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MEDIA RELEASE

WEDNESDAY 18th MARCH 2009

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF REGIONAL SUCCESS

SA Great will celebrate ten years of South Australian regional successes at a cocktail event held on April 17th 2009 at Westpac House in Adelaide.

Past winners from the last ten years will be attending the event as well as South Australian media and sponsors of SA Great's Regional Awards program.

The Hon Paul Caica MP, Minister for Regional Development, will be one of several guest speakers at the event and will outline how SA Great's Regional Awards has successfully promoted country South Australia. Previous winners will also speak about how the award has benefited them and how they have built on their successes.

Twenty-two previous winners will also be added to the Regional Awards Hall of Fame, which recognises those who have received three or more awards in the past ten years.

SA Great CEO, Ms Nikki Seymour-Smith, said the event was a fantastic opportunity to instil regional pride by promoting local achievements and recognising their dedication toward regional development.

"SA Great has awarded so many inspiring individuals, community groups and businesses over the last ten years. This event provides a great opportunity to bring them together and remind South Australians of the excellence amongst our regional communities," said Ms Seymour-Smith.

The celebrations will also coincide with the opening of nominations for the 2009 SA Great Regional Awards.

"This event is a great way to launch the opening of nominations for the 2009 Awards – being the ten year anniversary of the Awards we are expecting a record number of nominations and entries in 2009," said Ms Seymour-Smith.

Nominations are open to all regional South Australians who have demonstrated excellence in the categories of arts, business, innovation, community, sustainability, sport, tourism or youth. Winners are announced at the SA Great Regional Awards ceremonies held annually in eight different regions across country South Australia.

The SA Great Regional Awards are supported by Program Partner, the Government of South Australia – Department of Trade and Economic Development, Office of Regional Affairs, and Regional Partner, Regional Development South Australia.

KEY DATES FOR 2009 REGIONAL AWARDS

- 20th April – Nominations Open
- 29th May – Nominations Close/Entries Open
- 3rd July – Entries Close

REGIONAL AWARD CATEGORIES

- ETSA Utilities Arts Award
- Westpac Community Group Award
- Westpac Community Individual Award
- Department of Trade & Economic Development Innovation Award
- Australia Post Large Business Award
- Australia Post Small Business Award
- SA Water Sustainability Award
- Nippys Sport Award
- South Australian Tourism Commission Tourism Award
- Adelaide Showground Youth Award

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