

Monday September 8, 2014

The Hon Michael McCormack MP to attend this year's Farmer of the Year awards

Hosts Kondinin Group and ABC Rural are delighted to announce The Hon Michael McCormack MP will be attending this year's *Australian Farmer of the Year Awards* dinner and ceremony.

As a Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and National Party Federal Member for the Riverina, Michael McCormack will officially open the awards.

The nine award categories have attracted a record number of entries from farmers and farming families around the country, and high calibre sponsors from government and industry including Grains Research and Development Corporation, Dairy Australia and John Deere.

National finalists and award winners will be formally announced at the awards dinner and ceremony on Wednesday September 10 at The Langham Melbourne.

The annual *Australian Farmer of the Year Awards* celebrate the highly professional, innovative and sustainable approach of farmers and farming families, showcasing their passion and raising the profile of the important role they play in Australian agriculture.

Since its inception in 2010, the *Australian Farmer of the Year Awards* has grown to become the premier event in the nation's farming calendar.

2014 AWARD CATEGORIES AND FINALISTS

Horticultural Grower of the Year Award – sponsored by John Deere Limited (Australia)

Darren Corrigan, Clyde, VIC

Robert Green, Lenswood, SA

Bill and Emmanuel Cafcakis, Virginia SA

Livestock Producer of the Year Award – sponsored by WFI

Joanne Stritch, Wandin North, VIC

Steve Taylor, Chinchilla, QLD

Christopher Squiers, Quairading, WA

Dairy Farmer of the Year Award – sponsored by Dairy Australia

Nigel and Rachel Brock, Montana, TAS

Greg Dennis, Tamrookum, QLD

Raymond and Sarah Parker, Undera, VIC

Grain Grower of the Year Award – sponsored by Grains Research and Development Corporation

Jim Heal, Three Springs, WA

Geoff McCallum, Parkes, NSW

Smith family, Dumbleyung, WA

Baxter family, Berrigan, NSW

Egg Farmer of the Year Award – sponsored by Australian Egg Corporation Ltd Pty

Brian Ahmed, Werribee South, VIC

Kate Mason, Kojonup, WA

Danny Jones, Devonport, TAS

Diversification Farmer of the Year Award – sponsored by Farming Ahead and Farming Ahead Online

Todd Fergusson, Dunedoo, NSW

Gerard Puglisi, Mossman, QLD

Brian Ahmed, Werribee South, VIC

Young Farmer of the Year Award – sponsored by Case IH

Christopher Condon, Tully, QLD

Jack England, Kingston SE, SA

Kane Busch, Hillside, VIC

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Biosecurity Farmer of the Year Award (plant category) – sponsored by Plant Health Australia

Michael and Lisa Lankester, Mareeba, QLD

Shannon Paton and Sarah Schultz, Innisfail, QLD

Lindsay Bourke, Launceston, TAS

Agricultural Student of the Year Award – sponsored by Grains Research and Development Corporation

Roxanne Mostert, Redmond, WA

Jonathon Moore, Canberra, ACT

Peter Coles, Goulburn, NSW

For more information and sponsorship opportunities please contact Kondinin Group on 1800 677 761 or email events@kondinin.com.au.

About Kondinin Group

Kondinin Group is today's leading source of independent information for agriculture with more than 55 years under its belt as an agricultural media organisation.

In a 12-month period the group spends more than \$1 million on independent research of agricultural equipment and services to help farmers and the wider industry make better choices.

In addition to working closely with Australia's primary producers, Kondinin Group also has strong alliances with a range of stakeholder organisations across government, private industry, universities, research bodies and grower groups.

Kondinin Group has four areas of specialist service provision:

1. Membership and agricultural information services
2. Publishing
3. Training
4. Events

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