



Education

PUBLIC EDUCATION
FOUNDATION 
We Give Life-Changing Scholarships



2021

Minister's and Secretary's
Awards for

EXCELLENCE



WELCOME

Once again, it is a great privilege to present the winners of the Minister's and Secretary's Awards for Excellence. These Awards celebrate the exceptional work that occurs every day across NSW public education – by schools, students, teachers, employees and parents. In 2021, the standard is as high as ever and perhaps even more impressive as this work has been undertaken against the backdrop of a pandemic.

The Public Education Foundation is proud to manage the Minister's and Secretary's Awards as part of our mission to showcase the best of public schooling. We are grateful to the Hon. Sarah Mitchell MLC, Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning, and Ms Georgina Harrison, Secretary of the NSW Department of Education, for entrusting us with this responsibility.

Of course, we had been hoping that we would be meeting on 6 September for a formal Awards ceremony, but COVID-19 means that for a second year running we are recognising our winners locally in their school environments.

That does nothing to diminish the quality of the winners we are celebrating. You'll read here about outstanding contributions and innovative initiatives from across NSW, from a Stage 5 Moving Forward program at Hoxton Park High to a Learning for Life Cafeteria at Moree East Public School.

Finally, I want to share a quick reminder that our 2022 scholarship round for primary and secondary schools is now open. We've got hundreds of scholarships to award, including new scholarships for students starting high school and many new Acacia scholarships for regional schools in particular. Head to our website and take a look!

We hope to see you back in person for next year's Awards event.

David Hetherington
Executive Director
Public Education Foundation



WELCOME

AWARD RECIPIENTS

MINISTER'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Recognising outstanding Year 12 students who have excelled in their secondary years across academic excellence, sports, cultural, community and leadership.

Salam Adra
Strathfield Girls High School

Husain Alhashemi
Cumberland High School

Jasmine Blanch
Wagga Wagga High School

Erin Bloor
Elderslie High School

Laura Campbell
North Sydney Girls High School

Annabel Chen
North Sydney Girls High School

Jack Coleman
Fort Street High School

Isabella Ennever
Casino High School

Lachlan Eshman
Coonabarabran High School

Samuel Flood
Inverell High School

Hanako Greuter
NBSC – Mackellar Girls Campus

Rachel Harkin
Cumberland High School

Oliver James
Wagga Wagga High School

Riley Jones
Kurri Kurri High School

Aisa Karalic
Keira High School

Alyssa Koit
Fort Street High School

Hannah Lovlin
NBSC – Manly Selective Campus

Nhi Lu
Prairiewood High School

Dineshe Mohanarajah
Girraween High School

Lowanna Murray
Cowra High School

Chelsea Nagel
Elizabeth Macarthur High School

Maximillian Navarrete
Bega High School

Milla Papallo
NBSC – Mackellar Girls Campus

Zoe Peters
Denison College of Secondary Education – Bathurst High Campus

Melinda Ryan
Coonabarabran High School

Chloe Smith
Lambton High School

Claudia Smith
Orange High School

Alexa Stuart
Lambton High School

Amelie Stuu
Galston High School

Sinduja Sureshkumar
Penrith High School

Brodie Taylor
Ulladulla High School

Thinesshan Thevathasan
North Sydney Boys High School

Mark Tran
Prairiewood High School

Zoe Tudor
Singleton High School

Nicholas Whelan
Penrith High School

Shanni Yehuda
Sydney Girls High School



MINISTER'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Recognising teachers who deliver the highest quality education to their students and contribute to their professional communities.

Kelly Andrews
Birrongo Girls High School

Michelle Armstrong
Albury High School

Megan Atkinson
Elderslie High School

Matthew Baillie
Denison College of Secondary Education – Bathurst High Campus

George Betsis
Ulladulla High School

Livia Bolanca
Birrongo Girls High School

Deanne Bulmer
Campbellfield Public School

Gerard Chomicz
Campbellfield Public School

Alison Clark
Wadalba Community School

Paul Clarke
Merrylands High School

Andrew Clifton
Maitland Public School

Danielle Demetrios
Liverpool Boys High School

Martin Douglas
Corowa High School

Stacey Jones
Denison College of Secondary Education – Kelso High Campus



Kathryn Kane
James Fallon High School

Sandra Kerr
Wagga Wagga High School

Kylie Lenhardt
Murwillumbah High School

Veronica Manock
Denison College of Secondary Education – Bathurst High Campus

Lisa McNally
Clairgate Public School

Melanie Naylor
Hunter River High School

Ian Preston
Murrumbidgee Regional High School

Carolyn Ratcliffe
Albury High School

Michael Richards
Rutherford Technology High School

Suzanne Sherrington
Doonside Technology High School

Inoke Tuhukava
Turrumurra High School

Scott Waring
Great Lakes College Senior Campus

EXCELLENT SERVICE

SECRETARY'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENT SERVICE

Recognising NSW Department of Education employees (teaching and non-teaching) who have shown outstanding effort in improving the quality of teaching, learning outcomes and/or school environments in the NSW public education sector.

