



**REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENT
& COMMUNITY AWARDS**

AWARDS

Sarab

PRESENTATION DINNER

FRIDAY 11 OCTOBER 2019

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



AWARDS PROGRAM

Opening Performance

Paris Marie

Introduction

Master of Ceremonies, Karl Lijnders, News Presenter, PRIME7

National Anthem

Performed by Paris Marie

Entrée

Q&A

Media Partners

Ed Gannon, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief, The Weekly Times and Andrew Allen, Network Marketing Manager, PRIME7

Speech

Brendan Grenfell, Regional Executive, Bank of Melbourne

Presentation

Speech and Certificates of Achievement Presentation

Danielle Green MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development and Tourism representing The Hon Jaclyn Symes, Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Resources

People's Choice Award Presentation

Simon Talbot, Chief Operating Officer, Parks Victoria

Award Presentations

Regional Development Victoria Business Achievement Award

Danielle Green MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development and Tourism representing The Hon Jaclyn Symes, Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Resources

Regional Development Victoria Leadership and Innovation Award

Danielle Green MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development and Tourism representing The Hon Jaclyn Symes, Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Resources

Main Course

Award Presentations

Prime Super Employer Excellence in Aged Care Award

Billie Atanasova, National Sales Manager, Prime Super

Parks Victoria Environmental Sustainability Award

Simon Talbot, Chief Operating Officer, Parks Victoria

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Diversity and Inclusion Award

Lee Miezi, Deputy Secretary - Forest, Fire and Regions, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Prime Super Agricultural Innovation Award

George Frangeskakis, Regional Manager - Eastern Victoria, Prime Super

Dessert

Award Presentations

Ricoh Australia Customer Service Award

Jonathan Hines, Regional Wholesale Manager - South, Ricoh Australia

Life Activities Clubs Victoria Senior Achievement Award

Kath Frowen, President, Life Activities Clubs Victoria

Awards Australia Community Group Award

Geoff Griffin, Director, Awards Australia

Bank of Melbourne Regional Achiever of the Year Award

Brendan Grenfell, Regional Executive, Bank of Melbourne

Entertainment

DJ Scott

MENU

Entrée	Searched Wild mushroom tortellini, kale pesto, ricotta shavings, shiitake salt
Main Course	Grilled fillet of beef, carrot and caraway puree, carrot top salsa verde
Dessert	Individual sticky date pudding, butterscotch sauce and vanilla ice cream

BEVERAGES

Chalk Hill Blue Bubbles

Whilst it is primarily a fruit driven wine, some complex yeast flavours are also evident and the finish is soft and clean. The lasting spritz makes this a great celebratory wine for any occasion.

Long Row Sauvignon Blanc

Lifted, herbaceous characters on the bouquet carry through to the palate, which finishes with a lingering fruity flavour and crisp, dry finish. This is a wine of elegance fashioned for easy drinking.

Long Row Shiraz

Rich, ripe spicy fruit aromas combine with wood aged characters derived from careful oak maturation to provide a smooth, full bodied wine designed for early drinking.



Soft drink available upon request.



Grand Ridge Brewery

Natural Blonde (4.5%)

Grand Ridge Pale Ale (4.7%)

Light Beer (2.7%)



PUT SOMEONE FORWARD

Do you know someone who deserves to be recognised at the Victorian Regional Achievement and Community Awards?

Put them forward for the 2020 Awards – submit their details into our referral form and we'll be sure to get in touch with both of you when nominations official re-open next year.

http://bit.ly/VICRACA_Nom



PRIZES

Eight of our nine category winners will receive \$2,000 into an account in their name from **Bank of Melbourne**. The other category winner will receive a **PRIME7** Television Package. One of the nine category winners will be named the "Bank of Melbourne Regional Achiever of the Year" and receive an additional \$2,000 and state trophy.



ENTERTAINMENT

Paris Marie

Paris Marie, 15 of Melbourne was first publicly seen and heard at 7 years old-she sang at Carols By Candlelight. Since then, Paris Marie has performed all over, including the National Anthem at the Cricket, Modelling in Fashion Week for the last 4 years and working on TV Ads. Currently she's been in the studio singing and writing her own songs with some of Australia's finest Producers, Musicians and Artists. Paris Marie plays Accoustic Guitar, Electric Guitar, Keyboards, Bass & Ukulele. Instagram @ParisMarieOfficial.



DJ Scott

Scott's enthusiasm & outgoing nature radiates whenever he's behind the decks. He is currently in the middle of his university studies and is the go-to man in the Western Suburbs for functions and events.



PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

The winner of the People's Choice Award will receive a voucher for a 2 night stay for 2 people in one of Parks Victoria's Wilderness Retreats at Wilsons Promontory National Park (conditions apply).

JUDGES

The Victorian Regional Achievement and Community Awards would like to thank all of the Executive, Non Voting, Expert and Sponsor judges for their invaluable support. Their expertise, knowledge and contribution is fundamental to the realisation and success of the Awards year after year.

EXECUTIVE

Hannah Driscoll, Country Living Editor, The Weekly Times

Zane Bower, Regional Lending Development Manager, Bank of Melbourne

Lisa Marie Jackson, Manager Standards and Review, Emergency Management Victoria

Val Lang, Life Member, Australian Women in Agriculture

Sandy Dudakov OAM, Vice President, FareShare

Dr Faye Bendrups, Vice-Chair, National SES Volunteers Association

James Gunn, Manager Government Relations Community & Social Responsibility, Victoria Racing Club Limited

Sheree Tivendale, Interim Director – Communications and Engagement, GOTAFE

EXPERT

Hugh Horsfall, Manager – Economic Policy, Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Ilsa Hampton, Chief Executive Officer, Meaningful Aging Victoria

David Beca, Managing Director, Red Sky Agricultural Pty Ltd

Birgitte Hutchens, Community Based Bushfire Management Project Officer, DELWP

Mark Paganini, Regional Manager – Geelong / Ballarat / Melbourne, Conservation Volunteers Australia

Braith Bamkin, Executive Director, BNI Melbourne Central, BNI Melbourne West & Geelong

Kath Frowen, President, Life Activities Clubs Victoria

Sue Van Gerrevink, Event Co-ordinator, Life Activities Clubs Victoria

Andrew Rowe, Community Campaigner and Local Government Executive – Retired

PARTNER

Wynita Wilson, Communications and Engagement, Regional Development Victoria

George Frangeskakis, Regional Manager – Eastern Victoria, Prime Super

Billie Atanasova, National Sales Manager, Prime Super

Lee Miezis, Deputy Secretary, Forest, Fire and Regions Group, DELWP

Graeme Baxter, Regional Manager – East Region, Parks Victoria

Jonathan Hines, Regional Wholesale Manager – Southern, Ricoh Australia

Kath Frowen, President, Life Activities Clubs Victoria

Sue Van Gerrevink, Event Co-ordinator, Life Activities Clubs Victoria

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT VICTORIA BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FINALISTS



In regional and rural areas successful businesses are making important economic contributions. Creative business and commercial ventures provide opportunities for regional growth, productivity, leadership, training and employment. Businesses are continuing to realise their corporate vision and mission in areas such as product development, advanced manufacturing and construction, agriculture, primary industry, e-commerce, wholesaling, exporting, retailing, tourism and other professional services. The Regional Development Victoria Business Achievement Award will acknowledge and highlight the continued success and achievements of business leaders and businesses.



Braille Sign Supplies

Braille Sign Supplies of Torquay produces Braille tactile signs that comply with Australian Standards. It began when co-founder Travis Ashford, who was then running a signage business, noticed that the Braille signs available were either non-compliant with Australian Standards or too expensive. Recognising a gap in the market, Travis researched before beginning the labour-intensive process of making compliant Braille signs through trial and error, while his wife and co-founder, Leza, took charge of marketing and packing. Today, the company has its own Braille system called BrailleForm, a large factory and eight employees. They are also a Finalist in the 2019 Geelong Business Excellence Awards.



Little Bumble

Little Bumble of Warragul is committed to reducing plastic and food wastage in Australia. Founder Laura Eddington, a science teacher and proud Gippslandian, put her science skills to use and developed an all-natural formula that produces anti-bacterial, reusable, Australian beeswax food wraps that keep food fresher for longer. The company has sold over \$300,000 in wraps since it opened in 2017. Little Bumble has nine employees, some of whom are from disability employment services and they have started to venture in automation and exportation. Laura and team also teach at schools, libraries and communities on how to make budget friendly reusable wraps.



Sea Lake Hotel Co-Operative Ltd

Sea Lake Hotel Co-Operative Ltd is a business built by the local community, for the local community. It started when a group of about 20 locals and expats fought to bring back to life the last operating pub in Sea Lake, by purchasing the Sea Lake Hotel at an auction. After a call for investors was made, over 80 people showed up to join the community either to invest or clean up the old hotel. The Royal Hotel re-opened in June 2019, thanks to the dedication, encouragement and inspiration shown by the local community. Today, all of its 16 employees are locals.



