



Association of German
Teachers of Victoria Inc.

Media Release

Victorian Teacher Received German Government Order of Merit

A government school teacher, Catherine Gosling, was awarded the prestigious honorary service medal, the 'Bundesverdienstkreuz am Bande' at a reception in Melbourne hosted by the State Government of Victoria in partnership with the German Embassy in Canberra and Honorary Consul General in Melbourne to celebrate the Day of German Unity on Friday 3rd October, 2014.

Presented on behalf of the President of the Federal Republic of Germany by Mr Joseph Reichhardt, German Deputy Ambassador to Australia, the award is equivalent to an 'Order of Australia' and is not given very often outside of Germany.

Catherine received the medal for her voluntary service to promote the German language and culture, fostering good relations between Australia and Germany through her tireless and passionate involvement in the Association of German Teachers of Victoria Inc. Catherine began teaching German in 1988 in St. Albans and has been a member of the AGTV Committee for almost 25 years, the last 16 as President.

The AGTV is the strongest and most active German teachers association in Australia, working in close cooperation with education authorities, other associations and networks throughout Australia, and the Goethe-Institut. www.agtv.vic.edu.au

Catherine, born into a fourth generation farming family in the Southern Mallee, began learning German at Rainbow High School, where she received her first scholarship to Germany from the Scholarships for Australian-German Student Exchange (SAGSE) in 1979. This proved to be an experience that influenced her life through university and her teaching career, with further scholarships to Germany and Austria.

"German has been the most fantastic language to learn and teach and offers many opportunities within Australia and throughout the world. I want schools and wider community to know about them so students can access these incredible life chances."

Previous Australian recipients of this award include the composer George Dreyfus and Dr. Walter Veit, Adjunct Associate Professor at Monash University, where Catherine completed her tertiary education.