

# THE PEAK OF LEADERSHIP

By Chloe Vellinga, Chris Thurmott, Cassie Gunthorpe

The 'who's who' of Western Australia's business community turned out in force on November 30 for the 2016 AIM WA WestBusiness Pinnacle Awards.

The awards recognise the tireless leadership of Western Australian organisations for their contribution to their respective industries and the impact they make on the business community.

AIM WA Chief Executive Officer Professor Gary Martin FAIM said the prestigious annual event held on November 30 was a stunning evening at Crown's Grand Ballroom.

**"The awards provide a great opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate outstanding people and organisations," he said.**

"Winners were announced across eight organisational categories and a special Business Leader of the Year category."

Professor Martin said the organisational categories were judged by a panel of between six and eight business leaders with expertise relevant to each award.

Each winner received an engraved Pinnacle trophy and \$10,000 to donate to a charity of their choice.

"Charities to receive donations on the night included White Ribbon, beyondblue, Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation, Association of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades, Youth Focus, NGALA, Starlight Children's Foundation, Palmerston Association and the James Croft Hope Foundation," Professor Martin said.

## WA Business Leader of the Year – Neville Power

With more than 30 years' experience in the mining, steel and construction industries, dedicated businessman and Chief Executive Officer of Fortescue Metals Group, Neville Power was the recipient of this year's WA Business Leader of the Year award.

Receiving the award in front of peers and

the wider business community, Mr Power said he was surprised and extremely honoured.

"This award is a real honour and I feel extremely humbled to join the rest of the winners this year, and to stand alongside previous winners from the WA business community including Fortescue's founder and Chairman Andrew Forrest," he said.

"I'm very privileged to lead the Fortescue team and to do my job every day, so to receive this award on top of that is a wonderful and unexpected bonus."

Mr Power grew up on a cattle-grazing property in western Queensland and still maintains an active interest in managing the family property. He is also an avid aviator, holding both helicopter and fixed wing licenses.

Since joining Fortescue Metals Group in 2011, Mr Power has chaired the tripling of the company's iron ore capacity to over 155 million tonnes per annum and has been a strong advocate for indigenous employment.

In receiving the award, Mr Power chose to donate his prize money to White Ribbon, an organisation working to end violence against women and girls.

"I became a White Ribbon ambassador because I am in a position to educate, influence and show leadership on this issue in our workplaces and in the wider community," Mr Power said.

"I am proud of the work Fortescue is doing in this area and encourage everyone to stand up, speak out and act to end all forms of violence against women."

## Corporate Social Responsibility Excellence – Bankwest

Bankwest received the Pinnacle award for Corporate Social Responsibility Excellence. This accolade recognises organisations that have achieved outstanding results in demonstrating leadership and commitment to excellence in corporate social responsibility.

"Our commitment to the community has been part of our DNA since 1895," Bankwest Head of Community Engagement Craig Spencer said. "Our current strategy has been in place since 2012 and addresses three focus areas; the way we do business, our people and our role in society."

"It's a huge honour to win this award and is testimony to the hard work and passion of many Bankwest colleagues."

Mr Spencer said Bankwest was passionate about WA, about making a difference and helping people achieve what matters, now and for generations to come.

"We do business transparently and sustainably as well as treating all people with respect and fairness," he said.

"Bankwest aspires to be a leader in the changing face of business in the community. We want to share our knowledge and bring people on the journey with us as businesses increasingly adopt and adapt to working within a corporate social responsibility framework."

"Bankwest has huge amounts of expertise in this field and we intend to lead from the front and help business change for the better."

Bankwest chose to donate its prize money to beyondblue, a charity committed to aiding people affected by depression, anxiety and other mental health issues. Bankwest employees voted for beyondblue to be one of Bankwest's charity partners after an online forum within the company.

"We were delighted our colleagues chose beyondblue because we recognise the community importance of reducing the stigma around depression and anxiety and encouraging effective diagnosis and treatment," Mr Spencer said.

## Emerging Business Excellence and Innovation Excellence – chemo@home

Innovation, hard work and resilience has led to the first-of-its-kind chemo@home health service, which has transformed cancer treatment in WA by offering at home chemotherapy treatment.

Developed by two experienced oncology healthcare professionals,

Julie Adams and Lorna Cook, the service addresses a fundamental unmet need in the system.

The hard work and efforts of co-founders and co-directors Ms Adams and Ms Cook saw the pair take home both the Emerging Business Excellence award and the Innovation Excellence award.

## Many risks are taken in starting up a new business, especially when the service is the first of its kind.

"It means so much to have been recognised with these two significant awards," Ms Adams said.

"Many risks are taken in starting up a new business, and these become even greater when the service is the first of its kind."

Offering at home chemotherapy through the patient's health fund, the organisation provides a holistic service that is convenient for the patient and family and helps reduce stress during a challenging time.

"Patients no longer have to rely on family members to take them to hospital and wait around for them," Ms Cook said.

"It doesn't cost them money for petrol or parking, they don't have to worry about the heat or the cold and they have the same nurses regularly so they get time to talk to the nurses, get to know them, trust them and share their worries with them."

The service administers chemotherapy for almost every type of cancer and medical infusions for diseases such as multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis and Crohn's disease, iron infusions for people with anaemia and many other similar medications.

"Our nurses are highly trained and we look after the patient and their family, wrapping our services around them so the service is holistic," Ms Cook said.

Founded in 2013, chemo@home continues to grow, doubling the number of patients treated at home year on year, which is an impressive achievement for the niche health service.



Patrick Walker, RAC WA, Gary Martin FAIM, AIM WA.



Nev Power, Fortescue Metals Group and wife Irma.