



Prince's Trust
Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 6:00 PM 4 OCTOBER 2022

5 OCTOBER 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR THE INAUGURAL BEYOND SERVICE AWARDS

An initiative of the Prince's Trust Australia Enterprise programme, the Beyond Service Awards are designed to celebrate the entrepreneurial achievements of Australia's veteran and family business community.

Prince's Trust Australia is pleased to announce its inaugural Beyond Service Awards winners.

The Awards are an opportunity to recognise the depth and breadth of skills and experience veterans and Defence Force families bring to Australia's small business landscape.

Michelle Endacott, Chief Executive of Prince's Trust Australia said:

"We are impressed by the calibre of our winners and the diversity of their business interests and industries.

We are committed to supporting veteran and Defence family business owners across Australia. This is an important milestone for thousands of Australia's veteran and Defence family entrepreneurs and we wish to recognise all of our inaugural Award nominees for their exemplary efforts in business and as champions for the community."

Clare Morgan, Executive General Manager – Small Business Banking at Commonwealth Bank of Australia said:

"Veteran-owned businesses play a valuable role in the community and it was wonderful to celebrate the collective achievements and successes of these small businesses at the Awards.

Hearing their stories of service, and their journeys transitioning into business ownership and entrepreneurship was truly inspiring. On behalf of all of us at CBA, congratulations to the finalists and the winners."

The 2022 Beyond Service Award winners are outlined below.

Level 3, 480 Collins Street
Melbourne CBD, VIC 3000

The Prince's Trust Australia Limited
President HRH The Prince of Wales
Global Founding Patron HH The Aga Khan

www.princes-trust.org.au
media@princes-trust.org.au



Caption: Army veteran Matt Lewis, Founder of MxM – Made by Matt in his workshop in Brisbane.

Matt Lewis, Founder of MxM – Made by Matt is the winner of **The Power of One Award**, recognising the outstanding efforts of an individual that works on their own.

Matt Lewis served with the Australian Army for seven years, deploying to East Timor and Timor Leste, and with the Queensland Police Force for fifteen years, before starting his timbercraft business. An alumnus of the Prince's Trust Australia Enterprise programme, Matt uses his craft to support fellow post-traumatic stress disorder survivors.

Matt's Business: <https://www.mxmmadebymatt.com.au/>



Caption: Army veteran David Ballantyne, Co-Founder of HomeFront Australia, in his office in Brisbane.

David Ballantyne, Co-Founder of HomeFront Australia, is the winner of **The New Mission Award**, recognising the application of skills, experience and/or networks developed in service to the Australian Defence Force to a civilian business(es). This award is sponsored by BAE Systems Australia.

David Ballantyne is a serial entrepreneur of three successful businesses with fifteen years' service in the Australian Army, including deployments to Afghanistan, Egypt, Sudan and East Timor, among others.

His second business, HomeFront, is a leading provider of vulnerable care home services, including DVA Household Services. Over the last six years, HomeFront has grown to service more than 3,000 clients, and employing 24 full-time staff - 18 of which are veterans or veteran spouses.

David's Business: <https://homefrontaustralia.com.au/>



Caption: Navy veteran Stuart Alexander on the Great Barrier Reef.

Stuart Alexander, Co-Founder of Great Barrier Reef Safaris/Mission Beach Charters is the winner of **The Environmental Warrior Award**, recognising veteran and ADF family members championing sustainability through their business(es).

A Royal Australian Navy veteran, Stuart Co-Founded Great Barrier Reef Safaris with his partner and marine biologist Dr Adele Pile in November 2019 - months before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Together they offer bespoke adventures, private tours, and scientific charters of the reef.

Stuart's Business: <https://greatbarrierreefsafaris.com/>



Caption: An image of Bec Waller, Founder of APOD and former Australian Defence Force partner.

Bec Waller, Founder of Australian Partners of Defence (posthumous), is the winner of **The Defence Family Business Award**, recognising ADF partners and spouses in business(es). This award is sponsored by PwC Australia.

