Timboon team wins dairy award

By STEVE HYNES

SCHOOL students in the south-west are surrounded by thousands of cows, but many are not aware of the career opportunities they create. The Cows Create Careers program run by Dairy Australia has been working for nine years to make students aware that dairy career opportunities don’t start and end with milking cows.

Yesterday, two district schools were rewarded for their participation in the program, which is divided into a junior stream for years 7 and 8 and a senior program for years 9 to 11.

The program involves 180 school throughout Australia, including 13 in western Victoria: Hawkesdale P-12 College; Ballarat Grammar School; Murtoa P-12 College; Colac Secondary College; Kaniva College; Bellarine Secondary College; Trinity College Colac; Derrinallum P-12 College; Timboon P-12 School; Baimbridge College; Hamilton & Alexandra College; Mortlake College and Goroke P-12 College.

Representatives from the western Victorian schools gathered at Cobden to hear which teams had scored highest in the program’s diverse activities aimed at creating awareness of potential career opportunities related to dairying.

The Holy Cows team from Timboon P-12 won the junior section, while the Bulla team from Ballarat Grammar won the senior section. Each team won $500 for their school, provided by Rural Finance.

The results of all the teams from each school collectively decided overall school winners. Timboon P-12 collected the junior prize while Bellarine Secondary College won the senior section.

Dairy Australia’s program manager Tracy Lloyd said the program was initiated by dairy farmers in the Strzelecki Lions Club in Victoria with a handful of Gippsland schools back in 2004.

“What was needed was a program that could grab young people’s attention at many learning levels and somehow showcase the profile and diversity of careers in the dairy industry,” Ms Lloyd said.