The re set or a stellar 2011 in fields as diverse as music, science, politics, art, sport, food, wine and social change.

meets 10 rising stars.

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Cessnock-born Jackson can confidently tick off both those sides of the winemaking equation. She has a science degree – “I had designs on immunology” – and thanks to a casual uni cellar-door job, landed a full-time job with Brokenwood in the Hunter Valley, where she wheedled her way out of the lab and into the cellar. She discovered that it was much more fun than playing with pipettes and Bunsen burners and went on to do stints in a tiny, “very hands on” California winery, a high-volume New Zealand winery and with other Hunter producers, honing her wine sensibility.

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It had been a long week for Liz Jackson. She had just finished tasting and judging some $9000 worth of the best wines in the world at the 2006 Len Evans Tutorial, squaring off against legendary wine scholars such as James Halliday, and beating 11 of her fellow students for the honour of top student. “It was the most amazing week of my life,” says the First Creek chief winemaker. “But I did come out and think, ‘God, I’d love a beer!’”

Wine drinkers should be grateful that she turned her attention back to wine. In 2010, five wines Jackson made or co-made were in the top 40 NSW wines of the year, with the Tempus Two Copper Zenith Semillon 2003 she created with Sarah-Kate Dineen taking out the gong for NSW Wine of the Year. “A huge part of winemaking is the science,” says Jackson, 33. “But the fun part for me is the artistic side of things – if you give grapes to five different winemakers, you’ll get five different wines.”

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For his first five months in Sydney, DJ Leo Thomson was up at dawn wearing a fluoro top. He wasn’t, as you might expect, coming home heavy-lidded from playing an all-night gig. “I was labouring on construction sites out in places like Sutherland and having to get up at 5am,” says Thomson, who is one half of the band Canyons. “Then I was working in the studio till 11pm or midnight.”

Mixing concrete, however, soon gave way to remixing dance-floor darlings Ladyhawke, Empire of the Sun and the Juan Maclean, with musical partner in crime and high-school mate Ryan Grieve, who also made the trek east from Perth in 2008. In Perth, the pair had their own record label, Hole in the Sky, and discovered 2010 ARIA nominees Tame Impala.

But in the Emerald City, they had their own music to focus on: they were released on renowned US label DFA, played exclusive New York parties and toured the Australian summer festival scene. With their first album – featuring multifaceted single My Rescue – due out in the middle of the year, 2011 is looking like a breakout 12 months. “The fact that we were good friends before we worked in the studio made it easier to work on music together,” says Grieve, 29. “The new album will have a lot of familiar sounds – but not in a very familiar context – and then some unfamiliar sounds.”

Don’t expect Canyons to turn out the musical equivalent of kit homes. “You don’t want to be too conscious of who’s going to like it,” says Thomson, 27. “You start thinking about it too much and that creeps into your creative process.”
Boys aren't meant to cry but when North Narrabeen surfer Laura Enever won the 2010 Women's ASP World Junior Championship at her home break in January last year, the tears of wizened locals - including grown men and women - ran freely. "The guys haven't had someone from North Narrabeen win there in so long," says Enever, 19. "They were so stoked that I could bring it home at home."

Enever entered her first surfing contest at nine years of age, using her father’s board, and ended up in the semis, beating older girls who were sponsored. Ever since then, she has clearly been destined for blue-water highs. With a coveted spot on the 2011 senior tour, a new sponsor (Nike 6.0) and a Vanity Fair photo shoot with 11 other female surf stars, Enever is poised to drop in on the big time. "When I was on top of the juniors, it clicked that I could go up to the next level," she says. "I just have to surf as much as I can, get stronger and work on all the mental stuff."

Even though she grew up by the beach, Enever’s first talents were in gymnastics and then, because “I couldn’t point my toes”, acrobatics, coming fifth at the national championships. “The tumbles and back flips and being thrown into the air got me used to the thrill of being in the water.”

Despite just hitting the seniors, Enever is already looking beyond the break. “I love getting involved in media and photos,” she says. “I want to inspire lots more younger girls to get active and get into the water.”
On the dusty streets of Alice Springs, armed with a borrowed VHS recorder and some press-ganged family members, then-nine-year-old Luke Doolan and a friend shot their version of the fourth Indiana Jones film, beating Steven Spielberg by a good 20 years. “It wasn’t that much worse than the big-budget one,” laughs Doolan of his amateur efforts, “but it was shorter!”

