



## WYCHE'S WINNERS

Wycheproof residents celebrate their crowning as the Community Group of the Year.  
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### WINNERS HONOURED

# A Vision to lead



By MICHELLE AINSWORTH

A BUS travelling from Ballarat to Wycheproof was rocking on Saturday night as Wycheproof Vision community group returned home.

The members were surprised and elated after winning the Prime Super Community Group of the Year Award at the Regional Achievement and Community Awards.

The award recognised the group's efforts to promote the Mallee town and help sustain its future amid drought.

President Ann Durie said the award would spur the group on to achieve more for the community.

"We are so excited, we cannot

believe that we have actually won, because we are such a small town that we just can't believe we've done this well," Ms Durie said.

Committee member Kylie Brown said the award would help energise the town.

"It will give us renewed energy which is always important, it just acknowledges all the hard work that's been going on for the past few years, particularly with the drought in our community," Ms Brown said.

The 9th annual Regional Achievement and Community awards celebrated regional Victoria's community and industry leaders across eight categories.

Winners included family-owned businesses, a student newspaper and inspirational community members.

The Parks Victoria Regional Achiever Award was won by Dr Doris Paton of Morwell for her work as a teacher, particularly within the Aboriginal community.

Ms Paton said she was humbled by the award.

"My parents have brought us up thinking it's not what you do but how we give back, and how we have a responsibility to give back, as educators, to our community," she said.

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**Humbled by the win:** Dr Doris Paton with her Regional Achiever award.  
 Pictures: YURI KOUZMIN

## THE WINNERS

- **Regional Development Victoria Trade and Career Achievement Award**  
 Elise Anderson of Castlemaine
- **Regional Development Victoria Business Achievement Award**  
 Wilson Transformer Company of Wodonga
- **RACV free2go Youth Community Involvement Award**  
 Tallangatta Herald Team of Tallangatta
- **Fonterra Dairy Leadership Award**  
 Macalister Demonstration Farm of Riverslea
- **Parks Victoria Regional Achiever Award**  
 Dr Doris Paton of Morwell
- **Parks Victoria Environment and Sustainability Award**  
 RiverConnect of Shepparton
- **BlueScope Distribution Leadership and Innovation Award**  
 Kennedy Trailers of Bairnsdale
- **Prime Super Community Group of the Year Award**  
 Wycheproof Vision of Wycheproof



**All smiles:** Michael Vonthien accepts Wilson Transformer Company's award.