

Westbury cleans up in Tidy Town awards

By CHRIS CLARKE
Dec. 5, 2014, 8:43 p.m.



Photo Neil Richardson with Chris Clarke 5/12/14

Westbury being judged by Keep Australia Beautiful judges for Tidy Towns Award.

L to R state judge Barrie Muir, National judge Jill Grant from Canberra, Des King Town Common committee, Meander Valley mayor Craig Perkins and Di Robinson town common committee.

AFTER being named Tasmania's Tidiest Town, Westbury has now been placed on the national stage.

The Meander Valley town was inspected and praised by Canberra-based national Tidy Town judge Jill Grant yesterday. The Tidy Town award honours towns for their clean image, effort to preserve the environment and their level of community participation.

In late October, Westbury saw off competition from more than 20 other Tassie towns to win the state honour. A large crowd turned out to welcome Ms Grant at the Westbury Primary School, including resident Di Robinson, Mayor Craig Perkins and state Tidy Towns judge Barrie Muir.

Ms Grant said she was impressed by the town's strong sense of community and belonging. "It's a great little town," she said. "There is a lot of history, preservation features and environmental features as well."

Mr Muir also praised Westbury for its "community-driven" approach, rather than a reliance on council promotion. Ms Robinson said recognition of the town came down to the passion of Westbury residents. "There's no reason why we can't win the national award," she said. Cr Perkins agreed.

"It's not very often small communities get to benchmark themselves against other communities around Australia," he said. The National Tidy Town Award winner will be announced in Sheffield on February 27.