

Friday 18 October

Spoons Riverside, Swan Hill

2013

**MEDIA RELEASE**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2013**INNOVATORS REQUIRED: Spirit of Entrepreneurship Nominations Now Open**

Nominations are now being sought from regional Australian businesses displaying innovation and ingenuity for the Champions of the Bush, 'Spirit of Entrepreneurship Awards 2013.'

The Awards, now in their 6th year, aim to promote and celebrate entrepreneurship and business leadership among enterprises located throughout regional Australia.

Key criteria for the awards are regionally-based businesses and individuals employing less than 300 effective full time employees, who have found success after having a go and taking a chance on an idea, a dream or a need.

Victorian Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, The Hon. Peter Walsh MP, will present the award at a gala dinner to be held on Friday October 18<sup>th</sup> at Spoons Riverside in Swan Hill.

Champions of the Bush Chairman, Dr Greg Walsh, said the awards provide an opportunity for small business operators in rural and regional areas to be properly recognised.

"These smaller organisations deserve the same level of recognition as their counterparts in capital cities and larger regional areas. The Spirit of Entrepreneurship Awards is a celebration of this success and highlights the ingenuity and leadership shown throughout these areas.

"The aim of these awards is to promote the culture of self-help and self-reliance that is a hallmark of our wonderful regional areas."

Champions of the Bush is a group of businesses and organisations that operate proudly in regional Australia with members 'champions' in their own right, and committed to championing the cause of regional and rural Australia.

The organisation was formed in 2002 and has brought together individuals and businesses that are passionate in their commitment to rural and regional areas. Members have made a major investment in the country, both personally and financially, and are committed to sustainable regional development.

Entries for the award will close on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 5pm and entry forms can be found at [www.championsofthebush.com.au](http://www.championsofthebush.com.au).

Further information can be gained via email at [info@championsofthebush.org.au](mailto:info@championsofthebush.org.au) or by phoning 03 55615746.

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