In 2010, that brevity landed the 31-year-old filmmaker and his mate Drew Bailey an Oscar nomination for the short film Miracle Fish. It was shot in November 2008, shown at Sundance Film Festival within two months and a little over a year later he was sharing the Oscars red carpet with Meryl Streep and George Clooney. “I thought it’d be lucky to get into the

Newcastle or Dapto film festival,” he says. “After the nomination we went from picking around the edges to blasting right into the middle of the film world.”

A film-school reject, Doolan started out making coffee on the set of short-lived Aussie melodrama Pacific Drive in 1996 and soon had wangled his way into the editing rooms of other TV shows such as Big Sky. He hasn’t looked back since, winning best cinematographer in Tropfest 1999 and working as an assistant on Moulin Rouge! and as chief editor on acclaimed Aussie film Animal Kingdom. The final gig earned him praise from film critic David Stratton, who hailed his editing as “razor sharp”. “I discovered an addictive magic to editing,” he says. “You get a real buzz when you make a cut that’s good.”

Since the Oscars, the offers have been pouring in. “We’re developing a feature science-fiction film that we’ll shop around LA this year,” he says. “It’s biting off a little more than we can chew but it’s all about catching up to your ambition.”
Going feral might not be everyone’s idea of fun but Brad Purcell is on track to turn it into a career. “I’ve just completed reports on feral pigs and on feral deer,” says Purcell. “But dingoes are the most exciting things to study because they’re studying you as much as you are them.”

If that’s true, there are hundreds of dingoes in the southern Blue Mountains that must know a thing or two about Purcell’s habits. The 29-year-old was awarded a doctorate for his four-year study into the iconic carnivore in 2010, his book Dingo was published in September and his pioneering research into little-known dingo behaviour has turned him into one of the country’s leading dingo experts. It has also taught him how to communicate with the first species introduced onto the continent. “The old trappers say I’ve got a young dingo’s howl.”

Beyond being acknowledged in the halls of academia, Purcell is also hoping to change the conversation around dingoes. “Everyone always asks about the purity of the dingo or how to control their numbers,” he says. “But we need to think about what the functional role of the dingo is in the ecosystem – not their purity.”

While Purcell also studies other feral species such as pigs and deer, he’s looking towards his next big project – a behavioural study on how dingoes train their young to hunt. He’s also heading overseas in July on a Churchill Scholarship, to the US, the UK, Botswana and Poland, to discover how those countries sustainably manage their wild dog populations. “I’m working towards maintaining the whole ecosystem structure so everything can survive,” he says. “I’d really like to see an alternative policy to lethal management of dingoes.”
"Having grown up with politics in the family, I was interested early on," says Mike Baird. "Then I pretty much ran 100 miles from it and wanted to put my own mark on life." It's little surprise Baird wanted to escape. He'd seen his father, former NSW and federal Liberal politician Bruce Baird, go through 20 bruising and often frustrating years in office.

His father even counselled him to stay away from the political cut and thrust. But, as the saying goes, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree – especially, it seems, when it's dropping from that particular branch known as the NSW Liberal Party.

Since 2007, Baird, 42, has been the Liberal member for Manly and since December 2008, NSW shadow treasurer. Unlike many political beasts these days, however, he's no monotonous career apparatchik. After studying economics, the engaging and energetic "progressive with conservative principles" carved out a successful career in banking, with a year-long sabbatical to bible college in Canada, and is now being touted as a future NSW premier. "I didn't want to get to the end of my days with the thought that I hadn't made a contribution to society," he explains. "I've seen what good you can do in politics and there's not many in politics with financial skills."

The keen surfer knows that the waters ahead are far from certain and says the March 26 election will "be the fight of our lives. I would be unbelievably thrilled to be the next treasurer."

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Mike Baird/politician
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There are many things that can switch on the light globe of inspiration. For chef Thomas Lim, it was the freezer door.

“One of my fondest memories from childhood is taking potato gems from the freezer, bunging them in the oven and putting some tomato sauce on them,” he says. “Now I’m making ‘tater tots’ by turning a desiree potato into a gem, making a rich, braised oxtail gravy and adding a little edamame for texture with snow pea leaves.”

Creating something special out of a simple idea is Lim’s modus operandi. Late last year, Lim, 25, joined forces with former young chef of the year Mitchell Orr to open Duke, a slick bistro upstairs at the Flinders Hotel in Darlinghurst (see Hot, page 52). There, he’s pumping out honest and impressive food, without even a hint of molecular gastronomy tricks. “I want to create unpretentious share food,” he says, “and a place that has a reputation for reliable, consistent cooking with great drinks.”

