

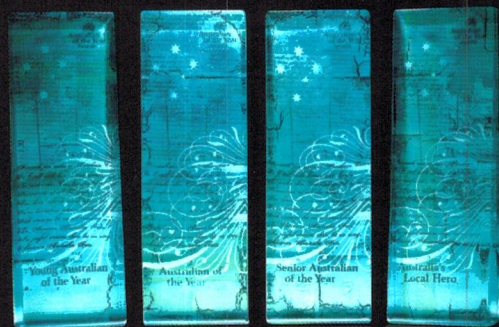


Australians who make us proud

New South Wales



Australian of the Year
Awards 2009



The Australian of the Year Awards are proudly
presented in partnership with





As Premier I am extremely proud to be here tonight to share in the successes of the finalists for the NSW Australian of the Year. They are ordinary Australians who have achieved extraordinary things.

Our finalists are from all walks of life – community supporters, charity workers, those who excel in business, academia, sport and the arts. Their contributions help to make NSW a strong and vibrant state.

It's wonderful that there is an award such as this, allowing Australians to recognise the contributions of their peers across all areas of expertise. Tonight is our chance to say thank you to them.

On behalf of the New South Wales Government I congratulate all our finalists and recipients. Your commitment and skills motivate us to be the best we can be.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan Rees". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nathan Rees MP

Premier and Minister for the Arts

Message from the Chair



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the NSW Australian of the Year Awards 2009.

The Awards give Australians the opportunity to nominate those who we believe have excelled in serving their community, and the nation, in their chosen field. Through the Awards we can acknowledge and celebrate the hard work and commitment of these Australians who each inspire us to reach even greater heights in our own lives.

Our finalists are from all walks of life, with their own unique talents and strengths. But they are here tonight because of one common factor – their peers have recognised the high standards of excellence they set and the contribution they have made to their communities.

On behalf of NSW, congratulations to all finalists and recipients here tonight. You have certainly earned your place alongside the eminent list of past Australian of the Year finalists.

Thank you to everyone who nominated someone for the Australian of the Year Awards. The time and effort you put into your nominations makes a difference – as evidenced by the wonderful finalists here tonight.

And finally, I would like to thank our sponsors and selection panel members for their invaluable assistance throughout the year. Your support allows us to continue to share in the stories of amazing Australians each year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Egan', written in a cursive style.

The Hon. Michael Egan
Chairman

Australia Day Council of New South Wales.



Australian of the Year

New South Wales – Finalists

Layne Beachley

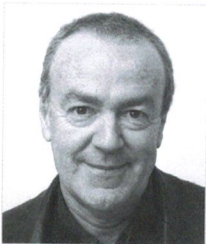
Surfing legend



Layne Beachley is regarded as the best female professional surfer in the sport's history, having won the World Championship seven consecutive times. She turned professional at the age of 16 and made a remarkable rise through the ranks in a very male-dominated sport. By the age of 20 she was already ranked sixth in the world. But in 1993 and 1996 she suffered two episodes of chronic fatigue that threatened to end her career. A mental, physical and emotional challenge, she overcame the illness to become the Women's ASP World Champion in 1988. She now dominates the sport, holding the record for the greatest winning margin in the world title race and for the greatest number of consecutive World Championship victories by any competitor. Having experienced the financial pressures of supporting her career for the first eight years, Layne established the Aim for the Stars Foundation to inspire girls and women to achieve their academic, sporting, community and cultural dreams. Layne is a phenomenal competitor and an outstanding role model for women around the world.

Professor Simon Chapman

*Anti-tobacco
campaigner*



Based at the University of Sydney's School of Public Health, Professor Simon Chapman has worked for many years championing public health causes. He has been particularly inspirational in taking on the powerful tobacco industry, successfully lobbying for measures to reduce the uptake, usage and flammability of tobacco products. In doing so he has without a doubt reduced the financial and emotional burden associated with tobacco related illness in our society. He has also been a pioneer in the field of public health advocacy, lobbying across numerous mediums to put tobacco usage on the political agenda. He is the author of 14 books and major government reports and 352 publications in peer-reviewed journals. In 1997, he won a World Health Organisation gold medal for tobacco control, and this year was named Outstanding Cancer Researcher of the Year in the NSW Premier's Award. In 2003, he was listed in The Bulletin's top 10 smartest, most innovative and creative people in the field of health and medicine. Professor Chapman analyses the most important tasks facing global tobacco control with penetrating insight, providing a road map of what must be done to ensure the health of our community.

