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***G'DAY USA ANNOUNCES 2017 PROGRAM OF EVENTS AND HONOUREES
FOR ANNUAL G'DAY USA LOS ANGELES GALA***

***Expanded Program of Year-Round Events Showcase Australia's Creative
and Innovative Industries and Promote Australia-US Bilateral Dialogue***

LOS ANGELES, CA Thursday 8 December 2016: **G'Day USA**, the annual program that fosters deeper economic ties and promotes Australian capabilities in the United States, today announced its full 2017 program and details of the honorees for its highly-anticipated **G'Day USA Gala in Los Angeles presented by Qantas**, which will take place on Saturday January 28, 2017.

At the launch in Sydney, Australia, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Hon Steven Ciobo, Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment said G'Day USA will be expanded in 2017 with new events across the United States, including New York, Los Angeles and – for the first time – in Austin.

“We are also pleased to announce a new **G'Day USA Champions** initiative, bringing together prominent individuals with the reach, experience and profile to help promote Australia in the United States,” they said.

The first G'Day USA Champions include actors **Hugh Jackman** and **Rachel Griffiths**; Westfield Co-CEO, **Peter Lowy**; Village Roadshow Entertainment Group CEO, **Greg Basser**; News Corp CEO **Robert Thomson**; Chairman of the American Australian Association, **John Olsen**; former Chairman of the Australian Tourism and Transport Forum, Bruce Baird, and ARIA CEO, **Dan Rosen**.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop also announced that the **2017 G'Day USA Los Angeles Gala** will honor three Australians from the entertainment and creative industries.

Catherine Martin will receive a **G'Day USA Lifetime Achievement Award** in recognition of the award-winning costume designer, production designer and producer's outstanding contribution to the Australian creative arts sector and acclaimed global success, including movies such as “Moulin Rouge!” and “The Great Gatsby” and the TV show “The Get Down.” Australian executive producer **David Hill** will receive a **G'Day USA Lifetime Achievement Award** in recognition of his significant contribution and years of influence at Fox Sports, 21st Century Fox, and his acclaimed success with shows such as “The X Factor” and “American Idol.” **Ben Mendelsohn** will also be honored with the **G'Day USA Excellence in Film and**

Television Award in recognition of his critical success as an actor in numerous films such as “Animal Kingdom” and the current hit TV series “Bloodline”.

Chelsey Martin, Australian Consul-General in Los Angeles and G'Day USA Chair said the 2017 program includes 20 events in 7 cities across the US, with more to be scheduled throughout the year.

“With the support of our sponsors and partners, this unique program will showcase the best of Australia - from Australian film, food and wine, music, fashion and technological innovation, to our defense industries, and expertise in water and drought management,” Ms Martin said.

The 2017 program will kick-off in **New York** with two events delivered in partnership with the **American Australian Association (AAA)**. The **AAA Australia Day Black Tie Gala** will be held on Friday 20 January at Cipriani Wall Street, followed on 23 January by a lunchtime **address by the Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, the Hon Steven Ciobo**, focusing on Australia’s economic outlook.

G'Day USA will head to **Austin, Texas** on 25 January for the **G'Day USA Great Australia Texas BBQ** co-hosted with the Governor of Texas, and the inaugural **Next Generation Leaders Luncheon** will celebrate Australian-US collaboration in innovation in Texas.

G'Day USA then heads west to **Los Angeles** for the annual **US-Australian Dialogue on Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific**, presented by G'Day USA in partnership with the University of Sydney’s US Studies Centre and the University of Western Australia’s Perth USAsia Centre. The high-profile annual **G'Day USA Los Angeles Gala presented by Qantas** will be held on January 28 in the Dolby Ballroom. Red Carpet arrivals and a cocktail reception at 6pm will be followed by the awards show and dinner, featuring premium Australian food and wine curated by Australian chef Neil Perry and American chef Wolfgang Puck.

The January program concludes with the G'Day USA’s Film Industry Showcase, featuring a **special advance screening of “The LEGO® Batman Movie”**, the new big-screen LEGO adventure from Warner Bros Pictures and Warner Animation Group, in association with LEGO System A/S, with animation by award-winning Australian design, animation and visual effects company Animal Logic.

Further G'Day USA events scheduled for 2017 will promote the very best of Australian innovative flair. In March, the second annual **G'Day USA Innovation Xchange** will explore US and Australian collaboration on science and innovation whilst the **G'Day USA ‘Experience Australia’ at South by Southwest (SXSW)** activation will be an all-encompassing Australian experience at one of the US’ largest tech festivals. Influential policy forums including the **G'Day USA Dialogue on Water Management and Drought Solutions** and **G'Day USA Dialogue on Defense Industries** will also return to California and Washington DC with expanded components.

Australia’s world-class fashion and emerging creative talent will be on show at the **G'Day USA Australian Fashion Showcase at LA Fashion Week**. Building on a record turnout in 2016, G'Day USA will also return to the **Palm Springs International ShortFest** for its seventh year with an enhanced mentoring session and short film screening.

BACKGROUND: ABOUT G'DAY USA

G'Day USA is Australia's premier public and economic diplomacy program in the United States. Produced jointly by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australian Trade Commission, Tourism Australia and Qantas Airways, G'Day USA was first launched in 2004 and has since grown to be one of the largest public diplomacy program run by any country in the United States.

For further information about all G'Day USA 2017 events, including location and ticketing details, plus a complete list of partners, sponsors and participants, visit www.gdayusa.org.

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