

MEDIA RELEASE

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Attention: News Editor

Finalists leading the region

Three regional leaders are in the running for the 2014 GSDC Medal following the close of nominations for the prestigious award.

The finalists are project leader Basil Schur, WOW Wilderness proprietor Gary Muir and innovative farmer Stephen Frost, vying for the GSDC Medal that celebrates innovation and leadership in the management of natural resources.

Great Southern Development Commission Chairman Peter Rundle thanked the nominators.

“The GSDC Medal recognises people doing great work in the community, and the contribution they make to the pool of expertise and knowledge we have in this region,” Mr Rundle said.

“It would not be possible without those on the ground identifying local leaders and innovators, and taking the time to prepare the nominations.”

The medal assessment panel, led by chair Naomi Arrowsmith, shortlisted three finalists from the nominees and conducted interviews to determine who will receive the sterling silver medal and a \$12,000 grant to further their work.

“The interviews are a unique opportunity for the panel to learn firsthand about the finalists’ work, their motivations and their views on the management of natural resources in our region,” Ms Arrowsmith said.

“The onsite interviews are a highlight of the assessment process for the panel.”

Finalist Basil Schur, from Denmark, is an educator, facilitator and project leader with Greenskills.

Through his work, Mr Schur incorporates conservation values with social and production outcomes across hundreds of projects implemented in the region.

Examples of his work include the development of management plans for wetlands and waterways, the creation of the Denmark Learning Precinct including the eco-architecture inspired Sanctuary and the South Coast Shorebird survey program.



Gary Muir, from Walpole, is an interpreter and communicator for science and management of natural resources.

Mr Muir is an innovator for phytophthora dieback control, an outdoor educator and WOW Wilderness ecoguide.

In addition to local projects such as the UR Walpole school eco-education program (now in its 10th year), Mr Muir develops and implements a range of local, state and international projects through the international WOW team.

Stephen Frost, a farmer from Narrikup, incorporates biodiversity conservation and innovative techniques to enhance production.

These include grass and sedge plantings to improve water quality in dams, wildflower production, fodder trees such as sweet oaks, and semi-rotational grazing systems.

Mr Frost is a pioneer in soil microbiology including ongoing research and trials to develop sustainable biological farming systems.

He is also responsible for the establishment of Western Mineral Fertilisers in Tenderten.

The GSDC Medal will be presented by the Hon Terry Redman MLA, Minister for Regional Development, at a gala dinner event on Friday 20 June 2014 at the Albany Entertainment Centre.

Enquiries about the dinner can be directed to reception at the GSDC Albany office on 9842 4888.



Basil Schur speaking about Wilson Inlet.



Gary Muir with the Phytofighter boot cleaning station.



Stephen Frost at 'Stonemeal' farm.

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