

Coal Creek – keeping Victoria beautiful!

Coal Creek Community Park and Museum has been announced as a finalist in the Keep Victoria Beautiful 2016 Tidy Towns - Sustainable Communities Awards in three categories.

The Tidy Towns - Sustainable Communities Awards encourage, motivate and celebrate sustainability achievements of rural and regional communities across Australia.

To be recognised in three categories with three different projects demonstrates Coal Creek Community Park and Museum's capacity to reach beyond tourism, according to Park Coordinator, Rowena Ashley.

"The Tidy Towns name has always been synonymous with community pride and as a finalist, it demonstrates our commitment to cohesion and above all community action," she explained.

"The awards encourage, motivate and celebrate the sustainability achievements at a grassroots level and Coal Creek's dedication to education."

Coal Creek is a finalist in the following categories:

- Community Government Partnerships - *Coal Creek Professional Development Local History Network*
- Cultural Heritage - *The Story of the Dawes Brothers: Our Communities Anzac History*
- Environmental Sustainability - *Interpretive Self-guided History Tour*

Ms Ashley attributes much of the Park's success to its committed volunteers, with Coal Creek joining other finalist communities representing an estimated 96,740 hours of community service from over 2,700 volunteers.

Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in Horsham on 15 October.

"I am looking forward to celebrating with all the finalists," said Keep Victoria Beautiful Board Chairman, Dick Gross. "There were outstanding applications in all categories for this famous awards program and this is the perfect opportunity to celebrate the state's amazing volunteers!"

Photo captions:

1. *The Story of the Dawes Brothers: Our Communities Anzac History exhibition, a finalist in the Cultural Heritage category.*
2. *A screenshot of the Interpretive Self-guided History Tour app, named as a finalist in the Environmental Sustainability category.*

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