Jannan Assaad
Saturday School of Community Languages

Fiona Baillie
Campbellfield Public School

Simone Billingham
Bringelly Public School

Sahin Bostanci
Lindfield Learning Village

Aunty Kim Chan
Marrickville Public School

Don Dwarte
Picnic Point Public School

Blake Graham
Ulladulla High School

Jen Greig
Merrylands East Public School

Nathan Gunter
Wagga Wagga High School

Robyn Harmon
Ballina Public School

James Harris
Heaton Public School

Matthew Johnson
Glenvale School

Ana Latu
Thomas Reddall High School

Emma Mackenzie
Padstow North Public School

Brian O'Hora
Finley High School

Tamiyn Phillips
Ulladulla High School

Brenda Pyett
Endeavour Sports High School

Shannon Stanbridge
Scarborough Public School

Luz Velez
Kogarah High School Intensive English Centre



OUTSTANDING INITIATIVE

SECRETARY'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SCHOOL INITIATIVE

The award is presented to NSW public schools demonstrating via a specific program, event or initiative their commitment to teaching and learning outcomes, leadership, supporting the students and/or creating a sustainable learning environment.

Auburn North Public School
Use of Video for Self Reflection and Peer Reflection

Hoxton Park High School
Stage 5 Moving Forward Program

Hunter River High School
Learning Opportunities for Tomorrow

Liverpool Boys High School
Big Picture Academy

Murray High School
Engagement and Transition Centre

Murrumbidgee Regional High School
Australia New Zealand STEM Education Alliance

Murwillumbah High School
Partners in Learning

NSW School of Languages
Stage 6 Online Languages Courses

Prairiewood High School
Reaching for the Stars



SECRETARY'S SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This prestigious award recognises NSW public schools that have successfully created a sustainable learning environment through a whole-of-school project. Schools receiving this award must demonstrate significant improvement in learning outcomes and opportunities, excellence in student learning, maximising learning opportunities for all students as well as community leadership.

Albury High School
Pivotal Wellbeing

Auburn North Public School
Collaborative School Culture

Callaghan College
– Jesmond Senior Campus
– Wallsend Campus
– Waratah Campus
Faculty Leadership Improvement Project

Caringbah North Public School
Jannali Public School
Miranda North Public School
4C Community of Practice

Caringbah North Public School
Connect 4 Wellbeing Program

Glenbrook Public School
Quality Teaching Coordinator

Moree East Public School
Learning for Life Cafeteria

Towradgi Public School
School Wellbeing Framework – A Positive School Experience For All

Winmalee Public School
Whole School Achievement

PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENT OF THE YEAR

The Public School Parent of the Year Award is a prestigious award presented to parents, guardians and caregivers who have made a significant contribution to their local NSW public school community.

Dianne Bentley
Bringelly Public School

Danielle Harris
Ulladulla High School

Anna McFarlane
Rose Bay Secondary College

Helen Mundy
Wagga Wagga High School

Ben and Swannida Stewart
Harrington Street Public School

MINISTER'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

RECIPIENT CITATIONS



Salam Adra
Strathfield Girls High School

I have known Salam Adra for over five and a half years in my capacity as Principal, Strathfield Girls High School. Salam is an all-rounder who has excelled both within and outside academia. She is a reliable, articulate and organised young person, focused on making a difference to the local and global community. She reflects values of leadership and is passionate in her determination to make the world a better place. I fully endorse this nomination of Salam Adra for this prestigious award in full confidence that she is very deserving of the recognition as a student of excellence.



Jasmine Blanch
Wagga Wagga High School

Jasmine has consistently displayed all values of public education. She is an outstanding student who is well respected by students and staff for her integrity and responsible approach to all aspects of her school life and within the wider community. She is an outstanding ambassador for Wagga Wagga High School and public education. Jasmine has shown through her strong sense of fairness and social justice that she has empathy for all. This is most evident in her varied volunteer work both within the school and wider community. Jasmine is an exemplary student who exhibits outstanding personal qualities of honesty, integrity and determination.



Husain Alhashemi
Cumberland High School

Husain Alhashemi has served the Cumberland High School community with absolute distinction as an outstanding student leader and school-captain elect in 2020/2021. Husain has excelled both academically and in the domain of sport throughout his schooling as demonstrated by his commitment to and pursuit of excellence. His innovative sustainable, scientific and community-minded projects have promoted significant outcomes for the students and broader community over the past six years. As an inspiring leader of the Prefect body, Husain has fostered effective collaboration and coordinated fundraising initiatives in support of local not-for-profit organisations to bring about positive change within our local community.



Erin Bloor
Elderslie High School

Erin is an outstanding all rounder who has achieved excellent results academically, in multiple sporting endeavours and also in terms of sustained school leadership over 6 years at Elderslie High School. Erin represents our school at an elite level in sport including netball, football, athletics and cross country and has proven her worth at a state and regional level in many of these sports. As a leader, Erin has developed her leadership on a sustained basis having served the school community as an SRC leader as well as Prefect in 2020 and Vice Captain in 2021.





Laura Campbell
North Sydney Girls High School

Laura Campbell embodies excellence in all she does and proudly lives the values of public education. Laura has dedicated herself to advocating for those who cannot advocate for themselves and is most proud of her achievements in the leadership of our school animal rights group, Roar. Laura excels across all subjects, public speaking, debating and her school leadership role as Vice Captain. Laura's enthusiasm and contribution to the Arts programs has been substantial, culminating in her role as Assistant Dance Teacher and lead in the 2019 Musical Hairspray. Exceptionally talented, Laura will make a positive contribution to our future.



Annabel Chen
North Sydney Girls High School

An extremely talented individual, Annabel has succeeded in all she has done with humility. Her outstanding academic success has been complemented by her acclaimed achievements across a range of extra curricular, leadership and sporting accomplishments. As a prefect, leader of our environmental group and an executive member of the Charities and Social Justice Council, Annabel has been a powerful role model to younger peers. Her success in Taekwondo is noteworthy at a state level. A compassionate, genuine team player, Annabel is an individual of the highest integrity.



