



MEDIA RELEASE

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BUSH CHAMPIONS RECOGNISE WORLD CLASS ENTERPRISES IN REGIONAL VICTORIA

An automatic bin cleaner, a highly-profitable commercial pig farm and environmentally-friendly urban designer are among seven regional Victorian enterprises shortlisted for a prestigious award recognizing business innovation in the bush.

The Champions of the Bush is a group of prominent regional Australian businesses that promote the needs and causes of rural Australia. Part of this promotion is via its annual Spirit of Entrepreneurship Award, which will be presented at a gala dinner in Narbethong, Victoria, on Friday 25 March 2011.

Champions of the Bush Chairman Dr Greg Walsh said the Spirit of Entrepreneurship was created to recognize and reward entrepreneurship and innovation – to shine the spotlight on businesses based in rural areas that had been willing to ‘have a go’, take a risk – with marked success.

“The Spirit of Entrepreneurship is a celebration of ingenuity and business leadership amongst regional enterprises. We have nominees that have found success after having a go, taking a chance on an idea, a dream or a need they’ve identified. And all that have done so from regional locations across Victoria”

The finalists in this year’s award are:

- The Pig Pen

A Euroa commercial pig farm that has utilised innovative farming and business practices to secure market share and have positive environmental impact.

FreshBins

- A Warrnambool-based company that is breaking new ground by using custom-designed and constructed robotics to clean household and commercial bins, without hurting the environment. Their custom-made robotics are now gaining world-wide attention.

The Australian Turntable Company

- An enterprise from Kangaroo Flat that constructs turntables for world-wide use in revolving restaurants, space-poor residential garages and trucking depots

Kinross Farm

- This Kinglake commercial egg farm produces more than 3.5 million eggs a week for use across several Australian markets, including retail of free-range eggs and pharmaceutical research. It’s innovative practices and progressive business plan have seen the business continue to succeed in spite of losses suffered in the Black Saturday bushfires.

North East Survey Design

- A Wangaratta urban design firm that is bucking the trend in a conservative market with environmentally-friendly design and dynamic business networking practices.

SafeTech Pty Ltd

- The manufacturer of materials handling equipment, based in Moe. Materials created at this Moe plant are used world wide for the transport and handling of freight and warehouse items.

Dr Walsh said every finalist represented an impressive level of dedication and passion for business in regional areas.

“These finalists show that a regional address is certainly no barrier to world-class innovation. The majority of these people have returned to the country from the city to foster their dream and create world-leading approaches in their industry.”

The winner of the Spirit of Entrepreneurship will receive a grant to fund study in a field that will further their business’s success.

The Champions of the Bush will also recognize the Marysville and District Chamber of Commerce and volunteer fencebuilding organization Blazeaid for their efforts in restoring local communities following the Black Saturday bushfires and the recent floods suffered across Australia’s eastern seaboard.

“Our aim is to highlight and promote the distinctive culture of ‘self-help’ and ‘self-reliance’ that underpins regional Victorian communities,” Dr Walsh said.

The Champions of the Bush 2011 Spirit of Entrepreneurship Award will be held at the Black Spur Inn, Narbethong, on 25 March 2011 from 7pm.

Release Ends

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