

MEDIA RELEASE

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Wangaratta GP honoured

The 2009 Victorian Rural Doctors' Awards acknowledged Wangaratta GP Dr Kate Davey for her commitment to the region, at a ceremony in Melbourne on the weekend.

Dr Davey 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 including, Ballarat, Sale, St Leonards, Moe, Elmore, Lorne, Ouyen, Traralgon, Mount Beauty, Beechworth, Portland, Lakes Entrance, 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.

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Media – for interviews and high resolution images contact:

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Background information

Dr Kate Davey, Wangaratta – for Outstanding Contribution to Rural Communities

“The sense of belonging in a rural environment has added a profound richness to my medical career. I’m not sure I’d have this if I was working in a metropolitan environment,” Dr Davey said.

I grew up in the city but spent many holidays on friends’ farms - this is where my love of rural life began.

The best part of my work has been the extraordinary variety. When I started, I was keen to maintain my interest in general medicine and resisted becoming a “Women’s Health” expert. I had forgotten to factor in that there were very few female doctors between Melbourne and Albury at that stage and even fewer worked full time, so my actual practice has evolved with a very strong women’s health flavour.

My attitude softened over the ensuing years, probably influenced by the growth of my own family and the development of a greater understanding of women’s health needs.

I have four wonderful children who, along with my partner Ken, have been remarkably tolerant of my medical career. It has been a realisation of a life long dream to have a large family but also to continue to work at my career.

I’ve had many memorable things happen to me. The most important thing to realise is that you are not alone. There is a wealth of support amongst medical colleagues you will work with but also from the community of which you will, undoubtedly, become a part.

Nomination information available upon request.

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