

2009 DPI Science Award Winners

The 2009 DPI Science Awards ceremony was held at the ANZ Pavilion, The Art Centre in Melbourne on Tuesday, 24 November, 2009.

The ceremony recognised the 2009 finalists and winners for their outstanding contributions to science and innovation for Victoria's primary industry sectors.

Hosted by Minister for Agriculture Joe Helper with ABC science journalist Bernie Hobbs as master of ceremonies the night was well attended with guests from partnering science, government and farming communities.

The four awards were presented by the Governor of Victoria Professor David de Kretser, DPI Chief Scientist Dr Graham Mitchell, Minister for Agriculture Joe Helper, Deputy Secretary for Agriculture and Fisheries Services Dr John Skerritt and Dr Ben Wadham.

DPI congratulates the following winners for 2009:

Hugh McKay Future Farming Award

2009 Winner: Vital Vegetables Marketing Partners

Vital Vegetables Marketing Partners (VVMP), comprising Houston Farms, Costa's Fresh Exchange, Perfection Fresh, Salad Fresh and Simplot Australia, and Clause Pacific receive the \$10,000 Hugh McKay Future Farming Award for their research, development, production and marketing of new novel vegetable products.

VVMP and Clause Pacific joined with their research partners to turn laboratory science into vegetables which deliver health benefits over and above currently available commercial products.

The first vegetable to be launched, 'Booster broccoli', has been naturally grown to be richer in beneficial nutrients and antioxidants, with follow up products now being developed.

The world-first breakthrough will enable the vegetable industry to produce higher value products which enhance the wellbeing of consumers in Victoria and around the world.

Nancy Millis Postgraduate Award

2009 Winner: Rebecca Darbyshire

Daniel McAlpine DPI Science Award

2009 Winner: Genomic Selection for Australian Dairy Cattle research team

Samuel Wadham DPI Practice Change Award

2009 Joint winners: 'The Break' Seasonal Climate Change project team

Best Wool/Best Lamb project team

