

Friday 2 June 2023
MEDIA RELEASE

Gina Rinehart AO named 2023 Western Australian of the Year

Mrs Gina Rinehart AO has received the state's highest honour, after being named 2023's Western Australian of the Year presented by BHP at a gala dinner at Crown Ballroom on Friday, 2 June.

Gina Rinehart is a leading figure in the mining and agricultural industries in Australia. Since becoming Executive Chairman of the Hancock Prospecting Group in 1992, Mrs Rinehart has transformed the Group from one that was facing financial difficulties to become the most successful private company in Australia's history.

All companies within the group are privately-owned with Mrs Rinehart's flagship achievement being the exploration, financing, construction and operation of the award-winning \$US10 billion Roy Hill project.

As an industry leader and significant contributor to Australia, she is a role model for other women, and as many note, is an Australian patriot who provides inspiration to many and has been honoured with numerous awards recognising her significant endeavours, risk-taking, hard work and contribution to Australia.

Despite being a champion of philanthropy and giving back to the community, Mrs Rinehart prefers to keep a low profile. Mrs Rinehart and the Hancock Prospecting Group's charitable objectives support a number of medical, sporting, educational, health and community organisations. She serves as Patron of Australia's internationally renowned Olympic swimming, rowing, and volleyball and synchronised swimming teams - which provide inspiration and important role models for Australians.

Mrs Rinehart's leadership and contribution to charities includes support for breast cancer and Telethon and enables more than 100 children's charities across the state to deliver research, critical services and programs that have saved and improved the lives of many WA children and children across the country.

Twenty-one finalists were selected across seven categories for the Western Australian of the Year Awards, representing extraordinary achievements in all facets of society.

The individual winners of each category were also announced at the Gala Dinner and are as follows:

- **Westfarmers Aboriginal Award** - Hon. Ken Wyatt AM - The first indigenous Australian elected to the House of Representatives
- **Woodside Energy Arts & Culture Award** - Mr Iain Grandage - Composer, musical director and artistic director the Perth Festival

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- **APM Business Award** - Mrs Gina Rinehart AO - Resources entrepreneur, pastoralist and philanthropist
- **Alcoa Community Award** - Professor Marcus Atlas AM - Surgeon and medical research pioneer
- **HBF Professions Award** - Professor Andrew Whitehouse - Autism researcher and science communicator
- **Channel 7 Sport Award** - Mr Brad Ness OAM - Paralympian and advocate for junior and elite parasport
- **BHP Youth Award** - Miss Madison Heady - Athlete and disability advocate

The Western Australian of the Year Awards “recognise and celebrate outstanding contribution to our state by those born and bred in Western Australia, or those who have chosen to make Western Australia their home.”

Celebrate WA Chair, Mike Anghie said “Gina is a truly deserving winner of this Award - Her commitment, selflessness and compassion are values we should all strive towards, and her impact on not only our state but country cannot be overstated.”

“I also congratulate all of the category winners, whose outstanding achievements in their respective fields really do represent the diversity of talent present in Western Australia”.

Mrs Rinehart joins previous Western Australian of the Year Awards recipients include Richard Goyder AO (2021), Emeritus Professor Mike Daube AO (2018), James McMahon DSC AM DSM (2019) Dr Robert Isaacs AM JP (2015) and Professor Fiona Stanley AC who won the Community Service Award and Professions Award in 1999.

The Western Australian of the Year Awards ceremony marks the beginning of the WA Day long week across the state.

-ENDS-

For more information, access to imagery and interviews:

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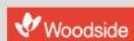
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