

EDITORIAL

Pinnacle of WA business defies gloom to shine on awards night

The story of WA business in 2014 has been a gloomy one for many industries. With depressed iron ore, gold and oil prices, the backbone of the State's economy — the resources sector — is facing serious headwinds. The incessant but understandable focus on the economic downturn makes it easy to forget that the WA economy is still in an enviable position by international standards.

This week's AIM WA *WestBusiness* Pinnacle Awards provided a timely reminder that local companies are continuing to excel in these challenging times.

The annual awards, which are a partnership between *The Weekend West* and the Australian Institute of Management WA, put the spotlight on the State's best businesses and the people who run them.

More than 650 people, including many of the State's corporate elite, descended on Crown Perth on Thursday night to celebrate excellence across eight categories.

Small and medium-sized businesses such as Sparkle Dental Joondalup and Scott Print were acknowledged alongside multinational giants such as Rio Tinto in a refreshing affirmation of the strength of WA entrepreneurialism.

A long list of extraordinary achievements in 2014 made Fortescue Metals Group founder Andrew Forrest a worthy winner of the WA Business Leader of the Year award.

Mr Forrest's iron ore company did not let sagging commodity prices derail it from hitting its 155 million-tonne-a-year production target — something which many considered a pipedream just 12 months earlier.

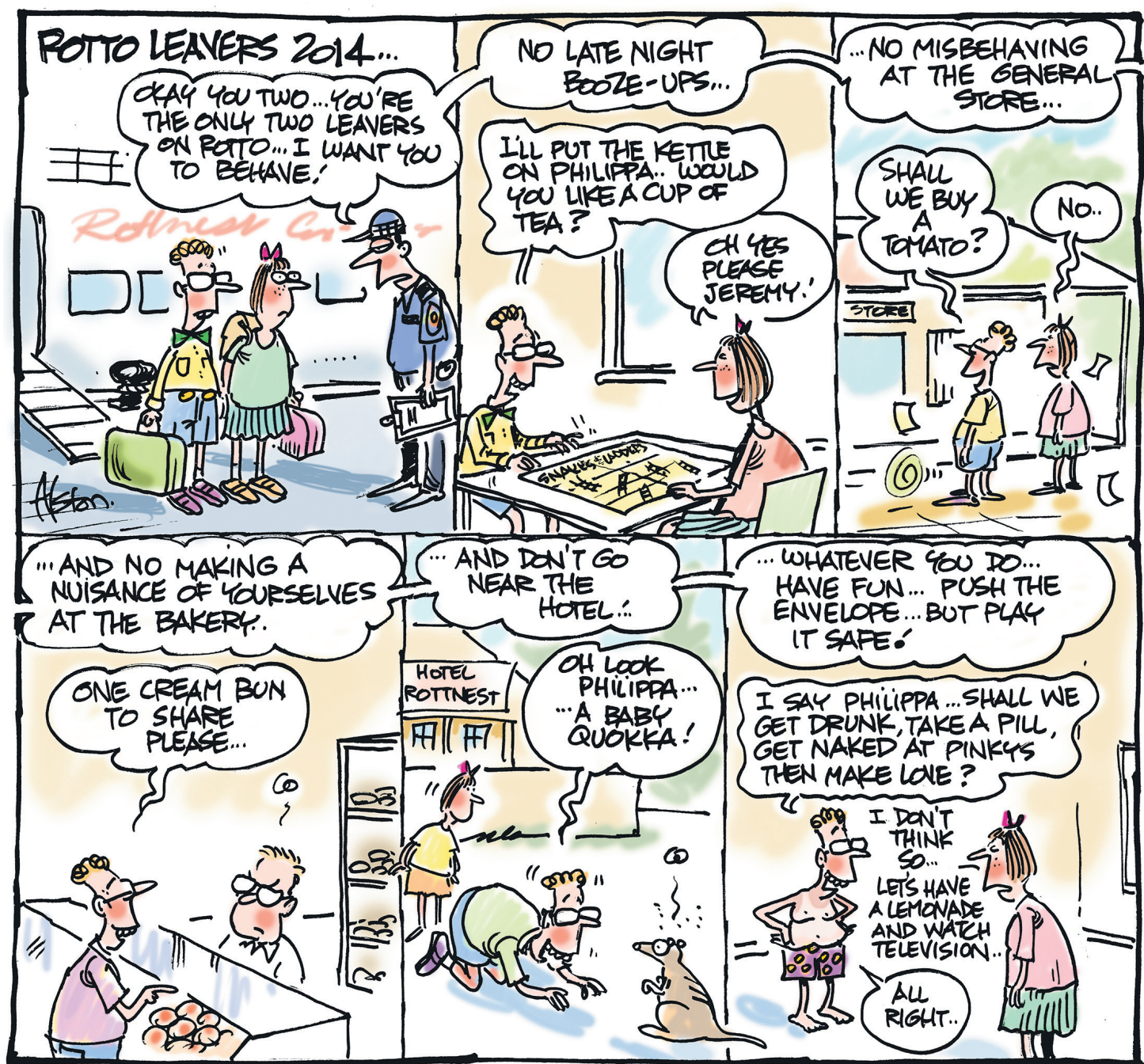
He delivered to Prime Minister Tony Abbott a landmark blueprint to end Aboriginal disadvantage by overhauling welfare and employment policies.

