



MEDIA RELEASE

FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR 2015 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The full list of finalists has been released for the 42nd annual Western Australian of the Year Awards, with nominees including Daniel Ricciardo, Frank Cooper and Ros Worthington.

A total of 26 nominees have been chosen to reflect seven categories, including arts and culture, business and the community (*see full list on the following page*).

The award winners will be announced at the commencement of the long weekend on Friday 29 May 2015 at a Gala Dinner at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre.

An overall Western Australian of the Year will be selected from the winners of each category.

Last year David Flanagan, Chairman of Atlas Iron Limited was granted the winning accolade.

"It's a privilege to be named Western Australian of the Year, and one that holds a special prestige for all in the past alumni," he said.

"For the finalists it's a chance to be recognised for the hard work and innovation for which Western Australians are renowned."

Celebrate WA Chairman Wayne Zekulich said these awards encourage people to celebrate the great talent within our State.

"We have so many incredible individuals in Western Australia who not only are leaders in their respective fields, but contribute significantly back to our community. It is great to be able to recognise these Western Australians as part of the WA Day long weekend celebrations."

Until 2011 the awards were known as the WA Citizen of the Year Awards. A long list of respected individuals are part of an incredibly diverse alumni that in recent years has included Professor Fiona Stanley AC, Michael Chaney AO, The Hon Chief Justice Wayne Martin AC QC and Adam Gilchrist AM.

Members of the public and those associated with award finalists are invited to attend the gala dinner awards ceremony. Tickets are available via www.celebratewa.com.au

- Ends -

The finalists for the 2015 Western Australian of the Year Awards are:

- **Aboriginal Award – Sponsored by Wesfarmers**
 - Professor Colleen Hayward AM
 - Professor John Watson
 - Professor Rhonda Marriott
 - Dr Robert Isaacs OAM PhD JP
- **Arts and Culture Award – Sponsored by Woodside**
 - Mr David McAllister
 - Mr Henry Boston
 - Ms Kate Cherry
 - Ms Lesley Reece
- **Business Award – Sponsored by Telstra**
 - Mr Michael Henderson
 - Mr Peter Prendiville
 - Mrs Sue Murphy
- **Community Award – Sponsored by Alcoa**
 - Mr Neville Bassett
 - Ms Ros Worthington
 - Mr Steve Heron
 - Mr Tim Shanahan
- **Professions Award – Sponsored by St John of God Healthcare**
 - Mr Bob Cronin
 - Professor Frank Cooper
 - Professor Yogesan Kanagasingam
- **Sport Award – Sponsored by Hardy Brothers Jewellers**
 - Mr Andrew Vlahov
 - Ms Ashley Nelson
 - Mr Daniel Ricciardo
 - Ms Judith Rae Pilatti
- **Youth Award – Sponsored by BHP Billiton**
 - Ms Bronwyn Jones
 - Ms Jessica Edmeades
 - Ms Keeya-Lee Ayre
 - Mr Rhys Williams

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Photo/interview opportunities available on request.

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.

Celebrate WA's Major Supporters include BHP Billiton, the State Government, and Lotterywest. A range of Corporate Partners including Gerard Daniels, Herbert Smith Freehills, Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority and WA Super also provide invaluable support, along with Media Partners Channel 7, The West Australian and Austereo.