



Media Release

Tuesday 27 May 2008

Portland Doctor Wins Award

Portland doctor Paul Kierce was honoured for his 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 Kierce received his 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 Apollo Bay, Ballarat, Mansfield, Colac, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Orbost, Rupanyup, Healesville, Wodonga, Bendigo, Kerang, 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 Paul Kierce

Having a father who worked as an Osteopath in Ballarat, Paul had always wanted to contribute to the community where he grew up.

He was the first person fully trained in Queensland on the Australian Orthopaedic Association training program and commenced his Orthopaedic practice in Ballarat, in the early 70s.

During the 80s and 90s he was head of the Ballarat Base Hospital's Orthopaedic surgery and also the visiting Medical Officer for the Queen Elizabeth rehabilitation centre. Part of this interesting and varied role was becoming orthopaedic surgeon to the English cricket team on two occasions when they visited Ballarat.

Paul and his wife Diane moved to Portland in 2000 where he commenced joint replacement surgery and became a Visiting Medical Officer at Hamilton hospital.

Paul and Diane know that a rural community is truly a great environment for raising children.