



23 April 2019

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR 2019 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

The finalists for the 2019 Western Australian of the Year Awards have been announced, honouring outstanding Western Australians who have truly made a positive impact on the lives of others, and represent the very best of our State.

Twenty-eight finalists have been selected across seven categories, with the winner of each category set to be announced at a gala dinner on Friday, 31 May. The overall winner, selected from the category winners, will be announced by The Honourable Kim Beazley AC, Governor of Western Australia at the gala dinner. Finalists are listed in full on the following page.

The gala dinner is an annual highlight of the Perth social calendar; this year's event will be held at Crown Ballroom and opened by WA Premier, the Honourable Mark McGowan MLA. Guests are set to witness the pinnacle of what WA has to offer, including enjoying a menu specifically curated by Crown to celebrate stunning Western Australian produce.

Dinner will be complemented by a spectacular program of entertainment from Western Australia's most talented performers including Katy Steele accompanied by the WAAPA Gospel Choir.

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

Celebrate WA Chairman Michael Anghie said the 2019 finalists represented the diversity of talent on offer in Western Australia and the high calibre of work being carried out in the community.

"The Awards are an important way for everyone to come together and acknowledge the contribution that the finalists have made in their chosen fields, and the significant positive difference they have made to the lives of others," Mr Anghie said.

"The Awards demonstrate that no matter where in our great state you come from, you can have an extraordinary impact both locally and abroad, and become a role model for generations of Western Australians to come."

The Western Australian of the Year Awards ceremony marks the beginning of the WA Day long weekend – a multi-day celebration of our State and everything that makes Western Australia an incredible place to call home.

In 2019 there are more ways to celebrate WA Day than ever before, with a major two-day festival held at Burswood Park and celebrations in Fremantle, Albany, Bunbury, Pinjarra, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Newman, Onslow and Port Hedland, ensuring everyone who has chosen to make WA their home can join in on the festivities.

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Tickets to attend the Western Australian of the Year gala dinner are available via [www.waday.com](http://www.waday.com)

#### 2019 Western Australian of the Year Awards finalists

- **Aboriginal Award** – *Sponsored by Wesfarmers*
  - Dawn Wallam
  - Glen Kelly
  - Glenda Kickett
  - Irene Stainton
- **Arts and Culture Award** – *Sponsored by Woodside Energy*
  - Andrew Ross
  - Bourby Webster
  - Jessica Gethin
  - Mark Coughlan
- **Business Award** – *Sponsored by Perdaman*
  - Dr Erica Smyth AC
  - Frank Cooper AO
  - Dr Rick Fenny
  - Steve Scudamore
- **Community Award** – *Sponsored by Alcoa of Australia*
  - Bruce Langoulant AM
  - James McMahon DSC DSM
  - Lee Musumeci
  - Ricky Grace
- **Professions Award** – *Sponsored by APM*
  - Associate Professor Angus Turner
  - Professor John Newnham AM
  - Peter Meurs
  - Professor Peter Newman AO
- **Sport Award** – *Sponsored by Channel Seven*
  - Christina Matthews
  - David Hatt
  - Grant Manzoney
  - Samantha Kerr
- **Youth Award** – *Sponsored by BHP*
  - Brooke Blurton
  - Harrison Garland
  - Ian Michael
  - Kendall Whyte

The WA Day celebrations and events are proudly supported by BHP, the Government of Western Australia and Lotterywest.

**ENDS**



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**Biographies and photos of finalists are available, and finalists are available for interviews and photoshoots**

**Media contact**

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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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