




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Greats Awards

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.45 am): As we all know, Queenslanders tend to wear their home state pride on their maroon sleeves and during Queensland Week, which we are currently celebrating, it is time to reflect on how lucky we are to live in the greatest state in Australia and enjoy such a wonderful lifestyle. Queensland Week is a time to celebrate the state's culture, heritage, industry and people and during this week, which celebrates Queensland's official separation from New South Wales, one of my greatest privileges is announcing the Queensland Greats Awards which honour extraordinary individuals and organisations who have made a significant contribution to our great state.

For the first time, this year's Queensland Greats Awards, which were handed out last weekend, included a special posthumous category to celebrate the award's 15th anniversary. The inaugural award went to Steve Irwin for his life's achievements in wildlife conservation. Steve was a highly respected television personality who also founded one of Queensland's most iconic tourist destinations. It was a great loss to our state and country when Steve unexpectedly passed away in 2006 and it is appropriate that we recognised him for his exceptional impact on Queensland.

Our other acclaimed 2015 recipients are humanitarian scientist Professor James Dale, who specialises in plant and medical biotechnology research and whose work on genetic modification for disease resistance helps protect Queensland's crops as well as benefiting people in developing countries; philanthropist and entrepreneur Andrew Brice, co-founder and non-executive director of online tourism company Wotif.com, which has provided hundreds of jobs and helped build Queensland's tourism industry; artist and benefactor Robert MacPherson, who has had a pervasive influence on successive generations of Australian artists and has been a generous benefactor to art museums through his key works; equality advocate Pat Fennell, who is a staunch advocate for rural Queensland and a pioneering bush woman; broadcasting pioneer John Gleeson from Townsville, a pioneer in the broadcasting industry responsible for bringing commercial television to Townsville and in the 1980s launched satellite television across 18 major towns and many smaller populated areas in North Queensland; and the RSL Queensland branch, which supports current and ex-serving members of the Australian Defence Force and their families.

Since 2001, 75 individuals, 10 institutions and one other recipient have been honoured as Queensland Greats and have their names displayed on commemorative plaques at Brisbane's Roma Street Parkland. I congratulate each of them, along with the 2015 recipients, for doing Queensland proud.