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**15 May 2009**

**POWERCOR AND CITIPOWER CELEBRATE  
AWARD WINNING EMPLOYEES**

Performance excellence among Powercor and CitiPower's future leaders will be celebrated at the Annual Apprentice and Trainee Awards this Friday, 15 May, at Mercure Ballarat Hotel.

The awards formally recognise the company's apprentices and trainees for dedication to their careers to date and their efforts in developing the skills necessary to earn nationally recognised qualifications in the electricity industry.

The awards and Powercor and CitiPower's commitment to workforce sustainability have maintained strength at a time when economic and employment conditions have been severely constrained.

This is reflected in the background stories of some of this year's winners who have moved across to the electricity industry from other professions seeking greater career prospects, better training opportunities and job security.

Among this year's winners are people who never expected to work in the power industry – these include a former photocopying technician, noodle factory worker and hardware store hand.

Powercor and CitiPower Apprentice and Trainee Coordinator, Steve McConnell, said the event would enable apprentices and trainees to reflect and celebrate upon their career achievements with their mentors.

"These awards recognise how far the apprentice and trainee development program has taken our business, with many former program participants now undertaking mentoring roles to help support the newest recruits now being integrated in to the system," Mr McConnell said.

Mr McConnell said that the business's long term ambition is to ensure the continued development of its field-based workforce.

In total, nine separate awards will be presented among a record number of Powercor and CitiPower trainees and apprentices working at many locations across central and western Victoria. This year's winners are motivated employees who have demonstrated real commitment to learning their trade while demonstrating strong customer service skills on the job.

"Powercor and CitiPower provide structured training programs that set high standards for the development of all of our apprentices and trainees with a critical emphasis on the best possible health and safety practices," he said.

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Adding to the atmosphere of the awards will be guest speaker Dr John Tickell. Dr Tickell, an international presenter and best selling author, will deliver a motivational speech to attendees on the importance of performing at peak mental and physical levels.

**Media inquiries: Powercor's 24-hour media service on 9683 4342.**