

MEDIA RELEASE

13 May 2009

Lakes Entrance GP honoured

The 2009 Victorian Rural Doctors' Awards acknowledged Lakes Entrance GP Dr Jane Greacen for her commitment to the region, at a ceremony in Melbourne on the weekend.

Dr Greacen received an award for her Outstanding Contribution to Rural Communities.

Victorian rural doctors were nominated by their peers, patients and local community members in three categories, 35 Years Service to Rural Communities, for *Outstanding Contribution to Rural Communities* or as a *New Rural Doctor*.

Health Minister, Hon. Daniel Andrews presented the doctors and their families with the awards in front of 225 guests at a gala dinner.

Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV) chief executive Claire Austin explains the Awards' significance.

"The Awards provide an opportunity to pause and reflect on the contributions that our doctors and their families make to Victoria.

"Additionally, the Awards offer Victorians a way of saying 'thanks' to a corner stone of the population that sustain local communities in so many ways," Ms Austin said.

The 2009 Award recipients were from all corners of the state, Ballarat, Sale, St Leonards, Moe, Elmore, Lorne, Ouyen, Traralgon, Mount Beauty, Beechworth, Wangaratta, Portland, Benalla, Phillip Island, Traralgon and Camperdown.

RWAV chairman Dr Philip Webster also paid tribute to this year's recipients.

"As is the nature of general practice and medicine these contributions have been diverse and broad ranging.

"Amongst all the recipients honoured, the common thread was doctors sustaining their local community," Dr Webster said.

An awards panel comprising RWAV, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Australian College of Rural & Remote Medicine, Rural Doctors Association of Victoria Australian Medical Association Vic and Rural Medical Family Network representatives assessed nominees against the criteria for each of the categories.

The Awards were proudly sponsored by Victorian Managed Insurance Authority (VMIA), a statutory body established to provide risk management consultancy, insurance and site risk surveys to Victorian State Government departments and agencies.

----- ends -----

Media – for interviews and high resolution images contact:

Samantha Marnell: 0439 551 720

RWAV media & communications coordinator

Background information

Dr Jane Greacen, Lakes Entrance – For Outstanding Contribution to Rural Communities

“I’m proud to have worked on programs that expanded our horizons and made meaningful contributions to improve the health of people in rural communities.

“Being a doctor and living in a rural community gives me access to an extraordinarily diverse range of medical and community involvement,” Dr Greacen said.

She has worked for the Gippsland & East Gippsland Aboriginal Cooperative since 2001 as a GP, and also with a local community agency called the East Gippsland School for Aboriginal Health Professionals. EGSAHP works with local Aboriginal children & their families, and local schools and health services to support the Aboriginal school students to complete their schooling and enter health professional training. Only 37% of the Aboriginal children aged 15 to 19 are at school compared with 73% of non-Aboriginal children. There is a lot to do to help those children who are keen to graduate and enter a university course, let alone those who have become discouraged.

About RWAV – Rural Workforce Agency Victoria is a not-for-profit organisation working with communities that have underserved health needs. We do this through a number of initiatives that recruit, support and advocate for the health workforce throughout rural and regional Victoria. rwav.com.au