

**MEDIA RELEASE
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AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2010 – STATE AND TERRITORY AWARD FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

State and Territory finalists for Australian of the Year, Senior Australian of the Year, Young Australian of the Year and Australia's Local Hero awards were announced today.

There are four finalists in each award category in each State and Territory. Award recipients will be announced at State and Territory Australian of the Year Awards events to be held over the coming weeks.

All State and Territory award recipients will become finalists for the national awards, which will be announced on 25 January 2010 in Canberra and which will also mark the 50th Anniversary of the Australian of the Year Awards program.

Among the state and territory finalists for Australian of the Year are neurosurgeon Dr Charles Teo (NSW), *Samson & Delilah* filmmaker Warwick Thornton (NT), workers rights campaigner Sharan Burrow (VIC) and indigenous educator Dr Chris Sarra (QLD).

The Senior Australian of the Year state and territory finalists include cook and restaurateur Maggie Beer (SA), crime victims' advocate Ken Marslew (NSW), historian Prof Geoffrey Blainey AC (VIC) and singer/songwriter Kev Carmody (QLD).

State and territory finalists for Young Australian of the Year include singer Jessica Mauboy (NT), BMX champion Caroline Buchanan (ACT), playwright Finegan Kruckmeyer (TAS) and VC awarded soldier Trooper Mark Donaldson (WA).

The Local Hero state and territory finalists include community markets founder Norma Higgins (NT), OzHarvest food bank founder Ronni Kahn (NSW), indigenous community campaigners Emily Carter and June Oscar (WA), Maltese community leader Edgar Agius OAM (SA) and bushfire recovery workers Kevin and Rhonda Butler (VIC).

More than 2,500 nominations were submitted by the Australian public for this year's awards, recognising everyone from high achievers to community volunteers.

"We always receive a wide range of nominations and that's what's great about the awards - it's the public's chance to tell us who they are proud of, who they find inspiring and who they want to thank for their efforts," said Ms Johnston, Program Director at the National Australia Day Council.

"The finalists come from all walks of life, all areas of Australia and are involved a wide range of activities, but they are all either doing something to help others or making a difference in people's lives."

Ralph Norris, CEO Commonwealth Bank, offered his congratulations to all the state and territory finalists. The Commonwealth Bank has been the major sponsor of the Australian of the Year Awards for more than thirty years.

"On behalf of the Commonwealth Bank, I would like to congratulate all the finalists in every state and territory. We wish them all the best of luck in this stage of the awards and in their future endeavours," said Mr Norris.

State and Territory award presentations will be held on the following dates:

South Australia	Wednesday 11 November 2009
Northern Territory	Thursday 12 November 2009
Victoria	Monday 16 November 2009
New South Wales	Wednesday 18 November 2009
Queensland	Thursday 19 November 2009
Western Australia	Saturday 21 November 2009
Tasmania	Monday 23 November 2009
Australian Capital Territory	Wednesday 25 November 2009

For more information of the Australian of the Year Awards visit www.australianoftheyear.org.au.

Ends.

Finalist bios available on request or downloadable from www.australianoftheyear.org.au

Diary Notes with details of State & Territory Awards events also available from www.australianoftheyear.org.au

For further information or to arrange an interview please contact:

Nicole Browne, Media Opps 02 9954 7677 or 0414 673 762 or nicole@mediaopps.com.au

AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2010 – STATE & TERRITORY FINALISTS

Bios of all State & Territory finalists available on request (call Media Opps 02 9954 7677)
or downloadable from www.australianoftheyear.org.au

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

ACT AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Dr Patricia Easteal - *Human rights advocate*
Michelle Grattan - *Political journalist (Red Hill)*
Prof Tony McMichael - *Environmental and health visionary (Forrest)*
Colin Slater OAM - *Singing sensation (Dickson)*

ACT SENIOR AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Barry Barnes - *Basketball coach (Evatt)*
Dr John Buckingham - *Breast cancer surgeon*
Gabrielle Jarvis - *Teacher and volunteer (Kaleen)*
Bill Rowlings - *Civil libertarian (Fisher)*

ACT YOUNG AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Caroline Buchanan - *BMX Champion (Kambah)*
Michael Galluzzo - *Indigenous leader (Acton)*
Pierre Johannessen - *Disadvantaged youth campaigner (Isaacs)*
Dr Thomas Ward - *Medical engineer (Curtin)*

