

MEDIA RELEASE – Embargoed 9pm 30th November

**Recognising Our National Sustainability Leaders
As Australia Moves To An Innovation Era**

As Individuals, businesses and communities, we gathered together to learn how Banksia Award Winners exemplify the collective desire to lead Australia towards a more sustainable and innovative future. Not only did attendees see more innovative and disruptive solutions but also heard a cross-sector roar, calling for everyone to stand up and lead the charge to a more sustainable way of living. This call was echoed in the 2016 Banksia Sustainability Awards entries, which hearteningly increased by 20% this year.

Australia's appetite for sustainability is also evidenced by the diverse range of Award categories Banksia offer. Now more than ever, Australians are realising their responsibility to uphold the stewardship of natural resources by demonstrating innovative thinking and a vision that extends beyond the immediate future. This attitude will ensure that Australia's ratification of the Paris Agreement becomes a reality for the nation.

Over the last 28 years of conducting The Banksia Sustainability Awards, Banksia has recognised and celebrated some of the most innovative and inspiring sustainability leaders that this nation has to offer, and this year was no exception.

Taking home the 2016 Banksia Gold Award, the 'Best of the Best' of the Banksia Award Categories, was John West Australia. With their strong drive to deliver a superior product to the market and communicate the importance of sustainable fishing among buyers, John West Australia have won over the hearts of consumers and inspired businesses and individuals alike. The judges commended John West Australia on having "the courage to talk to, encourage and engage with their consumers". They all agreed on the importance of effectively communicating the business' sustainability objectives to the public, ensuring that consumers' buying behaviour is shaped around sustainability.

This year, ocean conservation and sustainable food production was where *it* was at, with many entries detailing their efforts in these areas, including the winner of The Banksia International Award, sponsored by the Qantas Future Planet program, Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg. Professor Hoegh-Guldberg is a truly inspiring individual who has been recognised for his leadership and commitment in protecting the world's oceans and coral reefs as well as his game-changing research on the impacts of climate change worldwide. Professor Hoegh-Guldberg's desire to communicate science more effectively, partake in research and to find high impact solutions is what is needed on a global scale to ensure our future sustainability.

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The winners of the 2016 Banksia Sustainability Awards:

The Banksia Gold Award

- ❖ John West: Committed to a sustainable seafood future

The Environment and Energy Minister's Award for a Cleaner Environment: Science and Research, sponsored by the **Department of Environment & Energy**

- ❖ FeralScan by the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre

The Environment and Energy Minister's Award for a Cleaner Environment: Community Environmental Leadership, sponsored by the **Department of Environment & Energy**

- ❖ Dr Tony Parkes

The Banksia International Award, sponsored by **Qantas**

- ❖ Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, Australia

Banksia Communication for Change Award

- ❖ John West: Committed to a sustainable seafood future

Banksia Food for Sustainable Thought Award, sponsored by **Closed Loop**

- ❖ Natural Evolution

Banksia Indigenous Leadership for Sustainability Award

- ❖ AshOil

Banksia Large Business Sustainability Leadership Award *sponsored by NSW Office of the Environment and Heritage*

- ❖ Kathmandu

Banksia Leadership in the Circular Economy Award *sponsored by Cleanaway*

- ❖ TIC Group

Banksia Mindful Movement Award *sponsored by RACV*

- ❖ Sendle

Banksia Natural Capital Award *sponsored by NAB*

- ❖ The Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor by Carbon Neutral in partnership with Auscarbon

Banksia Small to Medium Business Sustainability Leadership Award *sponsored by **Australia Post***

- ❖ The Farmer's Place

Banksia Smart Award *sponsored by **Mirvac***

- ❖ Infratech Industries Pty Ltd

Banksia Sustainable Cities Award *sponsored by **City of Melbourne***

- ❖ The 2020 Vision

Banksia Sustainable & Resilient Communities Award *sponsored by **IAG***

- ❖ The Manymak Energy Efficiency Project Consortium

About the Banksia Foundation

The Banksia Foundation is a national not-for-profit organisation, overseen by a national Board of Management, which promotes environmental excellence and sustainability through its Awards program and other associated initiatives. The Banksia Foundation was founded in 1989 by a diverse group of 44 Australians who shared a common goal to do more to recognise, promote and encourage further innovation and leadership in “finance, environment and society” towards a more sustainable future for Australia. More information about the Foundation or the Awards can be obtained from www.banksiafdn.com.

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