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## **Australian Centre for Financial Studies announces 5 Finalists for the Melbourne Financial Services Symposium Victorian Innovation in Funds Management Award**

The esteemed annual Melbourne Financial Services Symposium (MFSS) Innovation in Funds Management Award recognises the many smaller Victorian based, owned, and operated Fund Managers. It is sponsored by the Victorian Government with a view to showcasing Melbourne's innovative and dynamic funds management sector, an important sector of Victoria's financial services market.

Finalists for the MFSS 2011 Victorian Innovation in Funds Management Award are:

- **Contango Asset Management**
- **Intrinsic Investment Management**
- **La Trobe Capital and Mortgage Corporation**
- **SG Hiscock & Company**
- **Wingate Asset Management**

In announcing the finalists Professor Deborah Ralston, Director, Australian Centre for Financial Studies remarked that "*each of the Award nominees exhibits all of the qualities that our expert judging panel consider make them innovative and all would be worthy winners*".

Prof Ralston noted that each applicant for the Innovation in Funds Management Award was assessed on the degree to which they have innovated with their Business Model, Investment Processes, Investment Products, development of new Skills, in addressing Risk, and may have supported Innovative Activities in the Broader Community.

Key criteria for consideration in this Award are that the funds:

- Were established in Victoria
- Are predominantly owned and managed by the management team
- Can demonstrate a three year investment track record.

The winner will be the fund that best demonstrates successful innovation in practice.

The MFSS Innovation in Funds Management Award winner for 2011 will be announced on the night of the Gala Dinner of the Melbourne Financial Services Symposium on Tuesday 1 March 2011. The dinner will provide an opportunity for the successful fund to be showcased to industry peers as an exemplar of all-round excellence in funds management.

### **Background**

Previous winners include Intrinsic Investment Management in 2010, SG Hiscock and Company in 2009 and Warakirri Asset Management in 2008.

- Applications were screened under strictest confidentiality, by a Judging Panel of experienced finance professionals chaired by John Gall.  
<http://www.melbournefinancialservicesymposium.com.au/symposium-awards/judging-panel-innovation-award/>
- The independent judging panel will recommend making the Award to the applicants which best demonstrates innovation that can be seen to have made a meaningful contribution to the performance of the Fund. The following aspects will be assessed:

- Innovation in Business Model
- Innovation in Investment Processes
- Innovation in Investment Products
- Contribution to Innovation Skills and Development in the Industry
- Support of Innovative Activities in the Broader Community
- Innovation in Risk Management

MFSS 2011 sponsors were NOT eligible to apply.

The **Melbourne Financial Services Symposium** (MFSS) is hosted by the Australian Centre for Financial Studies (ACFS) on behalf of the Victorian financial services community. The Symposium together with the Gala Dinner is considered the premier annual event for the Funds Management industry in Melbourne. In 2011, it runs as a half day program plus Gala Dinner on Tuesday 1 March at the Park Hyatt Melbourne.

Dinner speaker is Else F. Bos, Deputy-Chairman, Executive Committee, Chief Institutional Business, PGGM Investments (The Netherlands). PGGM is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest pension fund in Europe.

Confirmed MFSS 2011 program speakers include:

- **Else F. Bos**, Deputy-Chairman, Executive Committee, Chief Institutional Business, PGGM Investments (Netherlands);
- **Jane Diplock AO**, Chairman of the Executive Committee, IOSCO and Chairman of the Securities Commission, New Zealand;
- **Jonathan Green**, Head of Investment Facilities, NSW Treasury Corporation;
- **Dr Danyelle Guyatt**, Global Head of Research, Responsible Investment, Mercer (London); and
- **Stephen Hiscock**, Managing Director, SG Hiscock & Partners (Australia)

For more details on the MFSS program:

[www.melbournefinancialservicessymposium.com.au/](http://www.melbournefinancialservicessymposium.com.au/)

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The Australian Centre for Financial Studies facilitates industry-relevant and rigorous research and consulting, thought leadership and independent commentary. Drawing on expertise from academia, industry and government, the Centre promotes excellence in financial services.

The Centre specialises in leading edge finance and investment research, aiming to boost the global credentials of Australia's finance industry; bridging the gap between research and industry and supporting Australia and Melbourne as an international centre for finance practice, research and education.

The Centre provides access to and links between academics, finance practitioners and government and draws on expertise and experience from across these groups, to facilitate and disseminate knowledge creation and transfer throughout the greater finance community via its various activities.

The Australian Centre for Financial Studies (previously known as the Melbourne Centre for Financial Studies) is a not-for-profit consortium of Monash University, the University of Melbourne, RMIT University and Finsia having commenced in 2005 with seed funding from the Victorian Government. Across the consortium partners ACFS has links with over 100 finance academics and over 200 postgraduate students engaged in finance research.

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