



Media Release

June 14 2017

Rural docs honour Goondiwindi's marriage of medical minds

GOONDIWINDI husband and wife medicos Matt and Sue Masel have been recognised by their professional peers for long-standing meritorious service to rural health in Queensland.

Both originally from Brisbane, the Masels moved to Goondiwindi in 2001, where they've raised four children and built a busy medical practice as the co-owners of Goondiwindi Medical Centre.

The pair were honoured in Townsville on Saturday night by more than 300 of their medical colleagues and families during the closing event of the 28th annual Rural Doctors Association of Queensland (RDAQ) conference.

A former RDAQ president, Dr Sue Masel is hailed as an instrumental force in the reinvigoration of maternity services at Goondiwindi Hospital.

Doctors frequently call her a leader in the collaborative maternity service model, working with midwives in the community to provide holistic and sustainable ante and post-natal care. She continues to support the Goondiwindi birthing unit as a procedural GP obstetrician.

Dr Sue Masel said she was proud to share the stage with her husband while collecting the award.

"As rural doctors we don't do what we do for thanks and awards – we do it because it makes a real difference to the lives of the people we care for," she said.

"And nothing gives me more satisfaction than to be sharing this moment with my partner and to know that he's also being honoured by his peers."

While Dr Sue Masel has made her mark in the maternity ward, Dr Matt Masel has played a strong hand in giving birth to countless medical careers via his efforts as both a teacher and mentor to medical students and city-based clinicians seeking a 'tree-change' in rural medicine.

Architect of the highly successful Goondiwindi Medical Muster - an education program for medical staff on the Darling Downs, Dr Matt Masel is an accredited GP training supervisor, and teaches registrars at both the practice and local hospital.

He has also been a part time medical educator with both General Practice Training Queensland and Queensland Rural Medical Education.

When he's not formally teaching, Dr Matt Masel regularly welcomes both students and junior doctors into the family home, providing an opportunity to connect with families of their trainees and to deliver a taste of

country hospitality.

Dr Matt Masel said he drew inspiration not only from experienced, committed rural doctors, but also students, interns and registrars – any medical professional who had a desire to provide better care to country Queenslanders.

“I’ve always seen RDAQ as more of a family than an association, and I’m proud to be part of a group that knows what it’s like to slog it out for rural health day in-day out.”

RDAQ immediate past-president Dr Michael Rice, Beaudesert said that along with his wife Sue, Dr Matt Masel was a highly skilled procedural rural GP obstetrician, who has provided services to Goondiwindi Hospital, including after hours and emergency care.

“He is a caring and compassionate general practitioner,” he said.

Dr Rice also highlighted the advocacy work for better rural health that the Masels had committed to as RDAQ members for more than 15 years.

Dr Sue Masel was president of the organisation 2013-14 and remains an active member of the management committee.

“During her year as president she navigated through the storm of contract disputes within Queensland Health during the term of the Newman Government and strongly advocated, with success, to protect the hard won benefits and salaries of all rural public hospital doctors,” Dr Rice said.

More information:

IMAGES *high resolution image/s available from media@rdaq.com.au*

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