



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### *American Australian Association Raises AU\$1 Million at Inaugural Dinner*

#### *Rupert Murdoch Honoured; Greg Norman Attends as Special Guest*

**Sydney, Australia - 3 November, 2006** – The inaugural Australian American Association Ltd dinner, to be held in Sydney on November 14, has raised A\$1 million, the Association announced today.

The dinner, which will honour News Corporation Chairman and CEO Rupert Murdoch for his contributions to relations between Australia and the United States, will bring together the leading names in Australian business, politics and academia. Much of the money raised at the dinner will be used to support the Association's education programs in Australia, which provides fellowships for Australians and American post graduate scholars to study in the U.S. and Australia respectively.

Since 2002 the U.S.-based Association's education program has awarded more than A\$1 million to some 40 top scholars. Several of the Association's Fellows will speak about their research and studies at the dinner.

Mr. Murdoch will give a speech at the dinner, focusing on the importance of the Australian-U.S. alliance and the dangers of taking the relationship for granted.

Former prime ministers The Hon. Gough Whitlam AC QC and The Rt. Hon. Malcolm Fraser AC CH PC will also attend the dinner. The Hon. Kim Beazley MP, Federal Leader of the Opposition, and The Hon. Dr. Brendan Nelson MP, Federal Minister for Defence will also attend the dinner.

During the dinner, the host university of the United States Studies Centre, a joint initiative of the Australian Government and the Association, will be announced. Two outstanding institutions, the University of Melbourne and the University of Sydney, recently made final presentations to a distinguished panel who will decide where the Studies Centre will be based. Prime Minister John Howard MP announced the Government's A\$25million commitment to the initiative in Washington in June this year. Additional funds are being raised from business and private individuals in both Australia and the United States.

The Dinner Chairmen are: **Terry Campbell**, Chairman & CEO, Goldman Sachs JBWere, **Geoff Dixon**, Chief Executive Officer, Qantas Airways Ltd., **John Hartigan**, Chairman & CEO, News Limited, **Andrew N. Liveris**, Chairman, President & CEO, The Dow Chemical Company, **Frank Lowy AC**, Executive Chairman, Westfield Group Limited, **Lachlan Murdoch**, Director, Illyria Pty. Ltd., **Ralph Norris**, Managing Director & CEO, Commonwealth Bank Group, **James Packer**, Executive Chairman, Consolidated Press Holdings Ltd., **The Hon. Andrew Peacock AC**, President, Boeing Australia, **Kevin E. Skelton**, Chairman, Investment Banking, Merrill Lynch (Australia), **The Hon. Warwick Smith AO**, Executive Director, Macquarie Bank Limited, **Sol Trujillo**, Chief

Executive Officer, Telstra Corporation Limited, and **Michael Ullmer**, Chief Financial Officer, National Australia Bank Group.

The United States Ambassador to Australia, H.E. Mr. Robert D. McCallum, Jr. and former prime ministers Mr Fraser and Mr Whitlam will serve as Honorary Dinner Chairmen for the black tie dinner. The Australian Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Mr. Dennis J. Richardson AO, U.S. Consul General to Sydney, The Hon. Stephen T. Smith and Australian Consul General to New York, The Hon. John Olsen will attend the dinner.

Rupert Murdoch AC has been actively involved with the U.S. based Association since his initial media investments in the United States in the 1970s; his father, Sir Keith Murdoch, was one of the founders of the Association in 1948.

Rupert Murdoch is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of News Corporation, one of the world's largest diversified media companies. News Corporation's global operations include the creation and distribution of media products and services in the United States, Europe, Asia, Australia and Latin America.

Mr. Murdoch has been awarded the Companion of the Order of Australia (A.C.) for services to the media and to newspaper publishing in particular. Throughout News Corporation's history, he and his family have been closely involved with various educational, cultural, medical and charitable organizations throughout the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Asia and Israel. He is a Patron of the American Australian Association. Mr. Murdoch is married and has six children.

**About the American Australian Association Limited:** The newly established American Australian Association Limited is a non-profit organisation based in Australia devoted to relations between the United States and Australia; AAA Australia is affiliated with the American Australian Association, Inc. based in the United States, which was established in 1948 with similar objectives. You may visit our website at [www.americanaustralian.org.au](http://www.americanaustralian.org.au).

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