Dr Catherine Hamlin AC

Fistula surgery pioneer



Dr Catherine Hamlin is an obstetrician, gynaecologist and co-founder, with her late husband Dr Reginald Hamlin, of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital. The hospital, located in Ethiopia's capital, is the world's only medical centre dedicated exclusively to providing free fistula repair surgery to poor women suffering from childbirth injuries. It is also a global centre of expertise in fistula repair and trains surgeons from around the world. Dr Hamlin has since opened hospitals in a further three Ethiopian cities, and this year opened the Hamlin Midwifery College in Addis Ababa in an attempt to prevent fistula damage. When she arrived in Ethiopia in 1959 there were almost no resources for expectant mothers. Since then she has treated more than 34,000 women, restoring their health and dignity. Her work has garnered the respect of the United Nations agency UNFPA, which has recognised her as a pioneer in fistula surgery, and the Global Health Council which awarded her the coveted Best Practices in Global Health Award in 2004. At the age of 84 she is still performing surgery. The New York Times' Nicholas Kristof has described her as a modern day Mother Teresa.

Lorraine Peeters

Stolen Generation supporter



Like many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children of her generation, Lorraine was forcibly removed from her family at the age of four and placed in an institution. Through the healing journey necessitated by this traumatic event, she became involved with helping others from the Stolen Generation. She developed the Marumali model of healing and in response to great demand she established a healing program called Winangali-Marumali in 2000, to support survivors of the Stolen Generation. Participants are empowered by the workshop and its model of healing. The program works in tandem with Link Up, which allows Indigenous people to trace lost family members, and Bringing Them Home counsellors. Recognising that those removed from their families are twice as likely to have been arrested, she also established the Marumali program in Victorian prisons. Since 2002, more than 250 participants have completed the program. Lorraine also played an important role in the National Apology given by the Prime Minister in 2008 to the Stolen Generations. Following the apology, she presented the Prime Minister with a glass coolamon, an Indigenous carrying vessel, to thank him for offering the apology. Lorraine has had a profound impact on helping members of the Stolen Generation to heal.

Liz Ellis

Netball great



Liz Ellis has had an amazing sporting career and has been a positive role model for other young sports people. She began playing netball at the age of eight with the Greens Netball Club in the Hawkesbury Association, and is still a member and club sponsor to this day. Liz overcame her asthma to play in the Australian Netball Team for 14 years, and has a long list of sporting achievements to her credit. She is a former captain of the Sydney Swifts and is the only player to have represented the Swifts at every Commonwealth Bank Trophy since the competition's inception in 1997. She helped Australia win two Commonwealth Games gold medals, three World Netball Championships, and captained the Australian Netball Team for three years. She is the most capped netball player of all time with 122 test matches, winning the World Championship Gold Medal in 2007. Although Liz retired from netball last year, she has continued contributing to the sporting community through the netball clinics that she began in 1997 to help improve young netballers skills and fitness. Liz has helped raise the profile of netball in Australia and inspired young people in the process.

Glenn McGrath AM

Cricketer and fundraiser



Glenn McGrath is one of Australia's most loved cricketing legends. Since first wearing the baggy green cap in Perth in 1993, he has gone on to become the most prolific fast bowler in test cricket history, spearheading Australia's bowling attack for over a decade. Professionally he has always demonstrated an unerring will to succeed, but off the field it is the way he has handled personal struggles that has gained him admiration. Glenn's wife, Jane, was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1997, cancer of the hip six years later and had a brain tumour removed in early 2006. Together they established the McGrath Foundation, with an aim to provide funding for breast care nurses on a national basis and provide greater public awareness of breast cancer, particularly amongst younger women. The McGrath Foundation is now a major fundraiser for and supporter of people with breast cancer. In June this year Jane lost her 11-year battle with cancer, leaving Glenn to care for their two children. Throughout it all Glenn has shown enormous strength and dignity, setting an inspirational example.

About the Awards

Each year our nation comes together to celebrate and acknowledge the achievements of outstanding Australians through the Australian of the Year Awards.

These awards recognise the contributions of amazing Australians who, through their hard work, determination and commitment, inspire us all to make a difference in our own communities.

The awards program recognises Australians in four categories:

Australian of the Year

Senior Australian of the Year (60 years and over)

Young Australian of the Year (16 – 30 years)

Australia's Local Hero

All Australians were encouraged to nominate an Australian who makes us proud, and the response to the awards was overwhelming with more than 3,300 nominations received this year. There are certainly many amazing stories contained in these nominations.

In October, selection panels assessed the nominations against criteria including excellence in their field, contribution to community and the nation and being an inspiring role model.

Each state and territory announces its Australian of the Year, Senior Australian of the Year, Young Australian of the Year and Local Hero during November.

State and territory recipients then proceed to national selection, which is conducted by the National Australia Day Council.

On Australia Day Eve 2009, the national award recipients in each category will be announced in Canberra.

For more information on the awards program and the state and territory finalists or to nominate someone who makes you proud visit www.australianoftheyear.org.au.