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John Castrilli
Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Citizenship and
Multicultural Interests

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Heritage champions honoured

Portfolio: Heritage

A dynamic Mid-West heritage advocate is among the major winners of the 2009 Heritage Awards.

Heritage Minister John Castrilli said the Heritage Council awards, announced tonight, celebrated the contributions of the many worthy nominees from the community, private and local and State governments sectors.

"The 2009 Heritage Council Awards demonstrate widespread community dedication to heritage conservation, interpretation and adaptation," Mr Castrilli said.

Awards were presented in four categories:

1. Contribution to heritage in Western Australia by an individual
2. Contribution to heritage in Western Australia by an organisation
3. Conservation and/or interpretation of a place listed in the State Register of Heritage Places
4. Excellence in adaptive reuse.

The category one winner was Northampton's Loretta Wright.

"Loretta is dedicated to the management and conservation of the historic Oakabella Homestead, which is now a community hub," the Minister said.

"Loretta is also an active participant in a range of community groups including Midwest Heritage and the Northampton Historical Society."

The City of Perth was the winner under category two.

"The City of Perth has dedicated heritage staff, a broad range of conservation incentives and clear processes for heritage management and planning," Mr Castrilli said.

The Rottnest Island Authority was highly commended for its dedication to conserving the island's significant heritage assets.

In category three, the Rottnest Island Hotel (former Governor's Residence)

took out the major award.

"The faithful stabilisation and conservation of the Rottneest Island Hotel has undone 60 years of neglect and, at times, insensitive adaptation," the Minister said.

"The project has reinstated the building as an imposing, iconic structure, which is appropriate for the setting."

High commendations were also awarded to Fremantle's Basilica of St Patrick and Canning Town Hall for the heritage conservation works undertaken to revitalise these significant heritage places for the community.

Category four was newly introduced in 2009 in honour of the late Heritage Council chairman Gerry Gauntlett and his dedication to adaptive reuse and compatible development.

"The inaugural Gerry Gauntlett Award for excellence in adaptive reuse was presented to development company Match," Mr Castrilli said.

"Match has found creative solutions to revitalise a range of problematic, disused sites including the adaptation of the Inglewood clock tower building, Perth's W.D. and H.O. Wills building and Fremantle's Dalgety Wool Stores."

The presentation of the 2009 Heritage Council Awards took place at the historic WA Rowing Club.

Minister's office - 9213 6800

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