

MEDIA RELEASE

Our Ref: T15:0032

22 July 2011

Attention: News Editor

Medal judges at work

A committed natural resource manager will be honoured by the award of the tenth Great Southern Development Commission Medal for Excellence in NRM in August.

Nominations for the award closed in May and the shortlist was selected in June.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said the award of the tenth medal marked a significant milestone.

“Many fine achievements have been acknowledged since the medal was first awarded in 2002,” Mr Manning said.

“Awarding the tenth medal marks a decade of honouring best practice in managing natural resources of the Great Southern, for the benefit of everyone who lives in the region.”

Judges have been at work recently examining the strengths of the shortlisted candidates.

Agriculture and Food Minister Terry Redman will announce the winner at a gala dinner at the Albany Entertainment Centre on August 18.

The three finalists are WOW Wilderness proprietor Gary Muir, weed expert John Moore and the late Andrew Marshall, a former catchment group leader.

Mr Marshall had been battling a serious illness, and passed away after the short-listing of nominees. A family representative took his place in the assessment process.

Mr Marshall farmed in the Torbay district and was an early adopter of protecting remnant vegetation and replanting with native species. He had leadership roles in the Torbay Catchment Group and on the Watershed Torbay Steering Committee.



Building partnerships for regional prosperity

Mr Moore is a senior weed control scientist for the Department of Agriculture and Food, and has developed weed control techniques, programs and publications. His work has covered farming systems as well as native vegetation and high priority conservation areas.

Mr Muir is an ecotourism professional who has taken an active role in fighting dieback by developing a communication strategy that includes a universal dieback signage system. He also developed the Bush Bidet portable vehicle washdown station and the Phytofighter 1000 boot cleaning station for bushwalkers.

The winner of the GSDC Medal receives a sterling silver medal and \$10,000 prize money to be directed towards NRM-related travel, study or research.

Runner-up finalists will receive \$1000 to further their NRM work.

Past winners include native plant agronomist Dr Geoff Woodall, malleefowl protector Susanne Dennings and landscape drainage pioneer Russel Thomson.

Media contact: Bruce Manning, ph. 9842 4888

