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MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 9PM WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER, 2009

AND THE WINNERS ARE... 2009 SA Great "Murray & Mallee" Regional Awards

SA Great has announced the winners of the 2009 "Murray & Mallee" Regional Awards.

A youth theatre, a cyclist and a wine centre were just a few of the 2009 winners announced at the Pretoria Hotel in Mannum last night.

(Please see below for full list of winners)

The ceremony, hosted by Coast FM's Chris Carpenter, was a glamorous occasion with much of the Murray and Mallee community on show to congratulate all winners and commendations.

SA Great CEO, Nikki Seymour-Smith, said all the winners and commendations from the Murray and Mallee had shown a great deal of expertise in their given fields.

"Picking the winners from this region was not an easy task. The winners and commendations from the Murray and Mallee were truly deserving of this accolade and all displayed amazing community spirit," Ms Seymour-Smith said.

"The Pike River Woolshed is a fantastic example of the success stories to come from this region. The business won the innovation award for its environmental practices that will create environmentally sustainable tourism for the region.

"SA Great would like to congratulate everybody that entered the Awards from the Murray and Mallee region. This region's winners are prime examples of the talent that exists in South Australia's regional communities."

The SA Great Regional Award winners had to demonstrate excellence in various categories as well as a commitment to furthering community pride and confidence in the Murray and Mallee region.

Nikki Seymour-Smith also emphasised the importance of regional communities continuing their support of the SA Great Regional Awards.

“It is vital that we acknowledge our regional achievers and that the wider South Australian community is aware of these successes,” said Ms Seymour-Smith.

“The winners from the Murray and Mallee region have demonstrated fantastic commitment to their region and South Australia in general.”

SA Great Regional Award winner’s achievements will be publicly recognised through their promotion in SA Great’s broader programs and the media. In acknowledgement of their achievements, winners will also receive honorary SA Great regional membership for 2010, an invitation to the Awards celebration event in 2010 and a Glass Pear Trophy, hand made by the Jam Factory.

ETSA Utilities Arts Award

Winner – Riverland Youth Theatre – Wireless Voices

Australia Post Small Business Award

Winner – Murraylands Training & Employment Association of South Australia Incorporated

Australia Post Large Business Award

Winner - T & R Pastoral

Commendation – Adelaide Mushrooms

Westpac Community Group Award

Winner – Morgan Cadell Community Transport Service

Commendation – Waikerie Events 21 Inc

Westpac Community Individual Award

Winner – Anthony and Rachel Hartwell

Commendation – Denise McLoughlin

Department of Trade and Economic Development Innovation Award

Winner – Pike River Woolshed

Sustainability Award

Winner – Banrock Station Wine & Wetland Centre

Nippy’s Sport Award

Winner – Matthew Benson

Commendation – Loxton High School

South Australian Tourism Commission Tourism Award

Winner – Swan Reach and Districts Museum

Adelaide Showground Youth Award

Winner – Jeremy Schutz

Commendation – Danielle Cara Catanzariti

For more information on this year's winners including photo requests from the ceremony, please contact Patrick Anderson or Renee Jones from SA Great on 8211 8111.

Program partner, the Government of South Australia – Department of Trade and Economic Development - Office of Regional Affairs, and regional partner, Regional Development South Australia, support the SA Great Regional Awards.

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