



# Inside Cover [thewest.com.au](http://thewest.com.au)



Edited by Neale Prior Telephone: 9482 3111 Facsimile: 9482 3177 Email: [inside.cover@wanews.com.au](mailto:inside.cover@wanews.com.au)

## Blanchett the sceptred idol in a jewelled sea of suits

The cultural tsars at the Australia Business Arts Foundation have never had such a lightning-fast response to an invitation to their occasional Perth lunches held to promote the benefits of arts sponsorship.

WA's captains of commerce were drawn like moths to a flame yesterday by the luminescent pulling power of Cate Blanchett as guest speaker at the foundation's lunch.

Past lunch-time can rattlers for the arts have included such esteemed figures as Bell Shakespeare director John Bell and Australian Chamber Orchestra leader Richard Tognetti but, needless to say, the acceptances have never been as brisk.

The guests from the top shelf of corporate WA were schmoozed in the 36th floor eyrie of law firm Freehills by the firm's WA head-of-office, Jason Ricketts.

They included Alcoa boss Alan Cransberg, Wesfarmers chief Richard Goyder, ANZ WA chairman John Atkins, John Holland's Janet

Holmes a Court, Rio Tinto Iron Ore head Sam Walsh, Mirvac director Adrian Fini, WA Newspapers boss Chris Wharton and Australian Finance Group managing director Brett McKeon.

Billionaire mining mogul Andrew "Twig" Forrest and wife Nicola also joined in (for those about to write in telling us Forrest's nickname is Twiggy, our resident air kisser assures us the iron ore man is known as "Twig" among his inner circle).

Word is that it was another enthralled audience for Blanchett.

Sticking with Blanchett, this column's in-house social butterfly tells us the good people of Cottesloe need some training in being cool in the presence of a megastar.

Blanchett dropped into Il Lido Italian Canteen on Saturday for lunch with a couple of friends wearing a loose-fitting dress and still stunning without any apparent make-up.

Our operative, who was lunching with old prep school chums, was taken aback by the rubberneck gawking of Cott's finest. Folks were even sneaking into the noshery for a free geek at the Hollywood star.

For those wanting to see Blanchett in the flesh and willing to make a little contribution to the arts, she is starring in the Perth Festival's *The War of the Roses* until March 12.



Pulling power: Cate Blanchett