Jack Coleman
Fort Street High School

Jack has an outstanding academic record, including ranking First in State for HSC Mathematics Advanced as an accelerated student in Year 11, and first in Year 11 in Music 2, Geography, Chemistry and Physics. He has been a member of the Fort Street Instrumental Music Program since 2016 in five ensembles and is currently in two Arts Unit ensembles. He is also an outstanding sportsman and swimming champion, and a passionate advocate of diversity and inclusion. He always demonstrates the highest personal standards of excellence and responsibility, decency and collaboration, and is a proud advocate for public education.



Isabella Ennever
Casino High School

I have no hesitation in recommending Isabella Ennever for this award. She is a determined and passionate student and displays this in her academic, sporting and leadership roles. Isabella has consistently achieved outstanding academic results and gained recognition for her commitment to science and her desire to see more students involved in this field. She is an accomplished public speaker and I have no doubt that she will succeed in whatever endeavour she pursues in the future. She is a worthy recipient of this award.



Lachlan Eshman
Coonabarabran High School

Lachlan is an extraordinary young man. He is talented across a range of achievements; academically, on the sporting field, and in a number of cultural pursuits, particularly as a musician, singer and thespian. Within our community however, it has been Lachlan's concern for others and willingness to assist that has been greatly appreciated. He has mentored younger members of our Robotics team as well as junior students in need of a positive role model. He can always be relied upon by staff to step up, lead and assist.



Samuel Flood
Inverell High School

Samuel Flood has shown an outstanding record of all rounder achievement over his whole schooling career. He has always been 1st rank in all his subjects, named Dux for the past 5 years and has a passion for high level Mathematics and Science. Samuel has displayed a willingness to involve himself in all activities at school immersing himself in musicals and many sporting activities. Samuel is also a selfless young man and leader, always willing to mentor and coach junior students to reach their potential. He is a most impressive student who is highly regarded by all the school community.



Hanako Greuter
NBSC – Mackellar Girls Campus

Hanako has distinguished herself in every aspect of her school life. As School Captain, Hanako has been exemplary; she is the consummate role model with strong leadership capabilities matched with a most caring, positive manner. She consistently displays the strongest leadership, integrity and responsibility, and is always a proactive and productive individual. Hanako has distinguished herself academically and in her sport at national level. Hanako's exceptionally high standards and her contributions to the community make her an outstanding role model. Her talent is further evidenced by her varied sporting, cultural and community achievements and her prolific fundraising for charity.



Rachel Harkin
Cumberland High School

Rachel Harkin is an outstanding School Captain and exemplary role-model, who is recognised for her academic, cultural, creative and sporting excellence, inspiring citizenship and exceptional commitment to service. Within the school context, Rachel has excelled academically and received prestigious awards and scholarships for her academic excellence and gifted oracy as reflected through her leadership in the Mock Trial tournaments. Rachel has contributed significantly to a number of programs, not-for-profit organisations and community-based fundraising initiatives that have positively impacted Cumberland High School and the broader community. Rachel is a most worthy recipient of the Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement.



Oliver James
Wagga Wagga High School

Oliver has shown that he is a determined well-rounded student who strives for excellence in all areas of school life. His maturity and natural leadership has been evident at school as a School Leader and active and inclusive member of the school community. Oliver has made significant contributions to the whole school community where he is a positive role model for all students. He has maintained his impressive academic record while immersing himself in all areas of school life. He has shown fairness, cooperation and consideration for others when dealing with issues of leadership in all aspects of his life.



Riley Jones
Kurri Kurri High School

Riley is an exemplary student who always presents himself as trustworthy, hard working and mature. Throughout his time at school, he has worked diligently to meet deadlines and always produced work of a high standard which reflected not only his interest in his education but also his desire to achieve. The time and effort Riley has placed into representing the school academically, culturally and in sporting events is impressive. He contributes in a positive manner both within the classroom and in his leadership roles within the school. Riley is well respected by both staff and students and worthy of the award.



Aisa Karalic
Keira High School

Aisa Karalic is a highly committed and diligent student. In her leadership role as school captain she demonstrates great integrity and respect for all. She has always had the highest of standards for herself and contributed to her school community at every opportunity. Aisa shows great dedication to her studies and is maintaining an exceptional level of achievement in all of her Higher School Certificate courses. Aisa is a worthy recipient of the Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement.



Alyssa Koit
Fort Street High School

Alyssa ranks academically in the very top cohort of students at this selective school. She is a collaborative and supportive classmate, and a keen mentor and coach to others. She is an outstanding sportswoman, and is a NSW representative in basketball. She is Sports House Captain, and has organised, managed and refereed inter-school and intra-school competitions across a wide variety of sports. She has also been a leading member of several academic and social-justice co-curricular programs. In all roles Alyssa demonstrates sportsmanship, fairness, responsibility, co-operation and excellence. She and her family are proud supporters of public education.



Hannah Lovlin
NBSC – Manly Selective Campus

Hannah Lovlin is a Year 12 Student at Manly Campus of Northern Beaches Secondary College. She has always been a high achiever and has demonstrated her commitment to both school and the community in a variety of ways. She absolutely embodies our school ethos of Academic Excellence, Personal Best and Giving back to the Community as a most valued and respected member of the SRC and Vice Captain. Her dedication to the wellbeing of those she encounters reflects her personal qualities, such as integrity, celebrating diversity and a sense of fair play. She is highly recommended for this prestigious award.



