

Cloncurry and Oakey docs take top medico awards

CLONCURRY GP and Rural Doctors Association of Australia president Dr Sheilagh Cronin has been awarded life membership of the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland.

A former president of RDAQ, Dr Cronin was recognized by her peers and industry colleagues at a gala dinner in Mackay on Sunday night to conclude the organisation's annual conference.

Life membership of the RDAQ is the highest accolade of the State's peak rural doctors' group, according to president Dr Sue Masel, Goondiwindi.

"Sheilagh is a great communicator and very well respected in the medical community and also with politicians and bureaucrats," Dr Masel said.

"She is an exceptional advocate for our colleagues who have completed training overseas and immigrated to Australia. She has always been a clear voice for general practice."

Originally from the UK, Dr Cronin came to Australia in 1985, before dedicating her professional career to rural medicine.

RDAQ also acknowledged former president and Oakey GP Dr John Hall with its highly prized 'Legend of the Bush' award, a rare honour bestowed on members who have provided longstanding service to the organization and its ethos of providing first class advocacy for rural doctors to improve health outcomes in the bush.

Immediate RDAQ past president Dr Adam Coltzau, St George, said Dr Hall's energy and drive had helped propel RDAQ to the forefront of rural advocacy for nearly two decades.

"Some people liken him to the energizer bunny on steroids," he said. "When you are taking up the battle to improve medical services in the bush he's the bloke you want to have with you in the trenches. He's also a larger than life character and a good mate."

Other major award winners were:

Ms Sandra Corfield, CEO Central Qld Division of General Practice

Ms Natalie Taylor, Manager Medical Training, Cunningham Centre, Toowoomba.

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Supporting Rural Doctors and Rural Communities