

Queer country honours all round

Written by Rachel Cook

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The Victorian AIDS Council and Joy 94.9 have taken home awards from the Country Awareness Network 2009 Community Partnerships Awards held last week.

The annual event publicly acknowledges organisations, businesses and individuals that have contributed towards supporting rural/regional communities affected by HIV, Hepatitis C and other blood borne viruses and sexually transmissible diseases.

The VAC was awarded the Community Sector Partner Award.

CAN's Adam Wright said the VAC has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to Victoria's rural communities.

"[The] VAC's support with resources and assistance with bringing peer education workshops to rural and regional areas in Victoria have been invaluable."

Joy 94.9 was presented the Media Community Partner Award.

"We greatly appreciate their [Joy 94.9] ongoing interest as demonstrated over the year by interviewing CAN staff and providing broadcasting information on rural activities and events," Wright said.

Wright also welcomed its new board, which included Constable Kerrie Davies from the Bendigo Police, who was recently appointed Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer for the Bendigo District.

In related news, two country Victorians have been selected as two of Australia's 14 Young Social Pioneers by the Foundation for Young Australians.

Jack Hegarty, 19, and Kat Etwell, 25, were selected for their work with the OUTthere Rural Victorian Youth Council for Sexual Diversity.