

Achievers recognised

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MARILYN JACOB is the 25th winner of the Mount Isa Woman of Achievement Award.

The woman, known for her diplomacy, loyalty and unending patience, was overcome with emotion when it was announced on Saturday night that she had won the award jointly sponsored by The North West Star and the Zonta clubs of Mount Isa.

The awards ceremony was held at the civic centre on Saturday night as part of International Women's Day.

Sex therapist and author Bettina Arndt was the guest speaker.

Mrs. Jacob, who heads Centacare Family Services in Mount Isa, has grown the services from a staff of three in 2002 to more than 50 people.

"We have had great opportunities in Mount Isa. Like so many people, my husband Graham and I came for two years and we are still here 10 years on," she said.

The Centacare Family Services branch offers more than 20 programs at six permanent offices in the region.

The person who nominated Mrs. Jacob for the award said: "This amazing growth and success has been due to Marilyn's direction.

"To be successful in business requires much hard work and dedication and many additional hours."

Mrs. Jacob is the type of person who prefers to highlight her staff and their achievements rather than herself.

"I see myself as only being there to help keep the wheels turning, doing whatever needs to be done to support staff and ensure our valuable resources are used to their best," she said.

"It is very humbling to see the trust placed in us by our supporters, but also by the people with whom we work."

"I believe the award will help raise the profile of our work in the community.

"I have learned and received more than I have given and without my faith, and the never ending support of my husband Graham and my children I am not sure I would still be here."

Mrs. Jacob said she believed the award would help raise the profile of all the people who work quietly away as volunteers or in not for profit organisations and make the community what it is today.