

MEDIA RELEASE

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Attention: News Editor

Medal winner lauds innovation boost

GSDC Medallist Gary Muir has commended the biennial award as a boost to innovators, with only weeks remaining for nominations for the 2016 selection process.

Mr Muir, the 2014 recipient of the GSDC Medal, is a south coast environmental educator and developer of the Phytofighter dieback cleaning station.

The Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) awards the medal to recognise best practice and innovative contributions to managing and making productive use of the region's natural resources.

Mr Muir said he would like to see nominations of innovative people who had proven ability and a bigger vision for creative ideas to advance the field of natural resource management.

He encouraged potential nominators and nominees to take the time to prepare nominations before the deadline on Wednesday 17 February.

"The GSDC Medal was a great honour, not just for me, but also to recognise the teams from the community, industry, government and academia whom I have collaborated with over the past three decades," Mr Muir said.

"The GSDC has given our team not just assistance with funding but exposure and opportunity to meet with new enthusiastic people in the field.

"It helps towards the protection of our nature, enhancement of our culture and hope for the future."

The winner of the medal receives a sterling silver medal and a total \$12,000 grant from the GSDC to further their work.

Mr Muir used his grant to further develop his Phytofighter dieback cleaning station, enhance environmental education and communications, and research biodiversity.

GSDC Chair Peter Rundle said the medal had honoured and supported a wide variety of people since its inception in 2002.



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“The GSDC instigated this award because the Great Southern’s strengths include its stunning natural environment and its thriving primary production, and it is in everyone’s interests to encourage innovative approaches in managing these resources,” Mr Rundle said.

“Past medallists have included primary producers, scientists and community project leaders.

“Medal grants have supported activities such as research on the commercialisation of native plants, efforts to combat dryland salinity, innovations in weed control and preservation of ecological connections along the south coast.

“The Commission invites members of the community to nominate inspiring and deserving candidates for the 2016 GSDC Medal, which will be awarded in May,” Mr Rundle said.

GSDC Medal nomination forms are available on the GSDC Medal page of www.gsdc.wa.gov.au, or phone 9821 3211 for more information.

After the close of nominations on Wednesday 17 February, the assessment panel will review and select three finalists. Each finalist will receive a \$2,000 grant to support their work.

The winner of the 2016 GSDC Medal will be announced at a function in Albany on Friday 27 May 2016.

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