

**Wednesday 6 November 2013**

## **Victorian rural doctor receives national accolade for dedication to his community**

The peak national gathering of rural doctors gave a standing ovation when Victorian rural doctor, Dr John Menzies, was last Saturday night recognised for his outstanding advocacy and medical service to the Camperdown community.

The Peter Graham ‘Cohuna’ Award<sup>1</sup> is made by the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) and the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA), which jointly hosted Rural Medicine Australia 2013 in Cairns, attracting 750 delegates.

ACRRM President, Professor Richard Murray, told the conference that Dr Menzies began to practise in Camperdown in 1978 after working as a junior doctor in the Navy, then training in procedural obstetrics at the Royal Women’s Hospital in Melbourne.

“John Menzies is an exemplar of the rural generalist, providing a wide range of community and hospital services including obstetrics, anaesthetics and emergency care” Professor Murray said.

“John has played a key role in ensuring that the people of Camperdown and surrounding towns have continued to have local access to obstetric and other procedural services, despite the frequent closure of small hospital obstetric services across rural Victoria over the past three decades.

“It is this commitment to the health and safety of his community, to providing quality medical services that people in cities take for granted, which qualifies him for the national honour of the Peter Graham ‘Cohuna’ Award.”

Professor Murray said that Dr Menzies has also been a dedicated teacher and mentor of junior doctors and medical students, and has been involved in all the major initiatives in rural medical education over the past two to three decades.

---

### **More information:**

Tony Urquhart  
Coordinator—Marketing and Communication  
Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine  
07 3105 8200

---

<sup>1</sup> This national award honours the memory of Dr Peter Graham AO, who dedicated almost 50 years’ service to the Victorian community of Cohuna and passed away in 2008, aged 80.