



THE HON JUSTINE ELLIOT MP

Minister for Ageing

MEDIA RELEASE

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CULINARY ICON – MAGGIE BEER NAMED SENIOR AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR - 2010

Minister for Ageing Justine Elliot, congratulated the 2010 Senior Australian of the Year - South Australian culinary icon Ms Maggie Beer

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd presented Ms Beer with her award at an Australia Day eve ceremony on the lawns of Old Parliament House in Canberra this afternoon.

Ms Beer is renowned for her use of seasonal Australian produce and her internationally recognised preservative-free gourmet food.

“On behalf of all Australians, I congratulate Maggie Beer on being named Senior Australian of the Year 2010,” Minister Elliot said.

“Maggie’s contribution to the use and promotion of Australian produce here and around the world is to be commended.

“Australians have embraced her products and her passion for food.

“Maggie is an acclaimed author, an award winning restaurateur and a deserving recipient of the Senior Australian of the Year award,” Minister Elliot said.

Ms Beer’s ongoing success is a testimony to the contribution senior Australians make to our society and our community.

“Maggie and the other finalists are exemplary role models. They demonstrate the invaluable contribution and dedication of older Australians.

“The Senior Australian of the Year award provides an opportunity for all of us to honour exceptional people who give generously of their time to others and make Australia the great country it is today,” Minister Elliot said.

For more information on Ms Beer and the winners of the other 2010 Australian of the Year Awards, see www.australianoftheyear.gov.au

Please see following page for additional information on Ms Beer provided by www.australianoftheyear.gov.au

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Maggie Beer - 2010 Senior Australian of the Year.

Maggie Beer is an Australian culinary icon whose passion for food brings joy to many Australians. Maggie's focus is on using seasonal ingredients and educating people to make informed food choices. To this end she opened the famed Pheasant Farm Restaurant in 1979. Maggie and her husband ran it for just short of 15 years, winning a host of prestigious awards, before moving on to focus on producing gourmet foods.

In 1996, Maggie opened an export kitchen for the production of preservative-free gourmet foods for the national and international market, and in 1999 she returned to the original site of the Pheasant Farm and, having come full circle, re-opened Maggie Beer's Farm Shop. She has written seven books, with Maggie's Harvest winning the Australian Publishers Association's Illustrated Book of the Year.

She also co-hosted the ABC cooking program, The Cook and the Chef, and works with Stephanie Alexander to promote the Kitchen Garden Foundation. Maggie Beer hopes that through sharing her love of food she will inspire Australians to reconnect with food and appreciate what we eat.