ACT LOCAL HERO

Dr Gordon Carmichael - *Soccer administrator (Chapman)*
Andrea Clifford - *Choir leader (Pearce)*
Julie Grehan - *Disabilities volunteer (Higgins)*
Deborah Masling - *Musical educator (Kaleen)*

NEW SOUTH WALES

NSW AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Jon Dee - *Environmental campaigner (Katoomba)*
Prof Martin Green - *Photovoltaic researcher (Bronte)*
Andrew Penfold - *Indigenous education advocate (Vaucluse)*
Dr Charles Teo - *Neurosurgeon*

NSW SENIOR AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Sue Dengate - *Consumer advocate (Woolgoolga)*
Ken Marslew AM - *Crime victims' advocate (Jannali)*
Hiskelina (Lyn) Thorpe - *Surgical theatre nurse (Charlestown)*
Tony Trimmingham OAM - *Anti-drug campaigner (Leura)*

NSW YOUNG AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Skye Bortoli - *Whale conservationist (Medowie)*
Nine Funnell - *Anti-violence campaigner (Huntleys Point)*
Jack Manning-Bancroft - *Indigenous mentor (Balmain)*
Shannon Nott - *Rural health crusader (Bondi Junction)*

NSW LOCAL HERO

Nancy Adams OAM - *Volunteer (Redhead)*
Peter Baines - *Charity founder (Middle Cove)*
Barbara Browne - *Indigenous nurse (Jerilderie)*
Ronni Kahn - *Food rescuer (Bronte)*

NORTHERN TERRITORY

NT AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Dr Paul Bauert - *Paediatrician (Casuarina)*
Assoc Prof Sabina Knight - *Remote area nurse (Alice Springs)*
Steve Sunk OAM - *Walkabout chef (Humpty Doo)*
Warwick Thornton - *Filmmaker (Alice Springs)*

NT SENIOR AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Jill Joliffe - *Freelance journalist (Darwin)*
Alan Langworthy - *Technological innovator (Berrimah)*
Brian Manning - *Aboriginal rights campaigner (Darwin)*
Sally Thomas AM - *Legal trailblazer (Fannie Bay)*

NT YOUNG AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Nathan Frick - *Mental illness campaigner (Nhulunbuy)*
Liam Jurrah - *AFL star (East Bentleigh)*
Jessica Mauboy - *Singer*
Kingsley Murphy - *Youth role model (Maningrida)*

NT LOCAL HERO

Michael Green - *Mental health worker (Casuarina)*
Norma Higgins - *Horticulturalist (Katherine)*
Nina Keener - *Wildlife Carer (Batchelor)*
Imam Adama Konda - *Religious leader (Wanguri)*

QUEENSLAND

QLD AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

David Elliott - *Dinosaur fossil expert (Winton)*
Prof Michael Good AO - *Immunity expert (The Gap)*
Dr James Morton - *Autism advocate (Mount Gravatt)*
Dr Chris Sarra - *Indigenous educator (Caboolture)*

QLD SENIOR AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Kev Carmody - *Singer/songwriter (Ballandean)*
Ann Joan George - *Charity worker (Inala)*
Albert Holt - *Indigenous advocate (Inala)*
Ron Rankin - *Surf Lifesaving leader (Cleveland)*

QLD YOUNG AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Ray Chen - *Violin virtuoso (Hamilton)*
Jean Madden - *Shelter designer (Upper Brookfield)*
Alissa Phillips - *Music therapist & social entrepreneur (Kenmore)*
Jack Sinclair - *Charity cyclist (Palm Beach)*

QLD LOCAL HERO

Sister Kerry Gordon - *Drama teacher (North Ward)*
Reverend Anne Harley - *Dynamic pastor (Mount Louisa)*
Mayor Paul Pisasale - *Dedicated Mayor (Ipswich)*
Surendra Prasad - *Community volunteer (Wishart)*

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SA AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Dr Lynn Arnold AO - *Humanitarian worker (Adelaide)*
Julian Burton OAM - *Charity founder (Adelaide)*
Geraldine Cox AM - *Orphanage mother (Glenalta)*
Cate Fowler - *Theatre Practitioner (Adelaide)*

SA SENIOR AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Maggie Beer - *Cook and restaurateur (Nurioopta)*
Brian Butler AM - *Stolen generations campaigner (Heathfield)*
Tony Hutchison - *Radio educationalist (Kingston)*
Dr James Martin - *Paediatric thoracic and sleep physician (Myrtle Bank)*

