



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 9PM THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

### **GEA Awards Recognise Industry Excellence**

Gladstone Engineering Alliance (GEA) has recognised three local individuals for their contributions to Gladstone industry with the presentation of the annual GEA Industry Awards.

At their annual Gala Dinner GEA presented the Forty Calis Memorial, the Wayne Peachey Memorial and the GEA Industry Hall of Fame awards.

GEA CEO Carli Homann said the awards each represented different values important to the success of the Gladstone supply chain.

“The Forty Calis Memorial Award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated an entrepreneurial spirit to gain business success in the engineering and support sector. GEA were pleased to present this award to Patrice Brown, Director of CQG Consulting, for her continued contributions to Gladstone regional growth and development. At a time when many of the larger consultancies were exiting regional Queensland Patrice established CQG Consulting over 12 years ago and the both Patrice and the business have contributed to the success of a variety of major infrastructure projects,” Mrs Homann said.

“The Wayne Peachey Memorial Award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated exceptional quality in their work. Joe Austin, General Manager for Prime Rentals received this year’s Wayne Peachey Award for his contribution to the development of the company over the past 18 years. Joe has transformed Prime into one of the largest privately owned hire companies in the state through his dedication to quality and he is a very worthy recipient of the award.”

In addition to the two memorial awards, GEA also inducted a local leader into their Hall of Fame.

“The GEA Hall of Fame recognises outstanding individuals that can be held up as role models for the business community in Central Queensland. Past recipients of the award have included Cyril Golding, Colin Walz and Bob McCosker. We haven’t inducted someone into the Hall of Fame since 2013 because it’s not always easy to find people who’ve made such a commitment to our region. So we were very excited to induct Rennie Fritschy, former CQ University Chancellor this year,” Mrs Homann said.

“Rennie has had a distinguished career spanning the alumina, nickel, petrochemical and textile industries, and as the Chancellor of CQUniversity. He has held numerous Chief Executive and Managing Director roles, including eight years as the Managing Director of Queensland Alumina Limited. He served as Chancellor of CQ University for 12 years after this and during this time he worked tirelessly to improve access to higher education for people in regional and remote areas. We were very pleased to have Rennie join us for the award ceremony so we could honour his significant contributions to our region.”

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

Hannah Sorensen  
Projects and Communications Officer - Gladstone Engineering Alliance  
07 4972 9060 or 0499 330 353  
[Projects1@gea.asn.au](mailto:Projects1@gea.asn.au)

Carli Homann  
Chief Executive Officer - Gladstone Engineering Alliance  
07 4972 9060 or 0405 639 488  
[gm@gea.asn.au](mailto:gm@gea.asn.au)