



For immediate release

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### WIMMERA CHAIRMAN NAMED VICTORIAN RACING'S SPECIAL ACHIEVER

Wimmera Racing Club Chairman Lance Huebner's lifelong contribution to the Victorian Racing Industry was recognised on Saturday when he was awarded the prestigious Country Racing Victoria Special Achievement Award.

The award was announced at the Victorian Thoroughbred Racing Awards at Crown Casino's Palladium Ballroom on Saturday night where Lance was in illustrious company. Other Awards presented on the night included the Scobie Breasley Medal for the State's leading jockey, once again won by Craig Williams, the Fred Hoysted Award for the most outstanding achievement by a trainer, again won by David Hayes, and the Victorian Horse of the Year award which was taken out by racing's latest superstar Weekend Hussler.

Lance has been a committed and passionate racing administrator for 35 years. He was elected to the Committees of the Warracknabeal and Sheep Hills Turf Clubs in 1973 after returning from the Army and became Vice President of the Sheep Hills Club in 1974 and Warracknabeal in 1976.

In 1990 Lance was elected President of the Warracknabeal Turf Club and occupied that position until the Club became a foundation member of the Wimmera Racing Club in 1998. He was an inaugural Director of the new club and in 2004 became the second Chairman to lead Australia's first regional racing club, after Shane Wall of Donald.

Lance has witnessed enormous change in the Victorian Racing Industry in his time and has shown a remarkable ability to fight for the place of the small country race track while adapting to the changing nature of the modern Industry. His commitment to the Wimmera Racing model in the face of much opposition from inside and outside of the region has been instrumental in the ongoing viability of racing in the Wimmera.

"Lance has been a tireless and selfless advocate for thoroughbred racing in the Wimmera and beyond and he has left a lasting impression on all of us who've had the pleasure of working with him over the years" said Matthew Hall, Wimmera Racing Club's Racing & Events Manager.

The selfless volunteerism that has been the hallmark of Lance's involvement with country racing is the heart and soul of any sporting or community organisation. "Lance's passion is second to none in my time in country racing", said Jamie McGuinness, Country Racing Victoria's Business Development Manger.

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