

Media Release

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2016 Great South West Dairy Award winners announced in gala ceremony

The 2016 Great South West Dairy Awards were celebrated in style last night with a gala evening at Deakin University Warrnambool.

With seven major award categories presented and the annual Honour Board additions, the Great South West Dairy Awards recognize the outstanding contribution made by farmers across all aspects of the dairy industry.

WestVic Dairy Regional Manager Lindsay Ferguson expressed his admiration for all finalists and the wider dairy industry.

"The Dairy Awards celebrate the good days and the strength, resilience and humour it takes to get through the not so good ones. In a small way, the Awards recognise these efforts and the resourceful people that contribute to this multi-billion industry in south west Victoria".

Mr Ferguson also thanked the many generous sponsors who supported the event this year. "Without the amazing contribution of our event sponsors this event would not be as successful in recognizing the outstanding achievements of our finalists".

More than 260 farmers, service providers, VIP's and dairy industry figures attended the ceremony including: The Hon Dan Tehan, Member for Wannon; Roma Britnell, Member for South West Coast; Richard Riordan, Member for Polwarth; Simon Ramsay, Member for Western Victoria Region; mayors of Corangamite and Warrnambool councils; as well as Dairy Australia's Managing Director Ian Halliday. The evening provided farmers with an opportunity to socialize, network and celebrate the many great achievements in the dairy industry over the past 12 months.

ACE RADIO'S Don Plenty announced the following winners in each category:

- **Dairy Australia Farm Business Manager of the Year-** Stephen and Tania Luckin, Heywood
- **Devondale Murray Goulburn Employee of the Year-** Jamie Corbo, Orford
- **Gardiner Foundation Employer of the Year-** Brendan Rea, Allansford
- **Cowbank/Farmpath Share Farmer of the Year-** Shaun and Kelly Beard, Jancourt East
- **WestVic Dairy Farm Photo of the Year-** Sean Lenehan, Nullawarre
- **Honour Board-** Julian Benson and Kerry Callow
- **Westpac Agribusiness Banking Young Farm Leader Award-** Simon Gleeson, Brucknell
- **WestVic Dairy Natural Resource Management and Sustainability Award-** Bryan and Joanne Dickson, Terang

"It makes everyone at WestVic Dairy very proud to be a part of an industry that displays such passion, depth of skill, and commitment. I'd particularly like to pay respect to the farmers who work within it to make it as successful as it is." Mr Ferguson said.

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WestVic Dairy is a not for profit regional development program (RDP) led by western Victorian dairy farmers. WestVic Dairy is funded by Dairy Australia and the Dairy Service levy and supported by regional stakeholders.