Nhi Lu
Prairiewood High School

Nhi Lu is an exceptional student who demonstrates excellence in all she does! Academically, she performs at the highest levels across a variety of disciplines, whilst executing her demanding duties as School Prefect. She is held in high esteem by peers and staff alike, because of her consistent commitment to the school community, and infectious energy that draws others to engage in matters of high social and environmental importance. Coming from a disadvantaged socio-economic background, Nhi has achieved outcomes in her learning and leadership that can only be attributed to her determination and drive to succeed.



Dineshe Mohanarajah
Girraween High School

Dineshe has demonstrated the highest quality attributes as a positive role model for public education. His achievements have extended into the domains of academic excellence, community contributions, co-curricular and leadership endeavours. Dineshe's service has been exemplary and his contributions to the school are meritorious. He has initiated and led numerous programs that have supported both students and teachers. Dineshe has actively demonstrated an outstanding ability to balance his studies at an academically selective high school with a variety of other co-curricular activities both within the school and the wider community. Dineshe is a most deserving recipient of this award.



Lowanna Murray
Cowra High School

It is with great pride that Lowanna Murray has been awarded a Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement. Lowanna is a proud Cowra Wiradjuri woman and school captain who achieves high levels of academic success. She is an exemplary leader who has been a member of the Student Leadership Council since Year 7. Lowanna is admired for her innovative approaches to leadership, her ability to build a rapport and challenge students to achieve their best and all this is reflected in her skills to model collective efficacy amongst her peers across the school and the Cowra community.



Chelsea Nagel
Elizabeth Macarthur High School

We at Elizabeth Macarthur High School have been blessed with the skills and talents of Chelsea Nagel over the past 6 years at school assemblies, COS Showcases, musicals and much more with her angelic voice and assembly talks of her experiences and lessons learned when faced with adversity. She has exceeded all expectations on her high school achievements and is on track to achieve her post school destination of university. Chelsea has been an integral member in the CAPA faculty but also to the wider school community displaying ambition and sportsmanship beyond her years and physical ability.



Maximillian Navarrete
Bega High School

Max has demonstrated a strong commitment to his education at Bega High school. He is self motivated, mature and a hard worker. Max is a well rounded young man demonstrating skills performing musically within his band, playing a range of sports and high level academic achievement in Physics, Advanced English, Mathematics, PDHPE and Music. Max also performs at a high level in many sports including Rugby League, snow skiing and soccer, and acts as a mentor and role model for younger students in his capacity as school captain.



Milla Papallo
NBSC – Mackellar Girls Campus

Milla Papallo has distinguished herself and demonstrated a commitment to excellence. As School Captain, Milla displays the strongest leadership, integrity and responsibility, and is always a proactive and productive individual with a keen sense of the wellbeing of others. She has distinguished herself academically, and her highest level achievements at State Netball, and her State level achievements in swimming, athletics, touch and basketball, further evidence Milla's commitment to excellence and her broad talent. Milla's exceptionally high personal standards and her contributions to the community make her an outstanding role model. Her talent is further evidenced by her varied cultural and community achievements.



Zoe Peters
Denison College of Secondary Education – Bathurst High Campus

Zoe is an exceptional student whose unique ability to focus intently on her own growth and positive self-development of her peers within the community, places her in the top echelon of young people in Australia. Zoe is regularly the highest academic achiever in her cohort, achieving outstanding results across all subjects. Her incomparable school leadership as Captain and Bathurst Youth Mayor opens doors for many students in our public education system. As the International Women's Day Ambassador and National Lions Youth of the Year 2021 winner she has inspired youth girls across our region. A worthy recipient for excellence in Student Achievement.



Melinda Ryan
Coonabarabran High School

Melinda Ryan is an outstanding young woman. She has achieved excellence in her studies through her enthusiasm for learning and willingness to work hard to achieve a goal. She has been an exemplary role model in our community through her upholding of our school's core values of excellence, resilience and respect. She is highly, and rightly regarded by staff as a young woman of considerable talent and integrity, and a well deserved recipient of this award.



Chloe Smith
Lambton High School

Chloe is a remarkable, talented young woman whose achievements extend from a strong academic program of study, to engagement in sport at an elite level and as a school community leader as Senior Prefect, SRC leader and sports coach. She takes pride in representing her school, Hunter Region and NSW, whilst showcasing encouragement to students of all ages. Chloe approaches her studies enthusiastically to achieve at the highest level and has a passion to be of service to others in the school and local community, while leading initiatives as a positive role model in upholding the values of public education.



Claudia Smith
Orange High School

Claudia Smith is a clear example of our school motto – she strives to do her best in every part of her school life. Claudia proudly demonstrates our values of safety, learning and respect in everything she does – academically, on the sporting field, in the arts, as a school leader and in every interaction she has with her teachers and her peers. She excels academically and strives to continually improve in all areas of her academic life as a learner who approaches every task with a determination to build her knowledge and Orange High School is extremely proud of her achievements.



Alexa Stuart
Lambton High School

Alexa is an outstanding, highly motivated student who embodies the values of public education. She approaches her studies with dedication and an enquiring mind, reflected in her outstanding achievements in all HSC subjects, including distinguished achievement in accelerated Mathematics and Visual Arts. Alexa shows determination to be of service to others in the school and local community, and has led initiatives as a positive role model through her leadership in the SRC and as School Captain. A community role model, Alexa is passionate about the environment and is recognised for her advocacy and inspiring youth awareness and climate action.



