

Tuesday 15 May 2012

## **BAIRNSDALE SETS PACE FOR REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

Member for Morwell Russell Northe today called for nominations for the 2012 *Regional Achievement & Community Awards*.

Representing Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional and Rural Development Peter Ryan, Mr Northe said the *Regional Achievement & Community Awards* was an annual event that the regional community looked forward to with great anticipation.

“These awards, which began in 2002, recognise the contribution of many organisations, communities and individuals and last year we saw 300 nominations received from across the state,” Mr Northe said.

Mr Northe said Regional Development Victoria would continue its long support of the awards, with the sponsorship of two categories.

“Regional Development Victoria has provided \$31,000 to sponsor the *Regional Business Achievement Award* and the *Regional Trade and Career Achievement Award*,” Mr Northe said.

“The *Regional Business Achievement Award* acknowledges successful businesses that are making a significant contribution to regional and rural Victoria, while the *Regional Trade and Career Achievement Award* will promote individuals who are enthusiastically pursuing a trade or career.”

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional and Rural Development Peter Ryan said the awards were an important form of recognition for hard work, innovation and dedication.

“The awards cover eight main categories highlighting success in areas including business, environment, participation, leadership and innovation,” Mr Ryan said.

“Through the *Regional Achievement & Community Awards* we learn about the many passionate and committed individuals and groups that make up regional and rural communities and the fabulous contribution they are making to our state.”

The 2012 Regional Achievement & Community Awards will be presented in Bendigo on 13 October.

Nominations close on Tuesday 17 July. For more information about awards categories and nominations visit: [http://www.awardsaustralia.com/RACA\\_vic.html](http://www.awardsaustralia.com/RACA_vic.html)