Bec Waller founded Australia Partners of Defence in 2012 while the spouse of an Army Officer. Today, APOD works with more than 3,000 brands and 21,000 stores, supporting more than 85,000 military families and recognising veteran owned businesses. Because of Bec's efforts, APOD secured a contract with the Department of Veterans' Affairs in 2019, granting access to all Veteran Card holders.

Michelle Endacott, Chief Executive of Prince's Trust Australia said:

"Bec bravely battled – and initially won – her fight with lymphoma. Within 18-months, she was diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukaemia and sadly passed away last year. She is a testament to the determination that so many spouses epitomise during their service to our nation."

The award was accepted by Bec Waller's parents Keith and Janet Waller, alongside APOD Chief Executive Paul Broadbridge.

Bec's Business: <https://apod.com.au/>



Caption: Navy veteran Stuart Alexander with his partner and Co-Founder Dr. Adele Pile

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia Business of the Year Award goes to Stuart Alexander, Co-Founder of Great Barrier Reef Safaris/Mission Beach Charters.

Michelle Endacott, Chief Executive of Prince's Trust Australia said:

“Stuart Alexander has reskilled three times in his life – first as a Navy veteran, then an IT specialist, and now an eco-tourism operator. His commitment to protect one of the world's greatest natural assets alongside his partner Dr. Adele Pile, is inspiring.”

For a full list of the Beyond Service Awards Finalists, visit [here](#).

With Thanks

The 2022 Beyond Service Awards are proudly sponsored by Gold Sponsor Commonwealth Bank of Australia, and Silver Sponsors PwC Australia and BAE Systems Australia. The Prince's Trust Australia Enterprise program received grant funding from the Australian Government to support veteran owned businesses.

ABOUT PRINCE'S TRUST AUSTRALIA

Prince's Trust Australia is a national charity that helps young people prepare for the rapidly changing world of work, inspires veterans and their families into entrepreneurship and self-employment, and champions resilient sustainable communities.

Our work is inspired by our Founder and President, His Majesty The King, and is driven by his vision for a more sustainable future.

We also work in partnership with our colleagues across The Prince's Trust Group, a global network of charities transforming lives and building sustainable communities in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and across the Commonwealth. Together, we promote, support, and inspire people and their communities to flourish.

Since 2015, Prince's Trust Australia has been inspiring veterans and their families with the confidence, skills and networks they need to explore self-employment through the Enterprise Programme.

The programme is guided by an Advisory Council, chaired by the Governor-General, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) and attended by Major General Wade Stothart, Head of People Capability at Department of Defence.

Visit: www.princes-trust.org.au

For media enquiries, contact Lucy Murray on media@princes-trust.org.au

ABOUT AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS

The Prince's Trust Australia Enterprise programme received grant funding from the Australian Government to support veteran owned businesses.

ABOUT COMMONWEALTH BANK

Commonwealth Bank is the Gold Sponsor of the Beyond Service Awards.

For 100 years, the Commonwealth Bank has been supporting everyday Australians and businesses to build a brighter future, committed to empowering and supporting the entire small business community.

Commonwealth Bank is proud to support veteran owned businesses, with a team of specialised bankers and a range of products, partnerships and business solutions to support veterans and their families to successfully transition to entrepreneurship and build thriving businesses.

Find out more [here](#).

ABOUT PwC AUSTRALIA

PwC Australia is a Silver Sponsor of the Beyond Service Awards.

Find out more [here](#).

ABOUT BAE SYSTEMS AUSTRALIA

BAE is a Silver Sponsor of the Beyond Service Awards.

BAE Systems Australia employs a highly skilled workforce of 5500 people across the nation who provide some of the world's most advanced technologies that support the Australian Defence Force. In 2021 they received the Prime Minister's Veteran Employer of the Year (large employer) award.

Find out more [here](#).