



Media Release

Tuesday 27 May 2008

Foster Doctors Win Awards

Foster doctors David Iser and Margerie Linton were honoured for their outstanding service to the Victorian rural community at the prestigious, Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV) 2008 Victorian Rural Doctors' Awards, on Friday night in Melbourne.

Victorian rural doctors were nominated by their peers, patients and local community members in two categories, *35 Years of Service to Rural Communities* or *Outstanding Contribution to Rural Communities*.

Dr Iser was one of 10 recipients of the *Outstanding Service to Rural Communities* award and Dr Linton received her award for *35 Years Service to Rural Communities*.

Minister for Rural & Regional Development, the Hon. Jacinta Allan presented the doctors and their families with the awards at a gala dinner in the National Gallery of Victoria's Great Hall.

Rural Workforce Agency Victoria's (RWAV) Chairman and Mildura General Practitioner, Dr Philip Webster commends the doctors and their families for their commitment to rural Victorians.

"Our annual awards are significant as they're an opportunity to publicly acknowledge and honour our doctors for their dedication to rural Victorians," Dr Webster said.

"More importantly, the doctors provide terrific role models that will inspire and enthuse our medical students to seriously consider a career as a rural GP."

The Awards were attended by 200 guests that included Award recipients and their families, health professionals from all disciplines and medical school students.

Other doctors who received an award herald from Rupanyup, Apollo Bay, Ballarat, Mansfield, Colac, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Orbost, Wodonga, Bendigo, Kerang, Portland, Mildura, Hamilton and Omeo.

An awards panel comprising Australian College of Rural & Remote Medicine (ACCRM), RWAV, Rural Medical Family Network (RMFN), Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), Committee of Chairmen of Victorian State Committees of Medical Colleges, Rural Doctors Association of Victoria (RDAV) and Australian Medical Association Vic (AMA) representatives assessed each of the nominees against the criteria for each of the categories.

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For high resolution images or to discuss further story ideas please call Samantha Marnell on 0439 551 720.

Background information

Dr Margerie Linton

1968 was a busy year for Margerie Linton– she married Brian and graduated from Monash University.

As a fourth generation member from Foster, Margerie always considered herself a country girl but never really imagined of working in a rural environment.

However some attractions are just too strong and Margerie found herself back where she grew up.

Margerie and Brian's two children are the fifth generation of their family to be born in Foster and attended the same school as Margerie.

Whilst the children have left the nest, they both chose to avoid the metropolis and instead live in far north Queensland.

Margerie's advice to others considering rural practice – fresh air, no traffic and appreciative and friendly locals!

Dr David Iser

Dr David Iser has held the position of Shire Medical Officer for 20 years.

David has been involved in two major re-development and refurbishment projects in South Gippsland Hospital and was proactive in the establishment of the hospital's Community Health Centre. He continually strives to maintain services, which are unable to be matched by other small rural health services.

His sense of community spirit, his understating of the idiosyncrasies of country families, his willingness to see good in everyone, and his ability to stay calm amongst the madness of the day, are just a few of his attributes.

David's work often involved trips by ambulance to Melbourne where he would have to find his own way home, sometimes hitchhiking. There have been many nights over the 25 years when he has slept at the hospital because he was either too busy to go home or was concerned about the patient.