TwistED Science

TwistED Science of Echuca seeks to entertain and inspire with science. Kathy Stubberfield and her co-founders started TwistED Science as a way to share hands-on science with regional schools and groups and workshops are carefully designed to give students maximum hands-on time. Today, TwistED Science runs a science centre in Echuca, serving schools, tourists and local families. It also offers workshops and curriculum-based hands-on sessions at schools, libraries, homes and event grounds. A driving force in the Echuca tourism industry, TwistED Science has over 20 employees and regularly offers charities, free or discounted science sessions. They won silver in the 2016 Regional Tourism Awards.

Tenacity, dedication, selflessness, leadership and innovative thinking are the key qualities of those amazing individuals who are the “driving force” in their community. These individuals are at the forefront of community contribution in their field of endeavour.

They may have overcome significant difficulty, adversity or hardship to achieve excellent outcomes and raise pride in the community and our state. They may have pioneered significant changes in their community, business or organisation that have altered the way people think and perform for the better. The Regional Development Victoria Leadership and Innovation Award will acknowledge role models who through their leadership, innovation and driving force pave the way for others to follow.



Art of The Minds

Art of The Minds of Torquay runs month-long events that centre on spreading awareness of mental health issues. The organisation uses all possible events to share lived experience of recovery from mental illness and encourage support through talks, theatre, song, visual arts, yoga, sound, sports events, and education. Art of The Minds continues to innovate programmes, thanks to its successful funding applications, which allows them to hire an event manager to help better design and run inviting and interesting events for the community and the general public. The events also provide a venue for brilliant regional groups and individuals of Surf Coast to showcase their talents.



Arun Thomas

Arun Thomas of Horsham is an inspiring leader in the health sector. A Registered Nurse, he became one of the youngest public hospital directors in Victoria when he was appointed in 2017 at Stawell Regional Health, where he provided strategic direction and clinical governance expertise. Arun was a former President of UniSA Student Association where his role greatly benefited the Aboriginal student community after identifying the need for further inclusion and representation. In 2018, he established a scholarship with a goal of unlocking leadership potential among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander UniSA students. Arun received the 2018 Victorian state-wide Celebrating Aged Care Leadership Award.



EnviroMicroBio

EnviroMicroBio of Yinnar is an innovative business that offers science-backed analytical services on matters of sustainability. Serving industries in the Latrobe Valley, the start-up company founded by Emily Scholes, now has an analytical laboratory at the Yallourn campus which engages students and graduates of Federation University and opens opportunities for science graduates. EnviroMicroBio received funding from Latrobe Valley Authorities which helped in setting up infrastructure to enable evaluation of organic wastes for suitability for anaerobic digestion. Apart from offering advice and expertise on sustainability, they also offer access to accurate and reliable technologies like DNA sequencing and 2nd Generation ATP testing.



Tanisha Lovett

Tanisha Lovett of Horsham is a dedicated mentor to Indigenous youth. An outstanding speaker, she actively mentors in Indigenous youth camps such as Hands Together; Buldau Yiooghen, Big Dreams Leadership Camp, and Indigate Camp. Tanisha is a project facilitator for the Kookas after-school club, which focuses on teaching Indigenous kids about Aboriginal culture. She is part of Celebrating Sistas, an Indigenous women’s group that offers a safe space, and the Art Program and After School Art program. Tanisha helped organise an exhibition during the 2019 NAIDOC week. She has finished her traineeship in Goolum and is currently in charge of delivering the Nyupun program.

PRIME SUPER EMPLOYER EXCELLENCE IN AGED CARE AWARD FINALISTS



With an ageing population, aged care facilities and the services they provide are an important part of the lives of an ever increasing number of people. The Prime Super Employer Excellence in Aged Care Award recognises and acknowledges businesses, organisations and not for profits who have a strong focus on staff engagement, safety and well being, training and providing staff with higher education learning opportunities and development. The Award will also recognise the provision of quality services for clients, patients and residents.

The Award acknowledges aged care facilities, organisations, not for profits and businesses making a positive difference in the industry in Victoria.



Cooinda

Cooinda of Benalla is committed to providing person-centred care to older people and their families whilst helping create jobs for the local community. It is a fully accredited, not for profit 82-bed aged care facility established in 1969 by community members. Cooinda is a major employer and economic contributor to Benalla, employing 115 local community members and purchasing locally-sourced goods. It offers flexible working conditions and encourages personal development among staff. In a 2019 survey, 96% of its staff were proud to work at Cooinda. Among its community initiatives is a partnership with a local registered training organisation to deliver on-the-job training.



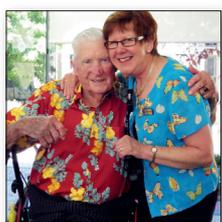
Jacaranda Village

Jacaranda Village of Red Cliffs seeks to provide a life worth living to both its residents and staff. The not-for-profit organisation Red Cliffs & Community Aged Care Services Inc. owns and operates the 75-bed Jacaranda Village. The Village employs 137 staff members, the majority of whom are registered nurses, enrolled nurses and personal care workers. They offer competitive salaries, benefits and perks to attract and retain the best employees. The organisation has terminated external contracts and hired internal staff to increase team and improve skills on dietetics, speech pathology and physiotherapy. In 2018, Jacaranda Village paid over \$54,000 in training and professional development for its staff.



Multicultural Aged Care Services Geelong

Multicultural Aged Care Services of Geelong is dedicated to providing excellence in diverse aged care and quality employment. A not for profit organisation, MACS has 160 residential beds, 146 community aged care packages and provides care to over 240 people in their homes. Since 1994, MACS has endeavoured to provide an innovative and culturally appropriate residential aged care facility for Geelong's migrant community. Today, their residents and consumers represent 66 nationalities. They have 210 staff and more than 65 volunteers from the Geelong community. The staff enjoy flexible working conditions, technology assistance, and an on-site training competency program. MACS also developed a Staff Engagement Strategy.



St Catherine's Hostel

St. Catherine's Hostel of Wangaratta believes that aged care is about savouring the precious time in one's life. It is a not-for-profit residential care facility that holds a 3-year accreditation with the Aged Care Quality Agency and has 67 beds for residents and two beds dedicated for respite. St. Catherine's recognises the importance of stability and security among its staff, allowing them to work their preferred shifts. Employees are also encouraged to take leave when they need it and they are allowed to bring kids to work. They offer a Personal Care course and an education program conducted by nurse practitioners for interested staff.



Healthy Parks
Healthy People®

PARKS VICTORIA ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AWARD FINALISTS

Parks Victoria's Environmental Sustainability Award acknowledges individuals, groups and organisations that show a proven passion and dedication towards improving the environment and human wellbeing in regional and rural areas.

This Award recognises individuals, groups and organisations that aim to improve our patterns of consumption and environmental behaviour in acknowledgement of the intrinsic link between nature and people. They understand that individual and community health are reliant on a healthy parks system, and that a healthy parks system is integrally linked to the value placed on it by the community. Ultimately, their actions help to inspire sustainable and responsible development for current and future generations.



BeachPatrol 3280-3284

BeachPatrol 3280-3284 of Warrnambool advocates for clean beach and oceans. It began when founder Colleen Hughson started a Facebook group called "Pick Up Sticks" after finding numerous cotton bud sticks whilst walking on the beach. Another Facebook group was created to collect white plastic pellets called nurdles. The two online communities then evolved into a volunteer group that commits to at least one beach clean-up per month. Since 2017, BeachPatrol has done 175 clean-up drives, collected over 1,000kg of debris and recorded 1575 volunteer hours. For its work, the organisation was given a letter of recognition from the CEO of the Environment Protection Authority.



Four Wheel Drive Victoria

Four Wheel Drive Victoria adopts the mantra of "driving in a sustainable environment." FWDV is an incorporated association formed in 1975 by four wheel drive clubs in Victoria with the interest of protecting the land and communities through which they travelled. In the last four years, they have conducted five major "Clean up the Bush" projects and removed 400 cubic metres of rubbish from forests. Other initiatives include track clearing, Camp Host, hut restoration, and educating the public about "driving in a sustainable environment" at four wheel drive shows. In 2018, they recorded over 15,000 volunteer hours or \$500,000 worth of in-kind hours.



Friends of Toolern Creek

Friends of Toolern Creek has 30 core members and 200 volunteers who work endlessly to restore the historic Toolern Creek. One of their biggest initiatives is the 12-month Darlingsford Bend project which focused on revegetation and planting of over 10,000 indigenous trees, shrubs and grasses and removing of noxious weeds and dumped rubbish. FOTC has received many grants from Melbourne Water to help with planting along the creek to improve water quality and reduce pollution. Another project is the Platypus Festival. To encourage more volunteers, the organisation has partnered with Corrections Victoria, Melton Primary School, Melton Scouts and many other local businesses.



Wandoon Estate Aboriginal Corporation

Wandoon Estate Aboriginal Corporation of Healesville is committed to the rejuvenation of the Coranderrk Aboriginal Reserve. Recognising the aboriginal belief that land and people are indivisible, the organisation hopes to integrate traditional indigenous cultural and land management practices. Their projects focus on restoring health of the land and waterways, creating 13 paddocks and installing water troughs, managing weeds, planting trees and extending habitat for endangered species through partnerships with individuals, friends and volunteers. Their ultimate goal is to nurture the land and strengthen the future. Some organisations they've partnered with are Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority, Landcare, Friends of HEHO and Indigenous Business Australia.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, LAND, WATER AND PLANNING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD FINALISTS



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Diversity and Inclusion Award celebrates the importance of equality, diversity and inclusion in creating a more liveable Victoria. It highlights the social and economic benefits of diversity for our workplaces and communities.

This Award pays tribute to individuals, businesses, organisations and community groups that have championed difference and the value of all people – irrespective of ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, education, disability and national origin – making their workplace, business or community a fairer and more inclusive place.



Disabled Surfers Association Mornington Peninsula

Disabled Surfers Association Mornington Peninsula has been sharing the joy of surfing with people with a disability. DSAMP is a volunteer organisation that takes any person with any disability for a safe and enjoyable surf at Point Leo. It provides the wet suits, disabled toilet and changing facilities, rash vests, beach wheelchairs, surf boards, food and drink. DSAMP hold their events every January and March where up to 250 volunteers, 150 participants with carers and families and 400 people on the beach attend. They successfully raised funds to construct a boardwalk to allow wheelchair access and now hope to extend the boardwalk onto the beach.



Food Next Door

Food Next Door of Mildura aims to nurture the land whilst nurturing the diverse local community. FND is a community initiative that matches under-utilised farmlands with landless farmers to support small-scale regenerative farming, growing diverse crops and engaging people from diverse backgrounds to supply food to local households. The organisation helps relieve the distress of newly arrived migrants and refugee groups in the rural areas having no access to land, by re-engaging and empower community members in farming and growing food. In 2017, Food Next Door partnered with the Sunraysia Burundian Community to facilitate the growing of traditional maize, a staple Burundian food.



Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services

Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services is supporting multicultural communities and celebrating diversity. Established in 1999, LCMS is a not-for-profit organisation that empowers people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to participate fully in Australian society. It supports newly arrived migrants and refugees to build a successful life in the region through community programs on employment, education, capacity building and community development. LCMS organises arts and events to support social cohesion and cross cultural competency, including the Zinda Festival, an annual multicultural event attended by over 6,000 people. In 2019, over 15 cultural groups participated in the festival celebrating diversity through music, dance and food.



United Muslim Sisters of Latrobe Valley

United Muslim Sisters of Latrobe Valley aims to foster a better relationship between Muslims and non-Muslims in the Gippsland community. They have 100 members and initiates projects such as interfaith talks and the "My scarf story" project, which hopes to build tolerance and understanding in the Valley community. They hold a Ramadan Iftar dinner and Eid festival, where over 400 people from multicultural backgrounds come together and enjoy the day. United Muslim Sisters upholds women's freedom and empowerment and organises empowerment courses. They have partnered with Gippsland multicultural centre to support women's education, health and personal development and starting one's own social enterprise.



PRIME SUPER AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION AWARD FINALISTS

Australian agricultural production and supply chain management has a long history of innovation to maximise efficiency, develop new products, and open new market opportunities, despite the challenges of climate, soil types and location. Nominees for the Prime Super Agricultural Innovation Award will showcase this spirit of innovation through their application of technology or process improvement to demonstrably enhance production and increase efficiency, maximising returns along the value chain, particularly where that value flows back to the primary producer.



Bulmer Farms

Bulmer Farms of Lindenow is passionate about promoting career pathways in agriculture. A family-run business, they employ up to 180 people during the peak months of September to May. To help people find a career in agriculture, Bulmer Farms opened its own traineeship or apprenticeship program and teamed up with Gippsland Regional Agrifood Employment Program to give opportunities to the underemployed. They are a co-creator of the East Gippsland Vegetable Innovation Days and was the first to introduce the Sormac Salad Washing and Drying Tunnel line. To give back to the community, they sponsor local sports clubs and primary and kindergarten schools.



Goulburn Murray Valley Regional Fruit Fly Project

Goulburn Murray Valley Regional Fruit Fly Project is protecting the region's horticultural industry by effectively managing the spread of the Queensland Fruit Fly before it can cause significant economic harm. Established in 2017, the GMV Fruit Fly Project is comprised of representatives from Agriculture Victoria, Goulburn Murray Water, many local councils and business and the community. The organisation monitors fruit fly population through a regional trapping grid, identifies fruit fly "hot spots" and holds education workshops for community, industry and government based on an "ownership of the issue" approach. It has also removed more than 5,500 fruit fly host trees and plants from private and public land.



Mountain Milk Co-Operative Ltd

Mountain Milk Co-Operative Ltd of Kergunyah South is dedicated to improving dairy operations and community livelihood. The Mountain Milk Co-Operative was formed by six farming families in Kiewa Valley who, instead of worrying about the direction of the dairy industry and Murray Goulburn Co-Op, took the initiative to establish an operating framework to improve security and returns and reduce corporate risks. Composed of dedicated community people, it fosters profitable and sustainable outcomes on farms. They have created a brand and job opportunities and encouraged sharing of resources and investing together. Other initiatives include medical outreach and a platform to highlight how to care for animals and the environment.



Tyrrell College

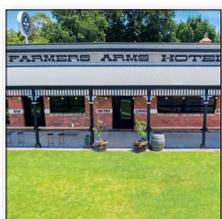
Tyrrell College of Sea Lake has introduced innovations in the agriculture education. Tyrrell College's Agricultural Program delivers an innovative model of education through engagement of industry partners. All of its 168 students are exposed to agricultural production during their journey. Students learn through excursions and by working with people directly involved in the agricultural sector, resulting in enriched, engaged and inspired students. The College partners with farmers, machinery dealerships, agronomic consultants and agribusinesses. Tyrrell College's 60 hectares supports a cropping program, a small orchard and a greenhouse. Students can gain a CERT 2 in Agriculture and develop skills that are highly sought within the industry.

RICOH AUSTRALIA CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD FINALISTS

RICOH
imagine. change.

Businesses and organisations spend a great deal of time and money trying to win and retain customers. The highly demanding discipline of customer service is arguably the critical success factor for many organisations and businesses.

The Ricoh Australia Customer Service Award will recognise individuals that provide customer service excellence, best practice and innovative thinking in customer service. It may also be someone who is implementing customer service strategies which are integral to business success. The nominees will have a positive impact on their organisation and demonstrate dedication to product knowledge and commitment to the customer.



Farmers Arms Creswick

The Farmers Arms Creswick has a fervour for providing quality food and wine sourced from the local area. Offering Melbourne-quality food experience in a small town, The Farmers Arms Hotel runs an award-winning restaurant that serves local quality products, from farm to plate. They buy whole animals from local farms and focus on sourcing all food within a 50-kilometre radius, maintaining strong relationships with local suppliers whilst providing exceptional customer service. Staff are encouraged to take external training courses paid for by the owner. Hailed as the “Best Victorian Pub” by Herald Sun, they were also a finalist at the Business Commerce Ballarat Awards.



Josh's Rainbow Eggs

Josh's Rainbow Eggs of Monegetta has a passion for building strong customer relationships. Josh's Rainbow Eggs produces free range eggs in the Macedon Ranges, supplying direct to over 50 Coles and Woolworths stores. The company has developed a customer service model where they visit each store weekly, stock the shelves, and talk with customers. This way, they can provide value for the stores and the customers they serve. Known for developing the most environmentally sustainable model of egg farming in Australia, Josh's Eggs is the only producer that delivers directly to both major supermarkets. Josh hopes to change the way people think of food production.



Sea All Dolphin Swims

Sea All Dolphin Swims of Queenscliff has provided unique and unforgettable wildlife encounters for decades. After 22 years, they have introduced innovations helping transform the business into a year-round provider and stabilise the business. This includes new services like the Great Ocean Road Surf Tours and a Sting Ray Feeding program which provide additional customer experiences and more revenue streams. They employ 51 locals and are the largest tourism employer in the region. The Sea All Dolphin Swim staff undergo continuous training to perform their best. They deliver free educational sessions on local marine ecosystems and are creating a marine education virtual reality package designed for schools.



The Doggie Den

The Doggie Den of Bairnsdale has incredible passion for dogs and cats. Founded by Warren and Kathryn Sinclair, they offer pet products in Bairnsdale and East Gippsland with a holistic and natural focus. The team spends quality time with customers to know their pet's lifestyle and to offer tailored diet, treats, toys and accessories. An in-store butcher produces preservative and additive-free meat meals and even homemade treats. They also have an accredited dog trainer offering weekly classes. The Doggie Den has left many customers satisfied, achieving 100% customer satisfaction received from 700 responses and retaining a consistent 5-star Facebook rating for two years.

LIFE ACTIVITIES CLUBS VICTORIA SENIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FINALISTS



Life Activities Clubs Victoria, will recognise individuals organisations or corporates that have excelled in improving the wellbeing of people in the second half of life, particularly by promoting 'self-help'.

Older people in regional areas experience issues that do not impact many people in heavily populated areas and distance from the metropolitan area may adversely affect their quality of life. Many of these people are active, capable and independent. They neither need nor want government programs to deliver services to them. They wish to retain their independence, make decisions for themselves and age with vigour and dignity. They want to participate in a range of satisfying and healthy activities of their own choosing, with their companions of choice.

We wish to acknowledge the inspiration of the organisations and individuals who strive to improve the lives of our 'elders' through the promotion or facilitation of self-managed groups, activities or forums.



Dianne McAuliffe

Dianne McAuliffe of Shepparton advocates for volunteer work for the elderly. Di has headed the "Love to Sew" volunteer group that meets to sew and knit for community causes and fundraisers and helps raise money for the Shepparton Retirement Villages. Her group made 120 individual patchwork quilts for Maculata Place, a new aged care building. They held an exhibition, raffles and sewed a Collingwood-themed quilt that was auction off with the proceeds donated to Shepparton Villages. Di also volunteers with GV Pregnancy Support, in support of young, and often vulnerable mums. She also volunteers for Rumbalara Elders Facility, an aged care home for indigenous elders.



Jean Nelson

Jean Nelson of Geelong has spent more than 20 years volunteering for those with life limiting illnesses. She has been an active volunteer and a life member at Anam Cara House Geelong, a Community Hospice that provides day and overnight palliative respite and end of life care. Jean is in her eighties and volunteers Monday and Friday nights, providing palliative respite for people that would otherwise be admitted to hospital or residential aged care. Jean is actively involved in care episodes and fund raising. She is determined to improve the lives and deaths of people with life limiting illnesses.



Kevin Mitchell

Kevin Mitchell of Devenish has helped promote the town of Devenish. He originally initiated the street art in a neighbouring Church which led to the silo art in the area. A committee was formed to deliver the painting of the Devenish Silos which came with a military theme that was widely embraced by the elderly community members and visitors. Kevin spent hours with the Benalla Rural City Council and GrainCorp on the contractual agreement. He spent many weeks arranging the artist to ensure the silos were painted in time for Anzac Day. Visitors of the silos grew to 80,000 over the past 15 months.



John Morse

John Morse of Warrnambool is helping male elders find their sense of purpose. He left his engineering work and decided to use his skills to support male residents of the Riverside unit of Lyndoch Living, a large residential care facility in Warrnambool. John then established and now manages as a volunteer the Lyndoch Living's Lego Club, which brings male residents together to team-build complex constructions, improve social integration and maintain brain function and motor skills. They have constructed at least 15 Lego Technique models so far. The Club hopes to alleviate feelings of helplessness and amplify an inner sense of purpose for male elders.

AWARDS AUSTRALIA COMMUNITY GROUP AWARD FINALISTS



The Awards Australia Community Group Award recognises groups that make a significant contribution to their community. These community groups share a strong sense of team spirit, and play a vital role in enhancing the social, economic, commercial and environmental prosperity of their region. Whether it be working together on an event, restoration project, providing a service or program, it is important to recognise and encourage these groups, as their efforts help to make our communities stronger and more vibrant.



Devenish Community Group

Devenish Community Group has built a town rich in community involvement. It is composed of 120 people in dedicated small groups, working together, looking after the town. The group holds many events to bring the community together and improve maintenance around town. One of its significant projects is the Devenish Silo Art 2017, a project to paint three GrainCorp Silos with a military theme to commemorate their sacrifice to country. They also hold community events like dinners, concerts, morning tea for cancer research, car rallies, bus tours, and Australia Day Awards ceremonies. The organisation also helped raise \$30,000 for the Royal Children's Hospital.



Golden Square Pool Inc.

Golden Square Pool, Inc. successfully saved a 101-year-old pool and turned it into a community hub. Golden Square Pool is a group of 55 locals who transformed a once dilapidated, under-used facility, to an inclusive, vibrant and empowering hub for Golden Square and Bendigo residents. They launched a campaign in 2012 to save the pool from closure by extending its lease. Since then, it has provided accessible health and fitness opportunities to 90,000 patrons. Volunteers introduce innovative programs like live events and wellbeing programs. One initiative is the SwimSafe Bendigo program where free swimming lessons are given, especially for local refugees, migrants and multicultural adults.