Amelie Stuu
Galston High School

Amelie Stuu is an exceptional young woman who holds the position of school Vice Captain at Galston High School. Amelie demonstrates exemplary interpersonal and leadership skills on a daily basis and is a highly valued member of the school community. She has an outstanding reputation as a student representative and is held in high esteem by her prefect peers, younger students and teachers for her leadership skills. Amelie Stuu is the embodiment of the values we espouse in public education and is an outstanding recipient of the Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement.



Sinduja Sureshkumar
Penrith High School

Sinduja Sureshkumar is a highly gifted student, excelling across the curriculum. This is clearly evident in her recent HSC assessments where she has improved her performance in all areas. Sinduja is currently ranked 1st in PDHPE, 1st in Biology and 1st in Studies of Religion and she has received numerous academic recognition awards, most recently in English and Biology. Her dedication to her studies, the high goals she sets herself and her work ethic have earned her excellent results in all subjects. Sinduja was successfully elected as Prefect in 2020. She is most deserving of this award.



Brodie Taylor
Ulladulla High School

Brodie is an exceptional young person in all aspects. He is the Vice School Captain and truly committed to his school and his studies achieving outstanding results across a range of rigorous subjects. Along with this he is a caring, strategic and inventive school leader, enabling the voice of all students through his leadership role on the SRC. His invention of QR Codes on bins, to improve student engagement in recycling for the school has been outstanding, with both staff and students embracing this remarkable initiative. Brodie has a passion, commitment and aptitude for IStem. A well deserving student of excellence.



Thinesshan Thevathasan
North Sydney Boys High School

Thinesshan is a true all-rounder, a young man with enthusiasm, a love of learning and natural leadership skills. He is a most deserving candidate for this important award and represents what is good about public education. He is a valued member of our school community and exemplifies falcon pride and the Falcon Code, the set of values held dear in our school, preparing young men to be the future. As his mentor for the past year, I am confident in Thinesshan being a most worthy recipient for this prestigious award.



Mark Tran
Prairiewood High School

Mark Tran is an outstanding Year 12 student, who has achieved excellence across multiple platforms. Academically he ranks first in Mathematics Extension 2 and Chemistry having achieved Band 6 and E4 in the 2020 HSC Mathematics and Extension 1 Examinations. As a school prefect, Mark's leadership with and for others is exceptional and operating beyond self. He has been consistently mindful and purposeful in his school and community engagement, enriching school culture, raising awareness of critical social issues, and encouraging others to play their part. Accordingly, Mark Tran is most worthy of the Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement!



Zoe Tudor
Singleton High School

Zoe is a perfect example of the values and qualities that underpins public education. Zoe is the product of six years of consistent diligence, sustained effort and commitment to herself and her school community. This is reflected in exemplar academic, sporting and leadership success through to her election as school captain, 2021. Zoe personifies the values of respect, cooperation, responsibility, participation, care, fairness and most importantly, integrity in all that she does. She has represented her school in the community and showcases the importance of student voice. Zoe is deserving of the Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement.



Nicholas Whelan
Penrith High School

Nicholas Whelan is a high-achieving student who has maintained an excellent standard across the curriculum. His dedication to learning and work ethic have earned him excellent results in all areas. Nicholas is currently ranked 5th in his year group – an outstanding achievement for a student completing his HSC year in an academically selective high school. He is ranked 1st in English, 1st in Modern History, 1st in Studies of Religion and 4th in Mathematics. Nicholas was successfully elected as Prefect in 2020, earning the respect of his teachers and peers. Nicholas is a most worthy recipient of this award.



Shanni Yehuda
Sydney Girls High School

Shanni is the current School Captain and is an outstanding leader and scholar. She is an extraordinarily gifted and dedicated student who is highly respected by her teachers and peers, and serves as an inspiring role model for younger students in the school. She is unfailingly respectful and unassuming however has the capacity to articulate and promote the views of the student body with courtesy and diplomacy. Shanni certainly matches the profile of a young leader deserving the recognition of "student excellence."



MINISTER'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

RECIPIENT CITATIONS



Kelly Andrews
Birrong Girls High School

Kelly Andrews teaches with passion, as if there is an emergency in pursuit of equity and student success. This has led to incredible, above state average results over the past seven years without fail. Her whole school contributions to professional learning have modelled consistent best practice in explicit quality teaching, formative assessment and ALARM. The results have included the Birrong Girls High School being recognised repeatedly for 'punching above its weight' in HSC performance, and in 2020, placing in the top four comprehensive high schools for excellence in HSC English results. She leads by example. She leads by excellence.



Michelle Armstrong
Albury High School

Michelle Armstrong lives and breathes teaching and Albury High School. She is an exceptional, expert teacher who excels in getting the best from her students. Her HSC results in Mathematics and Software Development and Design include multiple Band 6 over multiple years. She is equally passionate at supporting students with learning difficulties and differentiating learning. Her commitment to our IT system and 21st C learning means that Albury High School is well placed in the digital world. I cannot recommend her highly enough. Michelle is a worthy recipient of this award.



Megan Atkinson
Elderslie High School

After over 25 years as our most prominent Agriculture teacher, Megan Atkinson has developed a school farm that is second to none, ensuring a highly engaging space for students. She is the creator of our Animal Nursery Program in which she runs around 12 community petting nurseries for small children annually, giving up her Saturdays to allow students to showcase their animal handling skills. She develops displays for Agricultural Shows (Sydney Royal, Camden and Penrith) to give students opportunities to interact with the Agricultural community. Over more than 20 years, our students have won many parading competitions due to Megan's leadership.