He acted as a champion for WA farmers, returning the well-known Harvey Beef brand to local ownership and signing an agreement with Beijing which sets the framework for Australia to remain a key source of food for China over the next decade.

And he continued a philanthropic spree which some thought would go quiet after last year's \$60 million donation to WA's five universities.

With prizes of \$10,000 given to each category winner and the WA Business Leader of the Year, the AIM WA *WestBusiness* Pinnacle Awards are not just an important part of the local business calendar. They are also an important event in the philanthropic calendar.

The Weekend West thanks AIM WA for its commitment to the awards and congratulates each winner.



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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

November 24

All of St Louis owes a debt of gratitude to the 12 citizens who served on the grand jury that has decided that Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson will not stand trial for the shooting death of Michael Brown. The debt is owed not for the decision. The debt would have been owed had the grand jurors come back with an indictment. The debt is owed for hanging in there while all about them the experts and would-be experts speculated about what happened on Canfield Drive shortly after noon on that Saturday. People are going to disagree. People are going to march and protest. The daily protests since August 9 are about much more than one case. The communities that make up St Louis don't have to like the grand jury decision. But they must abide by it. Difficult as it will be, we should all try to do what the grand jurors had to do: open our minds.

theguardian

November 26

The murder of Lee Rigby appalled and united the nation. The Woolwich murder was, first and foremost, a private tragedy for Fusilier Rigby, his family and friends. Yet it was also a public event. Its importance went well beyond those most affected by it. The bleak truth is that it's possible nothing would have saved Lee Rigby from his awful fate. Some suggest fresh British Government powers to demand information from American and other firms are the answer. But first the authorities would have to prove they have used the powers they already have wisely and those powers have been exhausted. We are not at that point. If anything might have saved Lee Rigby, it would have been tougher and better interventions against known suspects. That is the lesson of this terrible case and for the essential unrelenting work of preventing a similar horror in future.

CHINADAILY

November 26

With 300 million smokers and 28.1 per cent of its population above 15 addicted to cigarettes, China faces a tough challenge to control tobacco use. It has failed to do a good job in the past decade since it ratified the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in 2003. Only 13 cities have implemented local administrative regulations banning smoking in indoor public venues since 2008. For the health of the nation's 740 million non-smokers who have long been exposed to second-hand smoke and also to reduce the rate of diseases caused by smoking, national regulations to ban smoking in indoor public places have long been overdue. It won't be long before a national ban on smoking in indoor public places takes effect. But it is one thing to have such regulations — it is another to ensure there is no smoking in such spaces.

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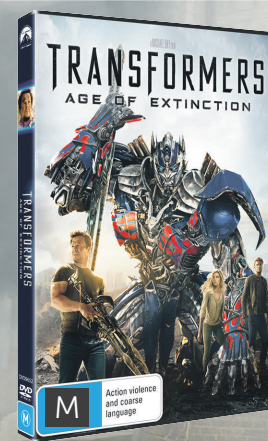
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