

MEDIA RELEASE: Tuesday June 4, 2013

## Viewer voting opens for 11<sup>th</sup> annual ASTRA Awards

Viewers can vote now for their favourite TV personalities and programs after finalists in the five publicly-voted categories of the 11<sup>th</sup> ASTRA Awards were revealed today.

The ASTRA Awards recognise excellence in Australian subscription TV. In addition to the five subscriber-voted categories, 15 categories are judged by voting panels from the subscription TV industry. Finalists in the industry categories were announced in May and can be seen at [www.astraawards.com](http://www.astraawards.com)

The winners of all categories - and the prestigious award for Channel of the Year - will be announced at the 2013 ASTRA Awards on Thursday, July 25 at the Sydney Theatre, Walsh Bay.

In the five subscriber-voted categories, viewers can vote until June 27 using a number of different methods:

- on Foxtel, at Channel 333
- at [facebook.com/ASTRAawards](http://facebook.com/ASTRAawards)
- by SMS to 1998 8899
- online at [astraawards.com](http://astraawards.com)
- or, for the first time, via the official online voting partner, [news.com.au](http://news.com.au) at [news.com.au/ASTRAawards](http://news.com.au/ASTRAawards)

"We've made it easier than ever for viewers to take part in the voting process," ASTRA CEO Andrew Maiden said. "We want people from all around the country to be part of the ASTRAs and vote for all their favourites."

Finalists in the subscriber-voted categories of the 11<sup>th</sup> ASTRA Awards are:

### Favourite Personality - Male

- Matty Johns ("NRL XTRA" & NRL presenter, FOX SPORTS)
- Andrew Winter ("Selling Houses Australia", LifeStyle Channel)
- Peter Maddison ("Grand Designs Australia", LifeStyle Channel)
- Danny Clayton ("The Riff", Channel [V])
- Rove McManus ("Rove LA", FOX8)
- Paul Murray ("Paul Murray Live", Australian News Channel)

### Favourite Personality - Female

- Melanie McLaughlin (Presenter and news presenter, FOX SPORTS)
- Sarah Jones ("FOX SPORTS News", cricket reporter & Foxtel London 2012 Olympics host, FOX SPORTS)
- Shayna Blaze ("Selling Houses Australia", LifeStyle Channel)
- Deborah Hutton ("Foxtel Movie Show", Arena)
- Carissa Walford ("The Riff", Channel [V])
- Megan Gale ("Project Runway Australia" – series 4, Arena)

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**Favourite Program - Australian**

- Grand Designs Australia – series 3 (LifeStyle Channel)
- Selling Houses Australia – series 5 (LifeStyle Channel)
- Tony Robinson's Time Walk (The History Channel)
- Rove LA – series 2 (FOX8)
- Abalone Wars (Discovery Channel)
- Paul Murray Live (Australian News Channel)

**Favourite Program - International**

- The Ultimate Fighter 17 (FX Channel)
- Deadliest Catch (Discovery Channel)
- Kevin's Grand Design (LifeStyle Channel)
- Storage Wars (A&E)
- TOSH.0 (The Comedy Channel)
- Real Housewives of Beverly Hills (Arena)

**Favourite Program – International Drama**

- Girls – season 1 (Showcase)
- The Walking Dead – series 3 (FX Channel)
- The Newsroom (SoHo)
- Game of Thrones – series 2 (Showcase)
- Hart of Dixie – series 1 (FOX8)

**About the ASTRA Awards**

The ASTRA Awards recognise excellence in the Australian subscription TV (STV) industry and are in their 11th year in 2013. A total of 21 awards cover both industry-voted and subscriber-voted categories.

**About ASTRA**

ASTRA is the peak industry body for subscription TV (STV) in Australia, representing subscription television platforms, independent channel providers, advertising sales agencies, media law firms and communications companies. The STV industry is the undisputed leader of digital broadcasting, with 200 channels (including HD and Plus2) broadcast on the FOXTEL platform and channel packages offered through Telstra T-Box and Xbox360. STV platforms and the channels directly employ 6461 people and in 2011-12 invested \$667 million into Australian content. The direct economic contribution of STV to the Australian economy is estimated to be at least \$7 billion since its inception. Received by 34% of Australians through their homes and over a million more through hotels, clubs and other entertainment and business venues, STV provides 24-hour news, sport and entertainment. [www.astra.org.au](http://www.astra.org.au)

For further information about the ASTRA Awards visit [www.astraawards.com](http://www.astraawards.com)

Follow the ASTRA Awards on Twitter at @astraevent and on Facebook at fb.com/astraawards

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