

Judge impressed by Sheffield's murals

North-West town in line to be Australia's tidiest

By CAITLIN HEATHCOTE

DICK Olesinski has been judging the cleanliness of Australian towns for more than 20 years.

Yesterday, the national Tidy Towns judge spent the day in Sheffield inspecting for the 2013 Keep Australia Beautiful Tidy Town awards.

Mr Olesinski said Tidy Towns were judged on several criteria and a lot of them actually had nothing to do with how clean the town was.

"When people think of the Tidy Town Awards they think of neatening up the lawns and trimming the hedges but there's a lot more to it than that," Mr Olesinski said.

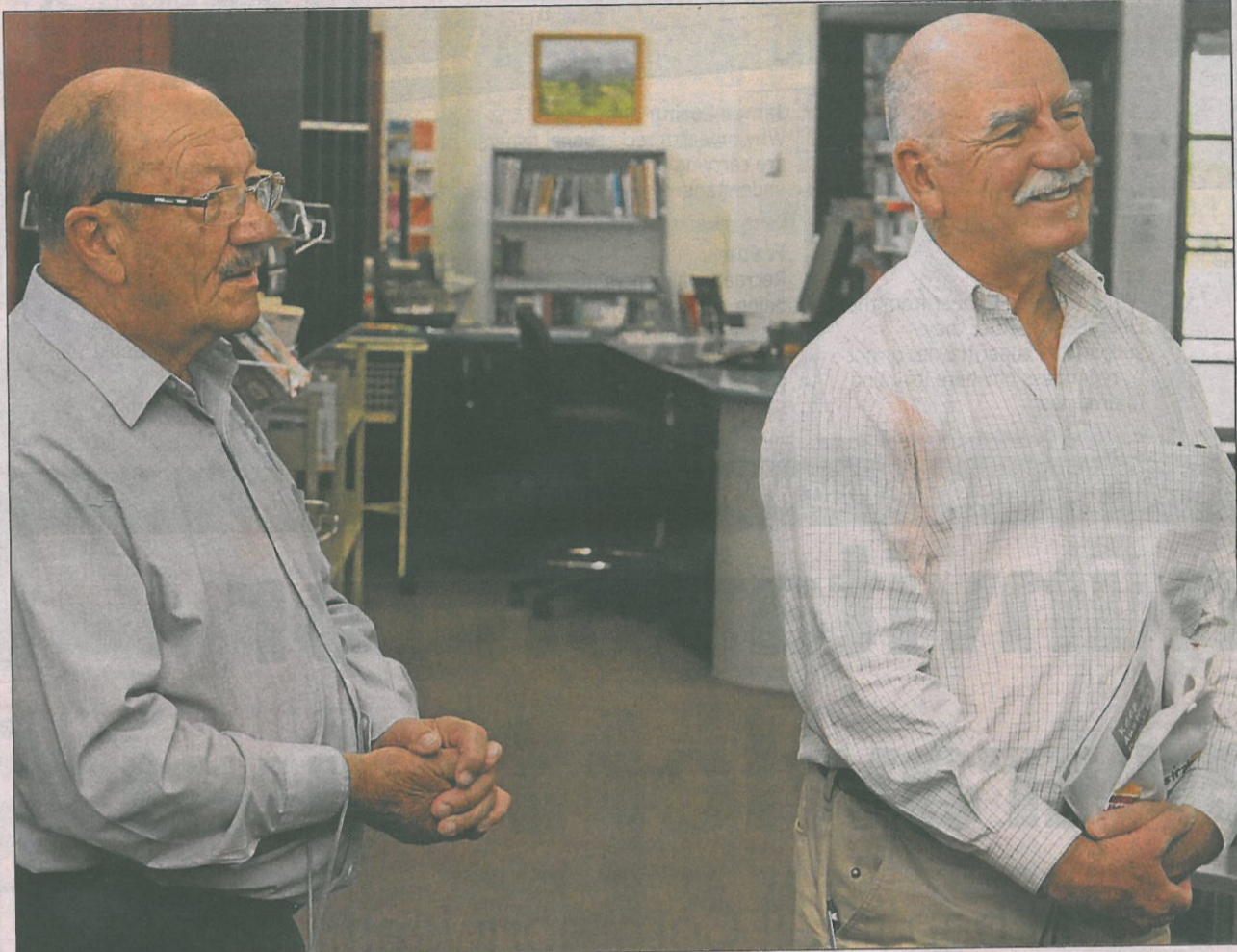
Tidy Towns are nominated and judged on a state level before proceeding to a national level.

Each state has a state finalist and this year it was Sheffield's turn.

Other finalists across the country include: Mundubbera in Queensland, Walpole in Western Australia, Wangaratta in Victoria, Nundle in New South Wales, Kingston in South Australia, and Titjikala in the Northern Territory.

Mr Olesinski said Sheffield had demonstrated that it had been meeting the majority of the Tidy Towns criteria for "many years", which gave it a unique advantage going into the finals.

"In a snapshot I think the thing that stands out to me about Sheffield is it's unique," Mr Olesinski said.



DECISION TIME: Tidy Towns state judge Barrie Muir (left) and national judge Dick Olesinski during their tour of Sheffield. Picture: Jason Hollister.

"I mean, the murals, on their own are so unique and it's just the ambience, to be greeted by these beautiful works of art."

Mr Olesinski spent time touring Sheffield School and at the Mount Roland River Catchment Care group, the Kentish Health Centre and the Dulverton Waste Management Centre.

He said the amount of facilities and services offered at Sheffield for a

community of its size were "second-to-none."

Mr Olesinski said Sheffield was the last visit he needed to do before judging the state finalists and coming up with a winner.

Reports from all of the visits will be drawn up and sent to a panel of judges who will deliberate to decide a winner.

■ The national winner will be announced in April.

How the awards are judged

TIDY towns are judged on the following criteria —

- Community action and partnerships;
- Dame Phyllis Frost litter prevention;
- Resource recovery and waste management;
- Environmental innovation and protection;
- Water conservation;
- Energy innovation;
- Heritage and culture; and
- Young legends.