



Media Release

Tuesday 27 May 2008

Rupanyup Doctor Wins Award

Rupanyup doctor Lindsay Swalwell 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 Swalwell 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, 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 Lindsay Swalwell

After graduating from the University of Melbourne in 1962, Lindsay performed locum work in the Great Ocean Road region before arriving in Rupanyup in the Wimmera.

Having spent some part of his childhood in the country and marrying a country girl, Lindsay has always been concerned about rural communities' need for a resident GP.

Lindsay's commitment to Rupanyup was recognized in 2006 when he was a recipient of the Australia Day Citizenship Award.

Lindsay says that support from his wife and family are a crucial factor in his ability to function as a rural GP and recommends rural practice not only for the work/life balance but also for the opportunity to be a valued and respected member of the community.