

Monday 25 May 2009



MEDIA RELEASE

BLUE RIBBON DEDICATION AT WIMMERA HEALTH CARE GROUP

The Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation will hold a dedication ceremony at Wimmera Health Care Group's emergency department this Friday.

The ceremony will honour the memory of Constable George Howell who passed away in the line of duty on 1 February 1952.

Chief executive of Wimmera Health Care Group, Mr Chris Scott said that the newly appointed Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police, Mr Simon Overland, would conduct the dedication ceremony.

"There is a strong partnership between the Blue Ribbon Foundation and Wimmera Health Care Group. This is an important milestone for both organisations and we are very pleased that Mr Overland is able to participate in the ceremony. We are also delighted that representatives from Constable Howell's family, including his sister Joyce, are able to attend" he said.

Since the local branch of the Blue Ribbon Foundation commenced two years ago in May 2007, they have raised approximately \$40,000 for Wimmera Health Care Group's emergency department.

President, Mr Les Power said that their fundraising efforts would be matched by the Blue Ribbon Foundation centrally.

"This means that Wimmera Health Care Group will receive a total of \$80,000 from the Blue Ribbon Foundation. These funds will enable the purchase vital lifesaving equipment for the resuscitation room in the emergency department" he said.

Community members are invited to the ceremony which will be held this Friday, 29th May at 11.00 a.m. at the front of the hospital. A light luncheon will follow.

Mr Power said that the dedication ceremony would provide an opportunity for people to honour the sacrifice made by Constable Howell, just one of the 150 Victoria Police members who have paid the ultimate price for the preservation of law and order in our community.

People wishing to attend the dedication ceremony on Friday are asked to RSVP to Wimmera Health Care Group on ph. 5381 9200 as soon as possible.

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