



19 April 2018

# MEDIA RELEASE

## **FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR 2018 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

The finalists for the 2018 Western Australian of the Year Awards have been announced, celebrating exceptional West Australians who have made an extraordinary impact in the community and demonstrated excellence in their field. The Awards are the highest acknowledgement of outstanding achievement and commitment to the Western Australian community.

Thirty-two finalists have been selected across seven categories, including the Wesfarmers Aboriginal Award; Woodside Energy Arts & Culture Award; Perdaman Business Award; Alcoa of Australia Community Award; APM Professions Award; Channel 7 Sports Award and the BHP Youth Award. (see full list of finalists on the following page). From the winners of these categories, an overall Western Australian of the Year will be announced by our Patron, The Governor of Western Australia.

Opened by the Premier, the Honourable Mark McGowan MLA, winners will be announced at a gala dinner at Crown Ballroom on Friday, 1 June. The gala dinner is the highlight of the Perth social calendar and Award ceremony guests are set to enjoy a menu of the finest West Australian produce, specifically curated by Crown to showcase the best that WA has to offer.

The Perth Symphony Orchestra will perform with an exciting special guest, and will enchant attendees with an orchestral take on some not-so-classic music. Singer, songwriter Gina Williams, who received the Aboriginal Award in 2017, will this year treat guests to a program that includes a rendition of *Under The Milky Way*, originally by The Church, in Noongar.

The Awards Ceremony is the first official event of the WA Day long weekend – a multi-day celebration of everything that is unique and extraordinary about Western Australia, promoting inclusiveness for all people that choose to make WA their home.

In 2018, WA Day events and celebrations have increased: major events will be held at Elizabeth Quay and in Mandurah, as well as regional WA celebrations at sites including Port Hedland, Newman, Onslow, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Bunbury and Albany.

Previous Western Australian of the Year Awards recipients include some of WA's most well-known and highly respected individuals, including Andrew Forrest AO, Adrian Fini OAM, Dr Robert Isaacs JP PhD, Professor Fiona Stanley AS, and Adam Gilchrist AM.

Celebrate WA Chairman Michael Anghie said “the awards continue to highlight that many Western Australians from across our vast State are making significant achievements both in their chosen fields and also importantly making a positive difference to the broader community.”

“The awards are an important recognition for all finalists of their personal achievements and impact on the community, a fantastic way for all Western Australians to say thank you and to provide inspiration to all of us to

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contribute to the betterment of our community,” Mr. Anghie said.

Everyone is invited to purchase tickets to attend the Western Australian of the Year gala dinner.

Tickets are available via [www.waday.com](http://www.waday.com)

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The finalists for the 2018 Western Australian of the Year Awards:

- **Aboriginal Award – Sponsored by Wesfarmers**
  - Gail Allison
  - Wayne Bergmann
  - Colleen Hayward AM
  - Glenn Pearson
- **Arts and Culture Award – Sponsored by Woodside**
  - John Barrington
  - Janet Holmes Å Court AC
  - Andrew Charles Ross
  - Phillip Walley-Stack
  - Bourby Webster
- **Business Award – Sponsored by Perdaman**
  - Peter Bradford
  - Alicia Curtis
  - Rick Fenny
  - Diane Smith-Gander
- **Community Award – Sponsored by Alcoa of Australia**
  - Mike Daube AO
  - Garth Eichhorn
  - Greg Hebble
  - Joe Tuazama
  - Fadzi Whande
- **Professions Award – Sponsored by APM**
  - Jonathan Carapetis
  - Harvey Millar
  - Robert Newton
  - Deborah Terry AO
  - James Trevelyan
- **Sport Award – Sponsored by Channel Seven**
  - Ron Alexander
  - Andrew Liddawi
  - Rob Thompson
  - Peter Trench
- **Youth Award – Sponsored by BHP**
  - Shelley Cable
  - Luke Hallam
  - Zal Kanga-Parabia
  - Sam Moyle
  - Greg Hire



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**About Celebrate WA**

Celebrate WA is a not-for-profit organisation responsible for promoting and organising the annual WA Day celebrations; promoting excellence and achievement by Western Australians in all fields of endeavour; and encouraging pride in all things Western Australian.



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