

# THE AUSTRALIAN-IRISH HERITAGE ASSOCIATION BRENDAN AWARD

## GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATION

### *What is the Brendan Award?*

The Brendan Award is presented annually by the Australian-Irish Heritage Association in recognition of outstanding contribution to Australia's Irish heritage. It is an important means of recognising those in the Irish-Australian community whose service reflects favourably on Ireland and the Irish.

### *Who can be nominated?*

Individuals or groups with a record of dedicated service and outstanding achievement in one or more aspects of Australia's Irish heritage. Nominees should be residents of Western Australia, or non-residents of WA who are members of the Australian-Irish Heritage Association.

### *Who can nominate?*

Any member of WA's Irish Australian community.

### *How do I submit a nomination?*

On the official nomination form, available from AIHA, PO Box 1583, Subiaco, WA 6904.

### *How are nominations assessed?*

A panel of judges (whose names are not made public) assesses the nominations and selects one candidate for the award. The panel's recommendation is forwarded to the Board of the Australian-Irish Heritage Association for final approval.

### *Are referees required?*

Yes. Two referees are required.

### *What are the criteria for selection?*

In assessing the candidates for the Brendan Award, the following criteria are considered.

- **Commitment:** Recipients will be judged to have an outstanding record of achievement in one or more aspects of Australia's Irish heritage.
- **Contribution:** A major contribution in one or more areas of activity must be judged to have been made. The contribution may be evaluated in quantitative or qualitative terms.
- **Performance:** The performance shall be deemed to have been exceptional.
- **Persistence:** The performance will have been sustained over an extended period of time.
- **The Extra Mile:** The performance will extend well beyond that normally expected by the nature of the position(s) held by the candidate.

## **THE BRENDAN AWARD CONDITIONS**

The Brendan Award is presented annually by the Australian-Irish Heritage Association in recognition of outstanding contribution to Australia's Irish heritage.

The award is made at the sole discretion of the AIHA Board, and the members of the Board are the final arbiters in each award.

Nominees should be residents of WA, or members of AIHA, and may be individuals or groups with a record of dedicated service and outstanding achievement in one or more aspects of Australia's Irish heritage.

Nominations may be made by any member of WA's Irish Australian community, and should be lodged with the award registrar on the official nomination form by the published closing date each year.

Nominations will be assessed by a panel of judges appointed by the AIHA Board. The panel's recommendation will be forwarded to the Board for final approval. If the members of the assessment panel conclude that none of the nominees meet the requirements of the Brendan Award, they may recommend that no award be given.

The judging panel will consist of five members of WA's Irish-Australian community, chosen as individuals, at least three of whom will be regarded as being well acquainted with, and having a good insight into, the local Irish-Australian community and its ethos.

The AIHA Board will inform recommended nominees and confirm their acceptance, before making public the award.

Unless the AIHA Board decides otherwise, only one Brendan Award will be presented each year.

The AIHA Board, in exceptional circumstances and at its own discretion, may honour someone with a special Brendan Award. This may be outside the regular guidelines, as, for example, an International Brendan Award.

The Brendan Award is not competitive. Nominations that meet the requirements of the award, but are not chosen in any particular year, may be resubmitted for consideration in subsequent years.

## **THE BRENDAN AWARD**

### **PREPARING THE NOMINATION**

1. When preparing the nomination, bear in mind that the award is for activities that contribute to the enhancement of Australia's Irish heritage, and it must be exceptional service.
2. Explain which areas of endeavour the nominee is being nominated for. Examples are sporting activities; artistic activities such as theatre, music, dance, etc; Irish community service, welfare, etc; in short, any activity which contributes to the preservation, promotion, presentation, and the provision of opportunities for participation in and enjoyment of Australia's Irish heritage. If the nominee's contribution has been in more than one area, they should all be included.
3. Describe the nature of the nominee's contribution. Examples are leadership, lifetime service, passing on skills, etc. It would be appropriate to include some particular examples of what the nominee has done.
4. If the nominee has served as an office-bearer in one or more community organisations, or has received other awards or honours, these should be included.
5. Indicate the time-span of the nominee's contribution, and whether or not he/she is still actively involved.
6. Indicate the length of your acquaintance with the nominee, the nature of your acquaintance, activities you have mutually been involved in, etc. Include any information that you consider appropriate.
7. Include the names of two other people who have agreed to act as referees with regard to your nomination. You may also include written statements from referees if you wish. Referees should be well acquainted with the nominee and in a position to comment with insight on the service for which the nominee is being nominated.
8. Attach any documentation (newspaper clippings, newsletter entries, etc) which you wish to be considered in support of your nomination.

**Further information and clarification of these guidelines may be had from**

Secretary, Australian-Irish Heritage Association, PO Box 1583, Subiaco, WA 6904