



MEDIA RELEASE

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And the 2007 Victorian Rural Doctors' Awards Go To

Twenty-two doctors from across Victoria have received the 2007 Victorian Rural Doctors' Awards. The Awards were presented to the doctors at a formal dinner held at the State Library of Victoria in Melbourne last night.

Since the inception of the Awards in 2005, 72 doctors have been honoured including the 2007 recipients. Auspiced by the Rural Workforce Agency, Victoria (RWAV) and supported by the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM), the Rural Doctors Association of Victoria (RDAV) and the Rural Medical Family Network (RMFN) the Awards are an acknowledgement of the outstanding work many doctors and their spouses have provided to rural Victoria.

This year the Awards were sponsored by the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority (VMIA) who provide risk management and insurance services.

The Awards were presented by the Honourable John Brumby, who said "These awards recognise individual rural doctors and their spouses who have contributed to their communities in exceptional ways over a long period of time. Such recognition is important as rural areas depend heavily on their medical services and the local doctor and their families are critical members of their communities. We've seen this in Victoria recently as communities have tackled the effects of bushfire and drought, with the medical fraternity playing a significant role in maintaining the community spirit in rural areas."

In a message to the Award recipients, Victorian Premier Steve Bracks expressed his appreciation, saying, "It is important to recognise the achievements and enormous commitment of rural doctors. They not only represent an integral part of primary health care, but also provide invaluable support to their local community and strengthen local community spirit."

To download a copy of the commemorative 2007 Victorian Rural Doctors' Awards Book visit the RWAV website at www.rwav.com.au

List of Recipients

Thirty-five plus years of Service to Rural Communities

- Dr David Alexander, Ballarat
- Dr Rodney Barkman, Rutherglen
- Dr Syd Giddy, Ballarat
- Dr Philip Griffiths, Ballarat
- Dr Brian Hassett, Ballarat
- Dr Graeme Houghton, Ballarat
- Dr Peter McKinnon, Wendouree
- Dr Roger Mitchell, Ballarat
- Dr David Morton, Alfredton
- Dr Ronald Murley, Foster
- Dr Stan Pilbeam, Buninyong
- Dr Jean Proud, Ballarat
- Dr Patti Rogers, Wendouree
- Dr Jim Rose, Sebastopol
- Dr William Sloss, Ballarat

Outstanding Contribution to Rural Communities

- Dr Elizabeth Bakewell, Lakes Entrance
- Dr David Hunt, Walwa
- Prof Fiona Judd, Bendigo
- Dr Ian Mayes, Ballarat
- Dr Michael Moynihan, Swan Hill
- Dr John Pickering, Dimboola
- Dr Peter Micheal Stevens, Heyfield

About RWAV

RWAV was established in 1998 to overcome the shortage of rural doctors and improve access to medical services for rural Victorians. RWAV's recruitment programs and ongoing support services have been fundamental to increasing rural GP numbers in Victoria.

Today, RWAV is addressing workforce shortages in rural and regional towns. Some of its key priorities include the provision of support services for rural doctors and their families, professional development programs, locum support, marketing of rural general practice, recruitment of rural doctors including specialist outreach services, workforce planning and research to inform government policy.

Further information on RWAV is available on the website at www.rwav.com.au

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