

League great signs up to judge

QUEENSLAND rugby league great Wally Lewis is one of this year's Pride of Australia Medal judges.

Since the awards began in 2005, guest judges have included the late Croc Hunter Steve Irwin, former Brisbane lord mayor Sallyanne Atkinson, tennis legend Pat Rafter and 2006 Australian of the Year Professor Ian Frazer.

This year Mr Lewis (pictured) will join Queensland Newspapers managing director Jerry Harris, *The Sunday Mail* editor Liz Deegan and *The Courier-Mail* editor David Fagan. A second guest judge will be announced soon.

Mr Lewis was also a judge last year with recruitment expert Sarina Russo and three representatives from *The Sunday Mail* and *The Courier-Mail*.

Mr Lewis said: "The POA Awards are a fantastic chance for Queenslanders to be recognised for work that could otherwise go unacknowledged. I enjoy being involved as it's a humbling experience."

This year's judges have the tough task of selecting winners for each of the 10 categories.

More than 1150 nominations

are received for the Pride of Australia Medal each year.

The criteria is different for each award but all the chosen winners are everyday Queenslanders who have achieved exceptional things.

Last year the youngest nominee for a Pride of Australia Medal was just six years old, and the oldest was 92.

People from all corners of the state are nominated and the awards attract entrants from all walks of life, including high-powered executives, single dads, indigenous community leaders and kindergarten teachers.