Matthew Baillie
Denison College of Secondary Education – Bathurst High Campus

Matthew Baillie is an extremely popular and highly effective teaching and learning expert. His students' outstanding results are a testament to his impeccable subject knowledge, his dynamic and well informed pedagogy and his deep care for all of the students he engages with as a classroom teacher, a year advisor, a mentor and a sporting coach. His humble and affable nature make him an invaluable member of the teaching team where his unwavering commitment to public education and his willingness to embrace change and challenge inspire other teaching professionals. He is exceptionally worthy of this recognition.



George Betsis
Ulladulla High School

George Betsis is a passionate, very experienced and highly skilled mathematics teacher. For his entire career he has been authentically committed to ensuring all students access the benefits and rigor of learning maths, with a particular focus on those who disengage. George has successfully led the COVID Numeracy Strategy and QT Rounds firmly grounded in quality teaching. George is the pivotal contributing factor for the inspirational culture of learning within a large mathematics faculty, and enlivening mathematics for all. He prioritises learning, despite the high demands placed upon him as a deputy principal in a large rural high school.



Livia Bolanca
Birrong Girls High School

Livia Bolanca is an exceptional instructional leader, full of energy and passion for pedagogy and education. Her vibrant discussions with her peer colleagues focus on student achievement and ensuring that every lesson is rich with impact. Her work across the state as Teacher Quality Adviser is an extension of the long term work she has done within her faculty, alongside executive and senior executive members and across KLAs within Birrong Girls High School. She has modelled collaborative efficacy at its finest and has played a pivotal role in the celebrated HSC English results at BGHS and has transformed lives forever.



Deanne Bulmer
Campbellfield Public School

Deanne Bulmer is a passionate educator with a strong moral imperative to watch all students succeed. As an exemplary teacher, she actively shapes our school culture leading to innovation and inclusivity. Deanne drives continuous improvement, supporting staff to develop agency and adaptive expertise. She refines practices through coaching, mentoring and collaborative planning. She improves

pedagogical practices through evidence-based literacy and numeracy practices. Deanne builds a mentally healthy learning community where students feel connected, resilient and independent, by embedding the Be You mental health framework school-wide. Deanne has an outstanding work ethic, acts with compassion and empathy and strives for excellence.



Gerard Chomicz
Campbellfield Public School

Gerard Chomicz is a passionate, leading learner who embeds evidence-based teaching practices. He is driven to achieve the highest standards of success for every student, staff member and parent/carer. His high expectations drive continuous improvement, increasing student achievement. His professionalism is of the highest calibre and is underpinned by integrity and respect, as he strives for social equity. As a special education teacher, Gerard ensures that diverse learners flourish. His leadership enables culturally responsive learning for our Aboriginal students. Gerard motivates others to achieve personal excellence. His relentless commitment to public education is inspiring, impressive and should be celebrated.



Alison Clark
Wadalba Community School

Alison Clark has demonstrated qualities of a world class teacher. This is demonstrated through her support of highest level academic achievement by her students, coupled with their appreciation for her commitment to supporting their excellence and growth as learners. Ms Clark's pedagogical practice is a model of excellence. Her practice is student focussed, innovative and shared beyond her classroom. This includes sharing of her practice across school, local, state and national levels. Her quality practice prior to COVID-19 and innovative practice during and post "learning from home" is an exemplar of next practice for the teaching profession.



Paul Clarke
Merrylands High School

Paul Clarke is a true public education champion since 1985. He is an educational leader who selflessly serves young people through applying professional knowledge and exemplary practice. Paul is expert at engaging students, employing his remarkable interpersonal skills to build rapport and connection with all students. His humility, professionalism and patience ensures that he is also a colleague who is cherished by all staff. Paul continues to serve public education through his role as a mentor to beginning teachers pursuing a career through their tertiary education and wider sporting communities as reflected through his life memberships to athletics and swimming.



Andrew Clifton
Maitland Public School

Andrew Clifton's connection with the students he teaches exemplifies his professional capacities. As Learning and Support Teacher, he combines a broad curriculum knowledge with outstanding data management skills to best support students with learning difficulties in improving their knowledge and understanding and extending Stage 3 gifted and talented students in maths. Further, he leads professional learning across the school through his capacity to use technology to support learning and data literacy for staff, vital to our school improvement plan and building capacity for more than twenty teaching staff. Andrew is a deserving recipient of this award.



Danielle Demetrios
Liverpool Boys High School

Danielle Demetrios has been a valued member of our school community since 2009. She has built deep relationships with students, staff and external partners. Danielle demonstrates a work ethic way beyond what is expected and has dedicated herself to a range of pursuits including being Head Teacher of HSIE & Big Picture, Year Adviser, VET Teacher and Big Picture Adviser. Her deep professional knowledge, exemplary practice and ongoing engagement make her an asset not only to our school but to public education.



Martin Douglas
Corowa High School

Martin Douglas represents the best of the teaching profession. He is an exciting teacher with a real passion for History; he is an inspiring leader who supports and enables his colleagues to flourish; and he is unstintingly generous with his time, knowledge and resources. The beneficiaries of Martin's exceptional teaching extend beyond his own classroom and can be found across our student, staff and parents communities and, indeed, in schools across the state where his knowledge and resources have been used in the creation and implementation of the new HSC History Syllabuses. In short, Martin is an excellent teacher.