Besides the odd weekend shift at Bistrode, Duke is the Perth-born chef’s first foray back into the kitchen since leaving Tetsuya’s in 2007 after two years (before that he did a 2½-year stint at iconic Fremantle fish restaurant Cicciello’s, which his uncle managed). In his time away from the burners, Lim dabbled in music and fashion, setting up clothing franchises in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, without entirely sheathing his knife.

“I hosted dinner parties every week and did some catering,” says Lim, who also consulted on the menu of revamped Redfern pub The Norfolk last year. “Most of my mates are chefs and I was missing that camaraderie in the kitchen.”

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The name Sophie Trevitt might conjure up the prospect of having a voice but this 19-year-old has spent most of her time helping give others a voice. “It’s not about me feeling good about a situation,” says Trevitt. “I’m just wanting to work out the best way of helping people.”

As NSW director of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC), the first-year, full-time arts/law student spent two “intense” weeks in Mexico in December 2010 helping global youth NGOs develop media and information strategies for the UN conference on climate change. Trevitt took the AYCC position 18 months ago after returning from volunteering straight out of school with the Blue Dragon Children’s Foundation in Vietnam, which helps kids in crisis throughout that country.

And before the university holidays ended, she spent time in India assisting women who wanted to file rape allegations. “I have a really strong belief that you end up where your skill set is most useful,” says Trevitt. “With all the chances I’ve had, it’d be a cop-out if I didn’t at least try to provide that help if I thought that I had those skills.”

So does a job in politics beckon? “Long, long term I can definitely see myself in politics,” says Trevitt. “But I want to spend more time with AYCC and I’d love to work in the Northern Territory with indigenous communities in legal work. Then some refugee work and then maybe UNHCR [the UN Refugee Agency] and then maybe domestic politics.”

Tom Polo was chuffed but hardly surprised when he saw the 12 finalists in the inaugural 2009 B.E.S.T. Contemporary Art Prize. He had good reason—his name was the only one on the list.

“In the terms and conditions, you were ineligible unless you were born on my birthday, were called Tom Polo and were born at Westmead Hospital,” says Polo, who set up the prize as a humorous comment on the lengths people will go to be considered successful or a “winner.” “I did get a few actual entries that I sent proper rejection letters to.”

Polo, who is finishing his master of fine arts at COFA in 2011, curating a show at the Blacktown Art Centre in February and working at the Parramatta Art Studios towards a solo show in March, has received more than artificial acclaim, though. His humorous, text-based works based on winning attitudes in popular culture landed him an Australia Council for the Arts residency in London in April close to the Olympics site. Polo, 25, says it’s the perfect place to study the modern competitive spirit. “I’m thinking of putting on my daggy tracksuit,” he says, “and filming myself running around that area.”

The Smithfield-based artist is keen to keep his work accessible channelling suburban experiences and conversations he overhears on the bus or in shopping centres. “I’d like to be an Australian artist working nationally and internationally, being seen by a wide audience and not just the art crowd,” he says. “But it’s all about the hard work between now and then.”
Words
Lucy Carroll

1. **environmentalist**
   As climate-change campaigner for the Australian Conservation Foundation, Freeman took a host of representatives to Canberra to discuss the benefits of a low-pollution, clean-energy economy.

2. **model**
   As well as gracing campaigns for brands Seafolly and Forever New, Harris appeared in 18 shows at Australian Fashion Week 2010.

3. **singer-songwriter**
   Ladder spent most of 2010 in North America, performing in March at the Texan music festival South by Southwest. He finished writing his next album in Los Angeles.

4. **cricketer**
   When he toured to the UK in June to play in a one-day series, Hazlewood became Australia’s youngest ever one-day player.

5. **architect**
   The visionary architect received full approval for his Kapitbahayan project, which will provide modern housing and gardens for six families in Canley Vale.

6. **installation artist**
   After completing artist residencies in Berlin and Iceland and presenting an installation at the Next Wave festival in Melbourne, Gleave is taking on a six-month studio residency at Sydney’s Artspace.

7. **filmmaker**
   Picking up two accolades for The Waiting City at the Inside Film Awards topped off a busy year for McCarthy, who is set to direct a film in Shanghai in June and is developing a number of screenplays.

8. **conductor**
   Not only was he guest conductor at Sweden’s Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra and Spain’s Orquestra de Cadaqués, Smith also beat 800 others to be conductor in residence for the Aspen Music Festival and School.

9. **scientist**
   Anderson played a key role in establishing a $40-million climate-change research facility at the University of Western Sydney, which is due to start operating this year.

10. **chef**
    Manly Pavilion scored one chef’s hat and was named Best New Restaurant in The Sydney Morning Herald Good Food Guide 2011.