

## MEDIA RELEASE

Our Ref: T15:0032

22 August 2011

Attention: News Editor

### Weed expert honoured

Veteran weed expert John Moore was named the tenth winner of the prestigious Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) Medal for Excellence in NRM on Thursday 18 August.

Mr Moore, a senior research officer with the Department of Agriculture and Food, received the sterling silver medal and a \$10,000 grant for his dedication to controlling declared, agricultural and environmental weeds.

Community Services Minister Robyn McSweeney presented Mr Moore with the award at a gala dinner held on-stage at the Albany Entertainment Centre.

The award presentation acknowledged Mr Moore's standing in the scientific community and his research contributions, and noted that his expertise was recognised by having a rare hybrid weed named after him.

Mr Moore said the award was an honour, and the \$10,000 grant would

enable him to pursue avenues of research that might not find support in conventional programs.

He said Sydney golden wattle was firmly in his sights as a major weed needing attention in the Great Southern.

The other finalists were Walpole Wilderness proprietor Gary Muir and the late Andrew Marshall, a former catchment group leader from Torbay. Mr Muir and representatives of Mr Marshall will receive \$1000 grants to further their NRM work.



**Community Services Minister Robyn McSweeney presented the GSDC Medal to weed expert John Moore.**



**The GSDC Medal dinner was held on-stage at the Albany Entertainment Centre.**

In a poignant ceremony, the 120 dinner guests marked the passing of Mr Marshall, who had been battling a serious illness and died after the short-listing of nominees, and witnessed a special tribute to the regional leadership of the late John Simpson.

Mr Simpson, who passed away this year, was chairman of the GSDC from 1994 to 2000 and strongly supported excellence in natural resource management.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said the tribute honoured Mr Simpson's contributions as a mentor and leader who could draw the best out of people with whom he worked.

"John is remembered for his meeting style, his mentoring, and his negotiation skills, particularly when it came to securing funding," Mr Manning said.

"He had an ability to recognise and encourage skills and talent in the people he worked with, and give them the confidence to take on projects and achieve outcomes.

"The people who were fortunate enough to work with John will be only too aware of these qualities and it is his leadership in NRM that we particularly wish to acknowledge tonight, on this the tenth anniversary of this GSDC Medal of Excellence in NRM," Mr Manning said.

Mr Manning presented Mr Simpson's wife Katherine with a photographic memento.

**Media contact: Bruce Manning ph. 9842 4888**



*Building partnerships for regional prosperity*