

4 April 2017

MEDIA RELEASE

Barmera set to host two VIPs this week!

In November last year, Barmera was announced the Overall Winner of the 2016 KESAB Sustainable Communities Awards. This week the Riverland town undergoes national judging, in readiness for the Keep Australia Beautiful National Tidy Towns Awards, which are being held in Triabunna, Tasmania on May 11 and 12.

KESAB Awards Judge Alex Hammett, said the tight knit Barmera community epitomised Sustainable Communities showcasing initiatives including;

- Completion of the Anzac Centenary Memorial Cross to honour local soldiers using a Cross made from a Red Gum from Barmera football grounds and standing on tiles from Turkey
- Barmera Gopher Route project providing improved access to town for those with mobility issues,
- Graffiti Removal Team, a group of volunteers assisting with graffiti removal in town.
- Barmera Meru Committee –including representatives of the Berri Barmera Council and the First People's of the River Murray for the care and control of Lake Bonney, including the development of a horse riding policy.
- Addition of public recycling bins in the Main Street.

These community actions and more will be on display for the National Judge Jill Grant on Thursday April 6 and Friday April 7.

Jill has been judging the Awards for a number of years and is well placed to do so with over 20 years' experience working on strategy and sustainability issues with government and non-government organisations. Her training in agriculture, education and natural resource management has allowed her to develop and manage a range of policies and programs relating to: climate change; ecotourism; regional development; environment industry development and sustainable energy, waste and water management initiatives. Jill will be joined during National judging by a special friend of the Murray.

BAZZA the Bunyip Returns!

BAZZA the Bunyip is making a return to the Riverland following a long hibernation and rejuvenation period. He will be spreading a number of environmental messages with strong focus on "Don't Muck up the Murray", and improved litter disposal behaviour as we head into the busy Easter period.

Bazza was a prominent character in the anti-littering message almost two decades ago, and KESAB *environmental solutions* has brought him back to reach the next generation of custodians of the River Murray, and all South Australian wetlands and riverine environments.

Bazza will be open to "interactive discussion" and display at the Barmera Library from Thursday 6 April and will pop up at various events around the Riverland and Murraylands in coming weeks. KESAB will post updates of Bazza appearances on Facebook www.facebook.com/KESABenvironmentalsolutions

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****Audio grabs are available for Bazza the Bunyip for radio.**