SA YOUNG AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Felishia Abbott - *Fundraiser (North Adelaide)*
Scott Bradbrook - *Youth Volunteer (Munno Para)*
Danielle Catanzariti - *Actor (Murray Bridge)*
Johnathon Dalla - *Sheep shearer (Warooka)*

SA LOCAL HERO

Edgar Agius OAM - *Maltese community advocate (Findon)*
Mike Coddington - *Volunteer Fire Fighter (Murray Bridge)*
Michael Cook - *Community volunteer (Berri)*
Rosemary McKenzie-Ferguson - *Workplace injury support worker (Royal Park)*

TASMANIA

TASMANIA AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Joy Cairns OAM - *Disabilities worker (West Moonah)*
Bruce Englefield - *Tasmanian Devils' advocate (Biceno)*
Carolyn Frohmader - *Disabled women's campaigner (West Stuart)*
Vlatislav Skvaril - *Marathon runner (Burnie)*

TASMANIA SENIOR AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Margaret Colville AM - *Down syndrome supporter (Bagdad)*
Alojzy Dziendziel MBE OAM - *Community volunteer (Glenorchy)*
Auntie Corrie Fullard - *Traditional artist (Glenorchy)*
Bill Mollison - *Permaculture advocate (Sisters Creek)*

TASMANIA YOUNG AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Louise Crawford - *Youth facilitator (Sulphur Creek)*
Finegan Kruckmeyer - *Playwright (West Hobart)*
Melissa Krushka - *Breastfeeding advocate (Scottsdale)*
Brad Smith - *Entrepreneur (Legana)*

TASMANIA LOCAL HERO

Diana Clark - *Community fundraiser (Huonville)*
Wayne Garlick - *Community volunteer (Bridgewater)*
Jennifer Hamer - *Emergency volunteer (Strahan)*
Delwyn Polden - *Generous teacher (Burnie)*

VICTORIA

VICTORIA AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Sharan Burrow - *Workers campaigner*
Prof Patrick McGorry - *Mental health expert (Essendon)*
Christine Nixon APM - *Community leader*
Michael Perusco - *Homeless support worker (North Melbourne)*

VICTORIA SENIOR AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Prof Geoffrey Blainey AC - *Historian and commentator*
Nigel Dick AM - *Odyssey House founder (Camberwell)*
Dr Hugh Wirth AM - *Animal welfare advocate (Balwyn)*
Karunathilaka (Tilak) Weerakkody - *Sri Lankan community worker (Lower Templestowe)*

VICTORIA YOUNG AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Andrew Asten - *Youth facilitator (Hawthorn)*
Larissa Brown - *Sustainability leader (Melbourne)*
Wesa Chau - *International student advocate (Melbourne)*
Adam Smith - *Youth advocate (Melbourne)*

VICTORIA LOCAL HERO

Merv Atkinson - *Indigenous youth worker (Sebastopol)*
Kevin & Rhonda Butler - *Bushfire recovery workers (Kilmore East)*
Cameron Caine - *Community leader (Pheasant Creek)*
Diane Falconer - *Community worker (Mt Martha)*

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WA AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Dr Gary Hewett OAM - *Charity founder (Glen Forrest)*
Prof Ralph Martins - *Alzheimer's expert (Maddington)*
Prof Ian McAllister - *Leading ophthalmologist (Peppermint Grove)*
Margaret O'Neill - *Travelling optometrist (Kununurra)*

WA SENIOR AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Dr David Booth - *Oral surgeon (Como)*
June Butcher AM - *Wildlife rescuer (Gooseberry Hill)*
Jeff Newman OAM - *Charity fundraiser*
Ron Withnell - *Red Cross volunteer (Mount Nasura)*

WA YOUNG AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

Daniel Daw - *Integrated dance practitioner (Perth)*
Trooper Mark Donaldson VC - *Courageous soldier*
Katrina Porter OAM - *Paralympic swimmer (Wembley)*
Dr Bernadette Poynter - *Chiropractor and charity worker (Leeming)*

WA LOCAL HERO

Emily Carter & June Oscar - *Indigenous campaigners (Fitzroy Crossing)*
Rhonda Parker - *Volunteer (Boyup Brook)*
Marg Peters - *Sexual abuse awareness campaigner (Bunbury)*
Jason Schroeder - *Youth mentor (Madeley)*

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