily mean “of school age”.

And talking of the young, it is just **SO important** that we involve the youth of our communities in as many of our sustainability projects as possible. If we don't, all our hard work to develop and maintain a sustainable Tasmania could be put in serious danger!

In a few moments, we will begin to make awards to groups and to individuals who have worked so hard to make our state a better place to live in and we will name and reward towns, cities and beaches which I believe have done particularly well. As is the case each year, there is often very little separating the entries in all of the KAB programs . . . . . and there are times when I would prefer to make you all equal winners. However, that might create a few problems when the national judging takes place.

To ease my pain on this matter, I have decided to follow a KAB national trend and add an extra award when announcing the Tasmanian winners and national finalists. It will be a **Highly Commended award** to underline the excellence of the entry and the closeness of the decision I had to make.

As in past years, I have awarded a significant number of **Certificates of Excellence** and **Certificates of Appreciation** – thanking people for their involvement in our programs and congratulating them on the wonderful things that they are doing . . . indeed, within our communities, we don't do nearly enough to tell these people (many of them VOLUNTEERS) or to show them that we really value the work that they do!

Unfortunately we have not been able to invite all certificate awardees to this function and so we have given an envelope of certificates to a representative of each community and would be grateful if some function could be organised (perhaps a morning or afternoon tea by council) to present the certificates to the people concerned – with appropriate comments on how much their contribution to the life of the community is valued. If you let us know when such an event is to take place, we will do our very best to see if one of us is able to attend.

There is another group of people whom I would like to thank on behalf of KAB Tasmania. I know that they *are paid* to carry out their role in the community but there are many professionals both **within our state** and **nationally** who are thanked much more lavishly than KAB can afford, for doing their job particularly well. I refer to the many elected aldermen & women, to the councillors & council employees who support our aims & objectives, many of



whom find the time not only to enter their town or city in our programs but also to show me around when I come to visit.

A very large percentage of you here today, are here because the people I have just referred to, asked me to visit your town or city AND spoke with considerable pride about the terrific things you are doing. Please join me in thanking them.

To conclude, thank you very much for inviting me to your place this year, please do so again next year and my warmest congratulations to all of you . . . . because you are ALL winners!!! To paraphrase a sentiment expressed in George Orwell's famous book "Animal Farm", you are all winners, but **some are more winners** than others!