Stacey Jones
Denison College of Secondary Education – Kelso High Campus

Stacey Jones is an exceptionally intelligent, capable and committed teaching professional. Her deep knowledge and understanding of her teaching syllabi, the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers and a wide range of important educational research makes her an invaluable leader across the entire school community. Stacey's high expectations drive best practice within and beyond the school gates, ensuring that the positive impact her work has on student outcomes spreads far beyond her classroom walls. Stacey makes teaching and learning exciting and her dynamic and curious nature makes her an invaluable collaborator.



Kathryn Kane
James Fallon High School

Kathryn Kane is the Teacher Librarian at James Fallon High School. She excels at this role, connecting with each student to ensure they feel safe and cared for. Students enjoy working with her on a variety of creative and innovative projects that are inclusive and engaging. Her expertise, particularly in literacy and technology, has provided students with the tailored support they require to meet their evolving learning needs. Kathryn's willingness to cater to the diversity of all learners and her cheerful approach to building relationships with students and their families, make her a highly respected teacher in the school.



Sandra Kerr
Wagga Wagga High School

Wagga Wagga High School considers Sandra Kerr to be an outstanding teacher who demonstrates personal qualities of collaboration, inclusivity, and empathy with all members of the school and wider teaching community. Her contribution to the special education community at WWHS and regionally show her commitment to all students achieving their potential educationally and socially. Sandra ensures all students are known and cared for and that their contributions are valued. She represents public education with dignity in all her endeavours and WWHS are proud of her Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching.



Kylie Lenhardt
Murwillumbah High School

Kylie Lenhardt is an outstanding teacher who is achieving above the Australian Professional Standards. She holds exceptional rapport with her Y7-12 students whom she inspires to grow as learners and parents and colleagues hold her in high regard. As leader of Stage-4 Kylie is influential in the re-imagining of our team-based program; a catalyst for transformation of learning across the school. Kylie's passion and commitment is influencing whole-school impact on learning, assessment and the development of student led showcases. One of her students recently described Kylie as 'paving the way for young female teachers and leaders.' Kylie Lenhardt is an asset to public education.



Veronica Manock
Denison College of Secondary Education – Bathurst High Campus

Veronica Manock's unwavering enthusiasm, passion and positivity for teaching make her a popular and extremely successful educator. She is a wholly committed and dynamic practitioner who acts as a positive mentor to others in her profession. Veronica holds extremely high expectations of herself, her colleagues and her students and thus achieves excellence in both her own classroom and in those around her. She is an invaluable member of the leadership team where her ideas, her informed understanding of educational research and her ability to evaluate practice have been essential to school evaluation and planning. She is simply one of the best!



Lisa McNally
Clairgate Public School

Lisa McNally is dedicated to promoting a warm and welcoming environment at Clairgate where all children, parents and staff feel supported and valued. Her generosity of spirit and warm manner are evident on a daily basis and she is integral to the smooth running of the school. Lisa is an amazing teacher and mentor to staff, she is warm and caring to all children and a font of wisdom and common sense for parents. She is a large part of the heart of our school and we simply cannot imagine a more deserving recipient of an award for Excellence in Teaching.



Melanie Naylor
Hunter River High School

Melanie Naylor has demonstrated exemplar leadership within her own faculty and across the school. She is a trusted leader, who through her passion for public education and personal integrity, has achieved the highest HSC value-added data across multiple subjects in the past ten years. Melanie's innovative approach to teacher quality is foregrounded in evidence-based professional learning. Through a coaching instructional leader model, Melanie upskilled the executive team which has created the conditions for sustained improvement in student outcomes with a collective staff efficacy that we can all make a difference if we work together as a team.



Ian Preston
Murrumbidgee Regional
High School

Ian Preston has been an educational leader and innovator for the past 30 years. His work to establish the Murrumbidgee Academy of STEM Excellence and the NSW Virtual STEM Academy in the Riverina has positioned the region as STEM educational leaders. He has demonstrated excellence in all areas of teaching, leadership, and engagement with the broader educational community. Ian's commitment to the ideals of public education makes him a most suitable recipient of the Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching.



Carolyn Ratcliffe
Albury High School

Carolyn Ratcliffe is an inspirational leader in the classroom and across the school. She is an expert teacher who has mentored staff members to replicate her excellent HSC results across the faculty. Her input has her subject regularly above state average in HSC results. Her passion for teaching is evident. She is also as passionate about student wellbeing working as HT Wellbeing where she supports staff and students equally in a complex world. Carolyn is an expert in mediation and developing resilience in students and this impacts on the learning climate for all staff, improving educational outcomes. She is an exceptional award recipient.



Michael Richards
Rutherford Technology
High School

Michael Richards is an excellent classroom practitioner attempting to always gain high student outcomes through an innovative and engaging classroom environment. As well as being an exceptional classroom practitioner, Michael is a leader in professional development and inclusiveness within the school. He is extremely supportive of his CAPA colleagues and models exemplary skills to lead initiatives within the Faculty. He supports colleagues using current and comprehensive knowledge of content and teaching strategies to develop and implement engaging learning and teaching programs. Michael is an advocate for, participates in and leads strategies to support high-quality professional learning opportunities for colleagues that focus on improved student learning.



Suzanne Sherrington
Doonside Technology
High School

Suzanne Sherrington is a passionate and skilful early career teacher who exemplifies the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers. Her deep knowledge of her students and the way they learn, inclusive of their cultural and family context, enables her to ensure that each and every student is known, valued and cared for. Suzanne's classes are vibrant learning environments in which students are encouraged to strive for personal and group success, resulting in both academic and personal growth.



