

- **Dr Lawrence Bartak** is the recipient of an Autism Recognition Award for 2008.

Lawrie was nominated for an Exemplary Service Award by Autism Victoria's Professional Panel Research Reference Group.

In the nomination Lawrie was described as an essential part of the autism community in Victoria, Australia and the UK since he first worked with Professor Michael Rutter over forty years ago. He is a highly respected teacher, clinician, researcher and commentator in the field. He has supervised many research students and child and education psychologists thereby making a significant contribution to the expertise of the professional work force who provide services to individuals with an ASD. He has given extraordinary amounts of his time willingly and voluntarily to working parties, boards, committees, advisory groups and public and professional education.

- **Dr Joan Curtis** is a recipient of Life membership of Autism Victoria.

Joan was nominated by the Executive Committee of Autism Victoria, in recognition of her continuing services.

Joan is a founding member of Autism Victoria. She has a wide professional knowledge as a medical practitioner about ASDs but is also a parent and therefore has personal experience of the realities of caring for a child with autism. She has mobilized rural communities to support the innovative development of a pre-school early intervention service, then a residential school and then a range of adult employment and residential services for individuals with autism. She established the Mansfield Visiting Teacher Service to help rural Victorian families who have a child with autism and this novel program now is recognised internationally. She continues to be a tireless advocate for people with autism and their families.

- **Mrs. Olga Tennison** is also a recipient of a Life Membership Award of Autism Victoria.

The Autism Victoria State Council nominated Mrs. Tennison for life membership of Autism Victoria in recognition of her wonderfully generous support of the autism community by way of a 1 million dollar donation for the establishment of the Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre at La Trobe University. The willingness of people to support research is essential if Victoria is to continue to provide leading edge outcomes for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders.