

**RURAL
HEALTH
WEST**



**DOCTORS' SERVICE
AWARDS 2017**

**Doctors' Service
Awards 2017**
SOUVENIR BOOKLET

Sponsored by



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Message from the Governor

Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC Governor of Western Australia

I was delighted to have the opportunity to attend the Rural Health West Doctors' Service Awards Night and Gala Dinner on Saturday 8 April 2017. I was moved and inspired by the many stories of outstanding service.

Rural doctors are vitally important to the liveability and sustainability of our country towns, and make a highly valued contribution to the communities in which they practise. Rural communities recognise the importance of a local doctor who is willing to take up the challenge to practise what is often complex and diverse health care. The reward can be to see what they have achieved.

Congratulations also to Rural Health West on their support of rural and remote health services and their role in ensuring award recipients are recognised.

On behalf of the people of Western Australia, I extend my warmest congratulations to the 2017 recipients and commend them for their dedicated service to our rural and remote communities. I also extend my thanks to their spouses, families and those who have provided support to them in their important role in the communities in which they live or work.

Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC
Governor of Western Australia

Message from awards sponsor

Mr Richard Goyder AO Managing Director, Wesfarmers

With its origins as a farmers cooperative more than 100 years ago, Wesfarmers' history is steeped in the regional Western Australian community. Now, although Wesfarmers has grown to include businesses right across Australia in a broad cross-sector of industries, we continue to recognise that to have a healthy business you must have strong, vibrant communities in which to live and work.

Doctors and health professionals play an important role in underpinning the wellbeing and sustainability of all our local communities, and Wesfarmers is proud to recognise the invaluable contribution of doctors in rural areas through the Rural Health West Doctors' Service Awards. On behalf of the nearly 25,000 employees living and working in Western Australia, I congratulate the 2017 recipients of the Awards and thank them and all those nominated for their dedication.

Mr Richard Goyder AO
Managing Director, Wesfarmers

Acknowledgement from the Chairman

Mr Grant Woodhams Chairman, Rural Health West

Rural Health West is pleased to once again acknowledge the outstanding efforts of doctors working in rural and remote Western Australia through the presentation of the Doctors' Service Awards 2017.

On behalf of Rural Health West, I would like to congratulate all 2017 award recipients. This year we are delighted to present Dr Stephen Langford with Rural Health West Life Membership in recognition of his dedication to improving the lives of people living in rural Western Australia.

We would also like to thank the families of our rural doctors. Their continued support ensures that regional communities have access to sustained quality health care.

Finally, Rural Health West would like to acknowledge the generous support of our major awards sponsors – Wesfarmers and Qantas.

Mr Grant Woodhams
Chairman, Rural Health West

Rural Health West Life Membership

Dr Stephen Langford

As a young doctor with a pilot's licence, Stephen Langford's first taste of rural medicine came when he headed to Port Hedland with the Royal Flying Doctor Service in the early 1980s to indulge his love of emergency medicine and aviation. What started as a year-long adventure became a lifetime's work.

Over the intervening decades, Dr Langford has played an enormous role in shaping the rural health sector in Western Australia through his work as doctor, medical director and Rural Health West Board member.

Dr Langford initially joined the Board of the Western Australian Centre for Remote and Rural Medicine in 2006, and remained a Board member as it transitioned to Rural Health West, only retiring in October 2015.

During Dr Langford's years as a Director of the Rural Health West Board, the organisation successfully championed the establishment of the Rural Generalist Pathway, introduced GP proceduralist mentoring programs and created a dedicated GP recruitment service; initiatives which align closely with Dr Langford's aspiration to ensure that people living in remote communities can access quality medical care.

Dr Langford is one of rural health's true champions, and the Rural Health West Board is proud to recognise his incredible accomplishments with this Life Membership.





The Award for Extraordinary Contribution to Outreach Services

Dr Steven Lai

Dr Lai has performed surgeries at Narrogin, Merredin and Katanning hospitals for more than 20 years. With a caring, compassionate nature, Dr Lai has ensured countless Wheatbelt residents have been able to access vital surgeries close to home.

The Award for Remote and Clinically Challenging Medicine

Dr Olga Ward

Dr Ward has cared for patients living in Bruce Rock, Merredin, Narembeen and Westonia for 15 years. Each week, Dr Ward flies her plane 'Pinky' between these rural locations in the Eastern Wheatbelt to provide family medicine, women's health clinics, minor surgeries and emergency cover.





The Award for Remote and Clinically Challenging Medicine

Dr Susan Downes

Dr Downes has cared for remote Aboriginal communities for several decades. Currently working as part of the Rural Women's GP Service, Dr Downes visits Jigalong, Punmu, Parngurr and Kunawarritji to ensure Aboriginal women have access to culturally appropriate health care. She is known for tailoring her care to meet the needs of her patients, often speaking with them at creek beds and swimming holes.

The Award for Outstanding Service to Rural and Remote Health

Dr Alison Turner

Dr Turner has made a tireless contribution to communities in the Southwest. In addition to caring for the people of Manjimup, Dr Turner provides clinics in Northcliffe and Pemberton to ensure people living in these communities have regular access to a doctor. Dr Turner is known for being extremely approachable, keen to help, and for volunteering at community events.





The Award for Above and Beyond – Community First

Dr Siew-Lee Thoo

Dr Thoo is recognised for her work in supporting many Aboriginal people throughout the Kimberley, including Derby, Kununurra, Warmun, Kalumburu and Oombulgurri Aboriginal communities. She is also known for being supportive of her colleagues and is committed to medical education.

The Award for Above and Beyond – Community First

Dr John Rosser Davies

Dr Davies has been instrumental in many initiatives to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of the local Manjimup community. His contributions include the Arch to Arch fun run, the PROBE initiative to encourage people to support new drivers get more experience behind the wheel, and the RISK program to show adolescents the impact of drug and alcohol on driving ability.



