



Your Levy at Work

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR DAIRY AWARDS**

A farming couple effective and proactive in their employment systems have won the top dairy industry award in south-west Victoria.

Peter and Fiona Musson were last night (April 19) named Employer of the Year at the Great South West Dairy Awards.

The winners announced at Glenormiston College were:

Ambleside Wealth Advisers Employer of the Year: Peter and Fiona Musson, Macarthur;

Dairy Australia Employee of the Year: Andrew Schulz, Glenfyne, runner up Nicole Fleming, honourable mention Mal Nakora;

Murray Goulburn Share Farmer of the Year: Lachie and Rebecca Sutherland, Larpent; runner up Matt and Lori van der Hulst, Naroghid;

Glenelg Hopkins/Corangamite CMA Natural Resource and Sustainability Manager of the Year: Reggie and Tania Davis, Tesbury, runner-up James Reynolds, encouragement award Craig and Sophie Bennett, Simpson;

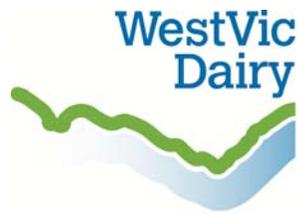
Moyne Shire Young Farm Leader of the Year: David O'Connell, Koroit, Susan Rea, Warrnambool;

Gardiner Foundation Dairy Farm Photo of the Year: Mick Frankcombe, of Koroit, runner up Teena Lawrence, of Kirkstall, and special mention Justin Nowell, of Grassmere.

Across all categories there were 65 nominations, plus more than 60 photos entered in the best farm photo competition.

During the awards ceremony, two new nominations, Anne Adams and Shirley Harlock, were announced for the Western Victorian Dairy Industry Honour Board

Judges said Peter and Fiona Musson "know and understand their staff".



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“They acknowledge and support the variance in personalities and work ethics. Peter and Fiona’s supporting documentation and integration into their farming systems are evident, extensive and continually effective in the progress of their staff and their business.”

Andrew Schulz returned to the industry after owning his own farm in northern Victoria which he lost during the drought. “To return to the industry and continue working and achieving outstanding results as an employee is a credit to him,” judges said.

He has doubled production in four years, achieves his set goals and has a very positive relationship with his employers.

NRM and sustainability managers Craig and Tanya Davis have travelled to New Zealand and Holland to investigate alternative farming methods. Over the past five years their farm has moved to an effluent management system where solid wastes are used in a composting system and liquid waste in a carefully managed irrigation system. The changes have led to reductions in water and fertiliser use and to a variety of beneficial effects for the land.

Share farmers Lachie and Rebecca Sutherland demonstrate a clear understanding of their business system, have a good relationship with owners and are flexible to change as required, according to the judges. They were praised for their good attention to detail and best management practices.

Young farm leader David O’Connell was described by judges as a young person who has shown great leadership as president of the Warrnambool Branch of UDV and as a highly regarded member of the YDDP.

“He is not short of vision, thinks things through, considers what needs to be done and does it and has great maturity,” the judges said.

The best farm photo was a black and white panoramic shot taken by Mick Frankcombe.

Judges said the entry combined “the new with the old” with a wind farm in the background and cows in the paddock in the foreground.

“It could take pride of place in a dairy plant or a wind farm office,” the judge said.

Second place was won by Teena Lawrence and Justin Nowell received a special mention.

The awards were presented before a sell-audience of nearly 330 people. This was the eighth time the awards have been presented.



Dairy  
Australia

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