



## Media Release

Monday 26 May 2008

### Ballarat Doctors scoop RWAV awards

Eleven doctors from the Ballarat district were honoured for their commitment to the region at the prestigious Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV) *2008 Victorian Rural Doctors' Awards* on Friday night in Melbourne.

Doctors Wilton Carter, Liz Duncombe, Peter Faull, Paul Hemming, Bob Hinchey, Don Larsen-Disney, Sandy Murray, Tony Nutall, Bob Richardson, Tom Roberts, and Garry Russell were winners of the awards, which acknowledged the tremendous efforts of Victoria's rural doctors and their spouses, for the service and commitment they provide to rural and regional 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 on Friday night.

Rural Workforce Agency Victoria's (RWAV) Chief Executive Claire Austin 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," Ms Austin 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."

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*.

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

All the Ballarat district doctors were recipients of the *35 Years of Service to Rural Communities* award.

Other doctors who received an award herald from Apollo Bay, Mansfield, Colac, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Orbost, Foster, 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 of the recipients being presented with their award, a group picture or to discuss further story ideas please call Samantha Marnell on 0439 551 720.