



WDHS men's health educator, Stuart Willder, chief executive Jim Fletcher, NCFH director, Sue Brumby, Geoff Handbury, NCFH lecturer, Scott McCoombe and Mayor Marcus Rentsch at the civic reception.

Shire walks the walk

SOUTHERN Grampians Shire Council walked the walk by throwing its support behind the inaugural Agricultural Health and Medicine Course week held at Western District Health Service.

The course, born out of a partnership between the National Centre for Farmer Health and Deakin University, aims to develop the next generation of rural and agricultural health leaders and agri-professionals.

Associate clinical professor and director of the National Centre for Farmer Health Sue Brumby of Western District Health Service said council was supportive of the initiative, not only providing advice and tourist information to visiting students but also hosting a civic reception to welcome them to the shire.

The civic reception was held in the Hamilton Art Gallery where the SGSC Mayor Marcus Rentsch welcomed students from Qld, SA, NSW, Vic and ACT, members of

the executive and councillors.

Participants from professions including health, health promotions, agriculture, commerce and veterinary science listened to presentations on a range of topics covering agricultural chemicals, zoonoses, rural obesity and diabetes, remote emergency medicine and mental health.

WDHS chief executive Jim Fletcher said the civic reception was a great way of the shire welcoming agricultural health and medicine unit students from many parts of Australia and showing its support for the National Centre for Farmer Health.

He told the audience that the course was seen by WDHS as just a beginning with plans to further develop post graduate study through the NCFH.

"It is our goal to establish the National Centre for Farmer Health as a Centre of Excellence", he said.