

Aussies clean up at the AsiaHedge Awards 2005

(Hong Kong, 24 October 2005) Australian alternative asset investment managers claimed the major laurels at the AsiaHedge Awards 2005 held in Hong Kong on the 20th October. Of the 11 awards up for grabs, Australian funds picked up six, including the top accolade, Best Fund of the Year.

Basis Capital's Basis Yield Fund won the Fund of the Year, and also claimed the Best Fixed Income, High Yield & Distressed Fund award as well.

The Sydney-based fixed income manager, headed up by Steve Howell and Stuart Fowler, 'has long represented among the highest standards in terms of performance and structure in its particular area of asset management, not only in Australia but also internationally, in the hedge fund and alternative asset management industry; so the blue riband award was justly deserved and not before time,' said Paul Storey, Editor of *AsiaHedge*.

Two Basis funds were nominated for awards, the other being the Basis Capital Aust-Rim Fund, also for performance in the fixed income space.

A number of other Australian managers also featured following strong performances over the past 12 months to claim *AsiaHedge* awards.

Mathews Capital, headed up by Phil Mathews and again based in Sydney, also won two awards. Its Sabre Fund won the best International Award, and its recently launched Tomahawk Fund won the Best New Fund excluding Japan award.

Unlike Basis Capital, whose funds reflect returns more typical of the fixed income space backed up by very high Sharpe ratios, Mathews Capital represents the other end of the risk spectrum typified by very high performance returns and high volatility. Sabre returned over 130% in the 12 months while Tomahawk clocked nearly 96% since its inception in February.

The other Australian based managers to win awards were the Platinum Asia Fund, which was awarded best Asia ex-Japan Award; and the AMP Australian Equity Long/Short Fund, which took the best Australia Fund of the Year Award.

Platinum is one of the world's largest international alternative asset equity managers with assets of well over US\$10 billion. The firm's International Fund was also nominated for an award, and Platinum Asia was among those short-listed for the Fund of the Year Award too.

Other Australian managers to be short listed for awards were BGI Australian Equity Market Neutral Fund (for Fixed Income, High Yield and Distressed); and the PM Capital Enhanced Yield Fund (for International), both firms being previous winners of the prestigious *AsiaHedge* awards.

The nominees for Best Australia Fund, aside from AMP, were: BGI Australia Absolute Equity Long/Short, Hayberry Australian Equity, and Monterrey Merlin Investment.

'That so many Australian managed or located funds were nominated and won awards this year, really puts the Australian hedge funds and absolute return invested portfolios on the international investment map,' said Storey.

'Until now, the Australian investment space has been dominated by a very strong domestic base that now encompasses superannuation funds and other large institutional investor, as well as retail and high net worth investors. This is by far the most comprehensive and developed of alternative investment markets just about anywhere. And what's more, it is a market that is also very strongly regulated. Hopefully the recognition of such quality and diversity will attract more international institutional investors to take the trouble to look at the alternative asset management industry in Australia in the future', Storey added.

Full list of winners for AsiaHedge Awards 2005:

Category	Winner
Asia In-Japan	LG Asian Plus
Japan	Melchior Japan
Ex-Japan	Platinum Asia*
Australia	AMP Australian Equity Long/Short*
Single Country	India Capital
Fixed Income, High Yield & Distressed	Basis Yield Fund*
Arbitrage & Market Neutral	Venus Arbitrage
International	Mathews Capital Partners Sabre Fund*
New Japan Fund	Sandringham Long Short Fund
New Ex-Japan Fund	Mathews Tomahawk Fund*
Fund of the Year	Basis Yield Fund*

* *Australian hedge fund*

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About *AsiaHedge* and HedgeFund Intelligence

AsiaHedge is published by HedgeFund Intelligence, a specialist news and data provider for the global hedge fund industry.

The company provides dedicated information on European, Asian and US single managers and on hedge fund investors.

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