

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Attention: News Editor

### **Four nominees on medal shortlist**

In a break with standing practice, four finalists have been named on the shortlist for the 2016 GSDC Medal.

Marine environment researcher Geoff Bastyan, environmental planner Chris Gunby, Woodanilling farmer John Pickford and Katanning land care couple Adrian and Jill Richardson were shortlisted for the award following the assessment of nominations in March.

The medal is awarded every two years by the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) to celebrate best practice in the management of natural resources in the region.

GSDC Deputy Chair Ross Thornton said the high quality of the nominations meant the assessment panel was unable to create the usual shortlist of three.

Mr Bastyan was nominated for his work over three decades on seagrass restoration, with a major focus on Albany's harbours.

Mr Gunby was nominated for his long-term contributions to water-related natural resource management (NRM) issues on the south coast and for his voluntary community service in the Middleton Beach area.

Mr Pickford's nomination cites work undertaken over 35 years on his sheep and grain farm, applying NRM to a farming environment to combat land degradation, manage water resources and preserve native flora and fauna.

The Richardsons' nomination cites NRM work on their own farm and long involvement with the Katanning Land Conservation District Committee and the Katanning Landcare Centre.

A panel will conduct interviews and site visits in order to select the medallist.

The 2016 medal will be presented at a gala dinner in Albany on Friday 27 May.



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The medallist will receive a total \$12,000 grant from the GSDC to conduct further work in natural resource management. The other shortlisted nominees will receive a \$2,000 grant.

The GSDC established the award in 2001, following the official opening of the Centre for Excellence in Natural Resource Management.

Since then, eleven medals have been awarded.

Recipients have included environmental educators, research scientists, farm innovators and community leaders.

To register an interest for tickets to the presentation dinner, contact the GSDC on 9842 4888.

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