Award recipient of 50 or more years of service to rural and remote communities of Western Australia

Dr James Bowie

Dr Bowie has spent half a decade working in rural medicine in Western Australia and is the inaugural recipient of the 50 Year Rural Service Award. Dr Bowie received his medical degree in Glasgow in 1958 where he spent time in obstetrics and gynaecology, lecturing, and even travelled as a ship surgeon from Liverpool to Japan.

His first taste of Australian rural practice was in Port Hedland in 1966, where he was the Senior – and sometimes only – Medical Officer. His time there involved travelling with the Royal Flying Doctor Service and flying out to visit quarantine ships with the local harbour master.

Dr Bowie moved south to Manjimup/Bridgetown with wife Elizabeth in 1975, where he has worked ever since. “I came to Australia as I wanted a farm. I have one now and hope that when I retire from medical practice I can help my very hard-working wife Lizzie with the farmwork. I could not have kept the farm going without her,” Dr Bowie said.





Award recipient of
40 or more years
of service to rural
and remote
communities of
Western Australia

Dr Jane James

Dr James has operated her own surgery in Denmark since 1976 and provided clinics at Walpole in 2009 and 2010. She supported the local emergency department for many years and her work in obstetrics saw her deliver many, many local babies.

Award recipient of 40 or more years of service to rural and remote communities of Western Australia

Dr Basudeb Saharay

Dr Saharay has cared for the people of Collie since he first moved to the area in 1976 – as a GP and also providing obstetric, surgical and emergency services at the local hospital. While he initially planned a short stay, he and his wife settled, enjoyed the town and the job and ultimately became long-term residents.





Award recipient of
40 or more years
of service to rural
and remote
communities of
Western Australia

Dr May Ure

Dr Ure has cared for Great Southern communities since 1985, prior to which she worked in the Wheatbelt and as a locum GP. Her favourite aspects of rural practice include caring for families, her prior work in obstetrics and now caring for her long-time patients, many of whom she considers 'old friends.'

Award recipients of 40 or more years of service to rural and remote communities of Western Australia who were unable to attend

Dr Thomas Jones

Dr Jones has worked as a GP in Bridgetown since 1972 and also provides emergency care at the local hospital. He also provides clinics in Greenbushes, and previously provided clinics in Nannup.

Dr Gary Mincham

Dr Mincham has cared for the health of people living in Bunbury since he first moved to the area in 1971. He has a particular interest in aged care, pain relief and dermatology.

Dr Kim Tee Ong

Dr Ong has cared for the health of people living in regional and rural Western Australia since 1974 when he worked in the Wheatbelt town of Bruce Rock for five years. In 1979, he started work in Mandurah, where he remained until his recent retirement.

Award recipients of 30 or more years of service to rural and remote communities of Western Australia

Dr Kevin Christianson

Dr Christianson has provided care to the people of Northam for more than 30 years.

Dr Christine Hartley

Dr Hartley has worked in the Bunbury area since 1999 and previously provided care in Pemberton.

Dr Matthew Hodge

Dr Hodge has worked at Southern Medical Group since the early 1980s and also spent a period of time working as a roving locum supporting other rural doctors.

Dr Hugh Leslie

Dr Leslie has had an extensive rural career, initially at Nickol Bay Hospital, then Derby Hospital and Exmouth Health Service. He has worked as a GP in Kondinin, Kulin, Hyden and also as a roving locum.

Dr James Murray

Dr Murray has supported the Geraldton community for many years, initially running his own practice and now as part of Panaceum Medical.

Dr Susan Shaw

Dr Shaw has supported the Great Southern communities of Gnowangerup and Tambellup since the late 1980s. She has also worked as a roving locum for nearly 20 years supporting other rural doctors.

Dr Gary Tapper

Dr Tapper has cared for the health of people living in Busselton since he first moved to the area in 1987. He elected to be a rural doctor as he wanted to provide cradle to grave care.

Dr William Walker

Dr Walker has worked at Mandurah Medical Practice since 1986 and also provides medical care at Nidjalla Waangan Mia Health Centre.



Pictured, from left: Dr Gary Tapper, Dr Susan Shaw, Dr Matthew Hodge and Dr William Walker.
Absent: Dr Kevin Christianson, Dr Christine Hartley, Dr Hugh Leslie and Dr James Murray.





Award recipients of 20 or more years of service to rural and remote communities of Western Australia

Pictured, from left: Dr Marie Fox,
Dr Cathryn Milligan, Dr Sally Edmonds,
Dr Michael Massey, Dr Noreen Parshad,
Dr Anne Richards.

Absent: Dr Craig Drummond.

2017 award recipients

Life membership

Dr Stephen Langford

Special awards

Dr John Rosser Davies

Dr Siew-Lee Thoo

Dr Susan Downes

Dr Alison Turner

Dr Steven Lai

Dr Olga Ward

50 or more years of service to rural and remote communities of Western Australia

Dr James Bowie

40 or more years of service to rural and remote communities of Western Australia

Dr Jane James

Dr Basudeb Saharay

Dr Thomas Jones

Dr Kim Tee Ong

Dr Gary Mincham

Dr May Ure

30 or more years of service to rural and remote communities of Western Australia

Dr Kevin Christianson

Dr James Murray

Dr Christine Hartley

Dr Susan Shaw

Dr Matthew Hodge

Dr Gary Tapper

Dr Hugh Leslie

Dr William Walker

20 or more years of service to rural and remote communities of Western Australia

Dr Craig Drummond

Dr Cathryn Milligan

Dr Sally Edmonds

Dr Noreen Parshad

Dr Marie Fox

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