Goorambat & District Community Group

Goorambat & District Community Group takes pride in its huge community spirit that has brought over 60,000 visitors to a town with 300 residents. Formed in 2016 to provide assistance, communication and entertainment to local and district residents, the Group has since become an "umbrella group" for the town's organisations. In 2018, it raised funds for the painting of two grain silos as part of the Wall-to-Wall event in Benalla. Another silo was painted in April 2019. The silos have attracted visitors and enhanced the tourism of Goorambat, now described "Small Town, Big Art." In 2019, they received the Benalla Rural City Community Group of the Year award.



Puckapunyal and District Neighbourhood Centre

Puckapunyal and District Neighbourhood Centre is dedicated to improving the quality of life for its community members. Founded 30 years ago, PDNC is a community organisation that fosters new friendships, provides support where needed and offers various programmes tailored to the unique needs of every demographic and family make-up. It hopes to become a home away from home for its predominantly military community who deal with a unique set of challenges such as transient living, separation from family and deployment. The centre caters to around 280 families and only charges \$20 per family per year and many programs are either free or gold coin donation.

2019 SEMI FINALISTS

Every year we receive hundreds of outstanding nominations for the Victorian Regional Achievement & Community Awards. Each of these people, organisations and businesses are doing incredible work in regional Victoria, and together with our partners we're honoured to help recognise them.

1868 Cafe Dining Cocktail Wine Bar,
Stawell

AgriNous, Strathdale

Arena Theatre Company, Bendigo

Cr Ashlee Fitzpatrick, Wangaratta

Avoca U3a, Avoca

Bairnsdale and District Wood Craft Group,
Walpa

Beechworth Food Co-op, Stanley

Bendigo Foodshare, Bendigo

Berry World, Timboon

BlazeAid, Bunyip

Bolton Clarke At Home Support South,
Bentleigh

Cadenza Boers, Stratford

Cathedral Landcare, Taggerty

Chaffey Aged Care, Merbein

Community Crew, Warrnambool

Diversitat, Norlane

Dr Matin Ghayour Minaie,
Armstrong Creek

**Eventide Lutheran Homes & Hamilton
Village,** Hamilton

Friends of Agnes Falls Inc A0058676P,
Agnes

Global City Connect, Bendigo

Gumbuya World, Tynong North

Lead Loddon Murray

Live at Spectrum, Traralgon

Lyndoch Living, Warrnambool

Maldon Hospital, Maldon

Maree Macague, Rochester

Matt Runnalls, Warragul

Mona Hatwal, Alfredton

**Mornington Peninsula Beachside
Tourism,** Sorrento

Mt View Residential Aged Care Facility,
Terang

Noonans Showcase Jewellers, Cobram

NutriSoil Biological Solution, Baranduda

Olivia's Place, Warragul

Pure Living Hair & Beauty, Warrnambool

Replas, Ballarat

RMG, Bendigo

Rohit Kumar, Hillside

Sam Atukorala, Shepparton

Save the Bees Australia, Blairgowrie

Scott Wilkinson, Cobden

St Aloysius Catholic Primary School,
Queenscliff

Stawell Primary School, Stawell

Summersalt Gymnastics, Wonthaggi

Taste of Africa, Shepparton North

Tehree Gordon, Barwon Heads

Tom Brocklehurst, Warrnambool

Tom Dunn, Horsham

Tracey Taylor, Mildura

Western AG Supplies, Derrinallum

Yousef Ibrahim, Morwell

ABOUT US

The Victorian Regional Achievement and Community Awards started in 2002 to encourage, acknowledge and reward the valuable contributions that individuals, communities and businesses make throughout regional and rural Victoria. These awards aim to recognise their success and achievements, which contribute to making regional Victoria a better place.

The Awards are proudly owned and operated by Awards Australia.

WHO IS AWARDS AUSTRALIA?

Since 1989, Awards Australia has provided a unique way for businesses to support and recognise both their customers and the community as a whole. Over the years our prestigious Awards programs have received thousands of nominations and celebrated hundreds of inspirational Australians.

PARTNER WITH US

Are you looking for an innovative and fun way to grow your business that aligns with your values and will enable you to form a deeper connection with your community?

Awards Australia are currently seeking partners for a variety of Awards programs run in every state and territory of Australia. Find out more today – come and speak to us tonight or contact Josh Griffin, Partnership Manager on 0413 020 552 or email josh@awardsaustralia.com



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AWARD CATEGORY PARTNERS



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