

2010 ETHNIC BUSINESS AWARDS LAUNCH

For the first time in its 22nd year history, Perth will host the prestigious 2010 Ethnic Business Awards. On 3 June, the launch of the Ethnic Business Awards and the 'Indigenous in Business' category were held at the Burswood Entertainment Complex, Perth attended by Government, business leaders and sponsors' representatives.



From left to right: Mr Joseph Assaf, Chairman and Founder, Ethnic Business Awards; The Hon Peter Collier, Minister for Energy; Training & Workforce Development; Mr Andrew Whitechurch, State General Manager, National Australia Bank; The Hon. Eric Stephen Ripper, Leader of the Opposition; Shadow Minister for Public Sector Management; Native Title and The Hon. Chris Ellison, DORIC

tralia Bank. The launch was also attended by representatives from other sponsors including Doric, Woodside Energy Ltd and Burswood Entertainment Complex.

Awards founder Joseph Assaf said,

"We came to Perth for many reasons, firstly Fremantle for many decades was the point of entry for many migrants who came during the 50s, 60s and 70s. Also, Perth is the most suitable city for launching the Indigenous

in Business category. But there was one strong and compelling reason that brought us to Perth, it is the invitation that was extended to the Ethnic Business Awards by Executive Chairman of Doric, Mr Harry Xydas."

While these Awards have, to date, celebrated the achievements of our migrants, it is felt that they should afford similar recognition to the descendants of those first people – the traditional owners of the land. The launch introduced the exciting new category "Indigenous in Business". It is considered to be the first ever awards given to 'Indigenous in Business'.

Distinguished Indigenous leader, Warren Mundine, has joined the esteemed judging panel.

"The new Indigenous in Business category celebrates Indigenous enterprise and helps to break down stereotypes", Mr Mundine says.

This year, the prestigious gala event will take place in the Astra Room at the Burswood Entertainment Complex on Sunday, 7 November.

Nominations are now open for the 2010 Ethnic Business Awards.

George Georgiou faces court charged with stealing \$1m diamond ring

A Melbourne Greek man extradited from Thailand has faced court over the theft of a ring valued at \$1 million.

George Georgiou, 30, is accused of stealing the diamond ring from a Collins Street jeweller in March last year. He is alleged to have fled to Thailand's seaside resort of Pattaya after the brazen robbery.

The court heard Georgiou has spent the last eight months in a Thai prison before being extradited to Victoria.

He is charged with stealing a 9.1 carat diamond set on a silver ring "being the property of Hardy Brothers Jeweller and valued at \$1 million".

He is also charged with destroying the front window of the jewellers, which is valued at \$5000.

Police allegedly discovered a mini sledgehammer which they believe was used to smash the window of the Collins Street store during the theft. Georgiou was arrested in Pattaya in October 2009 following a request from the Australian Attorney-General's department. The ring has been described as a stunning handcrafted 9 carat round cut solitaire "made by God".

He was remanded until September 2 for a committal mention.

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