



AUSTRALIAN BANKING AND FINANCE AWARDS 2009.

The cream of the crop of Australia's banking and finance sector were honoured at the 19th annual *Australian Banking & Finance Awards*, sponsored by Optus Business, at a gala ceremony at the Westin Hotel in Sydney.

Keynote speaker at the event was senior advertising industry personality Russel Howcroft Chairman and Managing Director of George Patterson Y & R, and star of the ABC-TV's hit show *The Gruen Transfer*.

Andrew Stabback, managing director of Australian Financial Publications, publisher of *Australian Banking & Finance* magazine, said the awards celebrated the fact that the Australian banking and finance sector has held up well compared to its international peers during the financial crisis.

"At a time when global financial markets and global banking are under stress it is important to highlight that our banking system continues to support the economy with a high level of service and expertise that will be a feature of our economic recovery in the future," Mr Stabback said.

The format of the awards was revamped this year, to include a panel of experts to assess and judge the nominations. The five judges were: Dr Martin Fahy, chief executive of the Financial Services Institute of Australasia (Finsia); David Willis, former chief executive of HBOS Australia; John Loebenstein, former group executive, information technology and chief information officer at St George; Mike Codling, PricewaterhouseCoopers banking leader; Ben Zucker, senior banking analyst at Macquarie Securities.

The full list of winners are:

- **Financial Services Executive of the Year** – David Liddy, Bank of Queensland
- **Australian Financial Institution of the Year**– Westpac
- **Chief Financial Officer of the Year**– Phil Coffey, Westpac
- **Foreign Bank of the Year**- Rabobank Australia
- **Banking Website/Online Offering of the Year**- HSBC Bank Australia
- **Chief Information Officer of the Year** - Michael Harte, Commonwealth Bank
- **Credit Union of the Year**- Credit Union Australia (CUA)
- **Building Society of the Year** – Newcastle Permanent Building Society
- **Innovative Product of the Year**- Loan Cover – AMP/Aussie
- **Advertising/Marketing Campaign of the Year** – Debit MasterCard Campaign, Commonwealth Bank
- **Mortgage Broker of the Year**- Aussie

There were also some peer-judged awards, which were voted on by readers of *Australian Banking & Finance* magazine.

READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

- **Best Career Development Programme** – Commonwealth Bank of Australia
- **Best Financial Institution (Employer)** – Mortgage Choice
- **Banking Executive of the Year (Employee Choice)** – Ralph Norris, Commonwealth Bank of Australia
- **Banking Ambassador Award** - Peter Hanlon, Group Executive, Retail and Business Banking, Westpac

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