



Having fun: Richard and Janine Goyder.



On the ball: Luke Shuey and Beau Waters.



Meet and greet: WA Governor Kerry Sanderson.

Forrest's award a pinnacle of 2014

■ Kim Macdonald

Andrew Forrest paid tribute to his wife Nicola and the team at Fortescue Metals Group during his acceptance speech as WA's Business Leader of the Year at the 2014 Australian Institute of Management WA *WestBusiness* Pinnacle Awards.

In front of more than 650 people at a gala ceremony at Crown Perth on Thursday night, the Fortescue Metals Group founder praised Mrs Forrest as "one of the absolute giants on whose shoulders I stand" and joked about their "bedroom boardroom meetings".

He also applauded the "giant personalities, the intelligence and the perseverance ... of those legends at FMG."

Mr Forrest's award, which

was presented to him by last year's winner, Wesfarmers managing director Richard Goyder, was the crowning moment at the 2014 Pinnacle Awards. Local charities were given \$90,000 over the course of the evening, with Mr Forrest's \$10,000 prize going to the Ochre Dance Company, a group he said encouraged new talent in the arts sector.

In the company award section, WA businesses which showed exceptional leadership in eight categories were rewarded, with each winner being given \$10,000 to go to a nominated charity.

While Mr Forrest came to public prominence through his resources dealings, the Pinnacles award recognised his broad contribution.

This year, he promoted Australian farm produce



Pinnacles of success: Andrew Forrest, front row, second from left, and AIM WA chief executive Gary Martin, front row, fourth from left, and *The West Australian* editor Brett McCarthy, back row, second from left, join eight category winners at the 2014 AIM WA *WestBusiness* Pinnacle Awards. Pictures: Bohdan Warchomij

through a partnership with China, in line with his vision for Australia to become Asia's food bowl. One of his most notable commercial deals of that past year was the purchase of Harvey Beef, which returned the State's biggest beef exporter to local hands for the first time in nearly a decade.

Another milestone in the billionaire's life this year

was the completion of a review on Aboriginal disadvantage for the Federal Government. Mr Forrest took the opportunity last night to remind the public that tens of billions of dollars was wasted on inefficient programs aimed at indigenous disadvantage.

The award also recognised his philanthropic contributions, including \$65 million

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to WA universities. AIM WA chief executive Gary Martin said Mr Forrest demonstrated outstanding leadership which had had an enormous impact.

"The judging panel recognised that his leadership had had an overwhelmingly positive impact and influence on our State and in so many different ways," he said.

Editor of *The West Australia*

lian Brett McCarthy said there was a high quality of entrants in all categories.

"2014 was a year that brought its fair share of challenges," he told guests, which included WA Governor Kerry Sanderson, former governor Ken Michael, Crown Perth chief Barry Felstead, Fortescue Metals Group chief executive Nev Power, former premier Richard

Court, Azure Capital executive chairman John Poynton, State Opposition Leader Mark McGowan, Navitas co-founder Rod Jones and Bankwest managing director Rob de Luca.

Full coverage, including video of the winners at work, at thewest.com.au/business Editorial P30

AWARD WINNERS

ABORIGINAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD

- **Rio Tinto**, the largest private sector employer of Aboriginal people in Australia, won the award in recognition of its indigenous employment initiatives.
- It includes programs to get indigenous people into their first jobs as well as into their first management roles.
- Its \$10,000 winnings have been donated to the David Wirrpanda Foundation, which seeks to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal people.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY EXCELLENCE

- The WA-based **Hawaiian Property Group**, which owns and manages commercial, retail and hospitality assets across Australia, won the category for its wide-ranging fundraising efforts.
- The company was praised for its long-standing commitment to charities such as Youth Focus, with judges calling it "the real deal" when it comes to corporate responsibility.
- Its fundraising events include the annual Hawaiian Ride for Youth from Albany to Perth, which has raised more than \$10 million to address the problem of youth suicide.
- Fittingly, its winnings have been donated to Youth Focus.

CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

- **Sparkle Dental Joondalup**, owned by husband and wife dental team Shereen Lim and Alex Devellerez, took out the top gong for its top-level customer service.
- Praised by judges as a true industry leader, Sparkle Dental have a proven track record of going the extra mile for their clients.
- Judges recognised their efforts to constantly improve by fostering a culture of open feedback, and money has been donated to HeartKids WA.

GREEN BUSINESS EXCELLENCE

- Family-owned **Scott Print** won the category for its impressive environmental initiatives, which extend well beyond recycling paper.
- General manager of sales and marketing Tim Scott ensures every step in production – from administration through to prepress, printing and post press – is reviewed to ensure environmentally friendly procedures.
- The winnings have been donated to Shake It Up Australia Foundation, which is involved in Parkinsons research.

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE

- **Patersons Stadium**, run by the West Australian Football Commission, was praised for its human resource initiatives covering 350 casual staff, ranging from teens to retirees.
- Judges praised it as "a beacon of human resources excellence" for its successful use of induction programs, scenario training, mock drills and pop quizzes.
- It will donate the winnings to One Life, a suicide prevention program.

INNOVATION EXCELLENCE

- Carnegie **Wave Energy Limited** was recognised as a world leader in the wave energy industry.
- The group invented and developed a revolutionary technology that harnesses the power of waves and converts it into zero-emission power.
- The Fremantle-based group has 40 staff and is moving towards commercialisation with the development of its first demonstration project utilising its CETO technology.
- Its winnings have been donated to Engineers Without Borders.

MARKETING EXCELLENCE

- **The Royal Automotive Club of WA** won the category after repositioning its brand with the world's first attention-powered car.
- The RAC created the car that connects the driver to the engine through a neuro headset, linking the engine to the brain's focus on the road.
- Judges praised it for not only raising RAC's brand awareness but for successfully putting the spotlight on the deadly impact of driver inattention.
- Its winnings have been donated to the Association of Volunteer Bushfire Brigades WA.

EMERGING BUSINESS EXCELLENCE

- **HealthEngine**, an online medical directory and appointment websites, was praised by judges for its strong growth strategy.
- The business began as a small online medical directory in 2006 and later evolved to offer online bookings.
- Marcus Tan acquired the site in 2010 and worked with three staff from his living room. It has since grown to more than 30 staff and is one of the largest consumer health websites in Australia.
- The winnings have been donated to the Meridian Global Foundation.

Artist impression

Artist impression

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