

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Rural communities get \$50,000 to celebrate rural health

Tasmanian rural communities have been awarded a share of \$50,000 in community grants to support health and wellbeing activities during Rural Health Week.

Rural Health Week takes place 9 - 15 November 2009.

More than 20 Rural Health Week Regional Planning Groups will receive up to \$2,500 each in grants to support local health and wellbeing activities during the Week.

Mr Stuart Auckland, Chair of the Rural Health Week State Planning Committee and Acting Co- Director of the University Department of Rural Health (UDRH), said the response from rural communities has been overwhelming.

“The activities planned all have a strong primary health care focus and will involve local health care workers, council employees and local schools,” said Mr Auckland.

“The key messages of Rural Health Week are evident in the variety of activities that are currently being planned.”

The diverse activities include a ‘Rural Health and Wellbeing Expo’ in Huonville, ‘Cycling and Walking for Fun Day’ on Flinders Island, ‘FarmFest’ in Scottsdale and a ‘Big Day In’ for students at Lilydale School.

One of the highlights of Rural Health Week is the Rural Health Awards which recognise local champions in health.

Communities are encouraged to nominate health workers, individuals and groups, whose work has made a significant difference to the health and wellbeing of people in their community.

The closing date for nominations is 31 August 2009 and the announcement of the finalists will be presented on 15 November 2009 at a gala ceremony at the Grand Chancellor Hotel in Launceston.

For interviews and further information:

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