



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Monday, 14 May 2018**

## **CARISBROOK FOSTER PARENT A FINALIST IN POWER OF THE COUNTRY AWARDS**

A Carisbrook resident who has spent more than a decade fostering children is one of five finalists in this year's Power of the Country awards.

Elly Clark, with her husband Dale, has cared for foster children continuously for more than a decade.

At nearly 70 years old, Mrs Clark provides kids-in-care with her unconditional love and support, helping them build resilience and wellbeing in the face of adversity.

The Power of the Country awards, organised by electricity distribution business Powercor in partnership with Geelong and Essendon football clubs, acknowledges the selfless work individuals do for their community.

It's part of the AFL's Country Festival, which celebrates everything that is great about regional Victoria, the people and their communities.

The other finalists are:

- **Warrnambool resident Robert King**, who is part of a cycling group that raises money for local not-for-profit groups. This year he has helped raise \$18,000 for a service that supports primary and secondary children build resilience.
- **Berwick's Jack Thompson**, who collected 2610 pairs of sock and jocks in a single month for local organisation Clean as Casper. The organisation provides mobile shower facilities for people without a home.
- **Colac's Peter Hickey**, who has devoted much of his life to junior sport in the region and last year was granted life membership of the Otway district football/netball club for outstanding service to junior football.
- **Yarra Glen resident Robyn Davey**, an active community member who volunteers across multiple organisations.

General Manager, Corporate Affairs Melissa O'Neill congratulated the five finalists.

"We have built on the success of last year's awards and we were overwhelmed by the amazing nominations we received," Ms O'Neill said.

"As an organisation that operates across western Victoria, we understand the importance of having a strong community.

"Their work makes a real difference to country communities, and while they don't seek out these awards, we believe it's important to honour those who are often the backbone of the communities they live in."

The winner will receive a \$5000 individual prize and \$5000 for their chosen charity, and will be announced at this Saturday's Country Festival. The four runners up will be each awarded \$500.

**END**

**For a photo, or to arrange an interview, phone the Powercor media line on (03) 9683 4342**