

## SEARCH BEGINS FOR AUSTRALIAN FATHER OF THE YEAR

The Australian Fathers Day Council, proudly supported by NIVEA, has begun the search for “Australia’s Favourite Dad”. The Council is inviting nominations from the public for a famous Australian who deserves recognition for his dedication to his own children or children in the community. According to the Chairman of the Council, Maurice Newman AC: “The aim of the search is to increase awareness of the importance of the father in the family and recognise their unique contribution to a child’s development and wellbeing.”

The 2001 Australian Father of the Year, Jim Rafter, was chosen for his efforts in raising his nine children with his wife Jocelyn. “Recognising the importance of fathers is more important in today’s society than ever before,” he said. “We live in a world with changing values and I believe a healthy society is dependant on a solid family tradition.”

The Australian Father of the Year Award is a fundraising event for the Shepherd Centre. In 1991, Dr Bruce Shepherd AM, was named Father of the Year in recognition of his role in raising two profoundly deaf children and his subsequent founding of the Shepherd Centre in 1971. Today, with limited government funding,

the Centre provides its world class Early Intervention Program free of charge for families with deaf and hearing impaired children.

Again in 2002 the Australian Father’s Day Council is delighted to be working in partnership with NIVEA, a brand well known for its support and encouragement of traditional family values. As the award is a celebration of the important role of fathers in children’s lives, NIVEA also believes this deserves prominent recognition in our society for the benefit of the whole community.

Nominations close on Monday 5 August, and the announcement of the 2002 Australian Father of the Year will be made at the annual Fathers Day Luncheon on 23 August 2002 at Darling Harbour in Sydney.

Past Fathers of the Year have included: Dr Bruce Shepherd, Sir James Hardy, Mark Taylor, John Howard, Khamal, Slim Dusty, Steve Biddulph, and Jim Rafter.

*Send nominations to Australian Father of the Year, PO Box 871, Strawberry Hills, NSW 2012. For more information contact Karly Robinson, Special Events Coordinator at the Shepherd Centre. Phone: (02) 9351 7905. Fax: (02) 9351 7880.*