Inoke Tuhukava
Turramurra High School

Inoke Tuhukava has a passion for the holistic development of students and a strong understanding of the connections between physical development, learning and emotional wellbeing. Among other programs and initiatives, Inoke has developed the Big Hill fitness and physical development program. Twice a week students come to school early to participate together in group and individualised programs. With a great sense of camaraderie and a positive culture, students are comfortable to push the limits of what they think they are capable of. Inoke has the students' respect and admiration and he exemplifies passion and commitment for students and the school.



Scott Waring
Great Lakes College
Senior Campus

Scott Waring is an exceptional Highly Accomplished Teacher who has achieved significant results across the science and mathematics curriculum areas. Students in his class, despite their social and environmental disadvantage, have performed above state average. This is due to his ability to develop meaningful relationships with his students, foster a culture of high expectations and an ability to engage learners. As our Head Teacher Secondary Studies, Scott has strategically planned, facilitated and evaluated whole school professional learning activities that have increased staff capacity to engage with high impact, evidenced based teaching strategies.

SECRETARY'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE SERVICE

RECIPIENT CITATIONS



Jannan Assaad
Saturday School of Community
Languages

Jannan Assaad is an outstanding educator, who is driven by her passionate commitment to ensuring the best learning experiences for all students to develop their language skills and deepen their intercultural understanding in a rich and dynamic school environment. She supports over 3,000 students across 14 campuses and has developed and implemented intensive training programs for teachers in the use of innovative and effective technologies to enrich their teaching and learning programs in face-to-face and remote contexts. She fosters ingenuity and models this to all staff while encouraging them to take risks with their own professional learning and growth through technology.



Fiona Baillie
Campbellfield Public School

Fiona Baillie's passion and dedication to public education shines through in her daily work as a School Learning and Support Officer. She is a fierce advocate for all children, but particularly for those with disabilities and complex needs. She uses her expertise developed over 14 years of service, to empower children, staff and families to work in a partnership, leading to happy, successful students. Fiona has been pivotal in improving student engagement and wellbeing through innovative whole school initiatives such as the establishment of our sensory room, supporting families through Campbellfield Connex and implementing the Be You Mental Health framework.



Simone Billingham
Bringelly Public School

Simone Billingham is a passionate educator dedicated to improving the education opportunities for students, bringing positive change to their futures and to their communities in the 21st century. She has devoted her time in increasing the professional skills of others, particularly in the understanding and development of Aboriginal Education. Her commitment has been demonstrated in advancing educational leadership through action research and in partnership with Western Sydney University through the EPIC initiatives and working with other executive teachers in three networks. Simone is very respected amongst her fellow teachers and executives in creating pathways to improve students outcomes.



Sahin Bostanci
Lindfield Learning Village

Within the brief to develop a New Educational Model and the opportunity to thrive in repurposed and rejuvenated spaces we need exceptional people to curate and shape the way we inhabit them. Sahin Bostanci cares deeply about both the spaces and the people in them. He works tirelessly to solve challenges that are impacting on the work of teachers, and the learning of students. Sahin is invested in the culture of Lindfield Learning Village and imbues his attitude with our values of collaboration and creativity, and he uses this mindset to beautify and lift our village.



Aunty Kim Chan
Marrickville Public School

Aunty Kim Chan is the heart of our school. She knows and cares for every single student, and every member of staff and the school community. Kim makes everyone feel welcome and always makes time for those who need it, in spite of her significant workload as a busy admin manager. As a proud Wiradjuri woman, Kim mentors and encourages our Aboriginal students to be their very best, and holds high expectations of them. She also shares her culture and knowledge with the whole community which inspires and guides us to better connect with Country and Culture.



Don Dwart
Picnic Point Public School

Don Dwart, the General Assistant at Picnic Point Public School, has worked here for 18 years. Don is a humble, dedicated and hard working member of staff who gives above and beyond to support improving the school environment for students, staff, parents and the community. Despite his small stature, no job is too big for Don. He has done everything from building puppet shows to creating new garden beds, assembling basketball hoops to building bespoke furniture and more. Don is an amazing asset and we appreciate everything he does, and the numerous hours that he volunteers above his work requirements. Thank you, Don!



Blake Graham
Ulladulla High School

Blake Graham has been an exceptional TSO at all levels. He embraces new and emerging technologies which has allowed the school to be agile in its response to meeting the learning needs of our students. He has brilliantly supported implementation: Telstra Edge, ET4L rollouts, device use, COVID Learning at home help desk, our Canteen Flexi-schools, School Bytes, our School App, and all the learning platforms that have been initiated over the last several years. The school's reputation as being a technology innovator is largely due to Blake's incredible ability to support the school community. A team player, hardworking, helpful and enthusiastic!



Jen Greig
Merrylands East Public School

Jen Greig is an outstanding Instructional Leader. At Merrylands East Public School her leadership has contributed to the shifts in Merrylands East Public School summative assessment results over the past three years. In 2019, 56% of Year 3 students in NAPLAN were in the two top bands in Writing with 57% in the top two bands in Spelling and our Year 3 girls were above state average in NAPLAN Writing and spelling compared to the state cohort. Jen shares this skill set with her staff and the wider educational community through her leadership of the Instructional Leaders network.



Nathan Gunter
Wagga Wagga High School

Wagga Wagga High School considers Nathan Gunter to be an outstanding teacher and Deputy Principal who demonstrates the personal qualities of collaboration, inclusivity, and empathy with all members of the school and wider community. Nathan is committed to improving the educational and wellbeing outcomes of all students and has used data and technology to support staff and students to achieve these outcomes. He is held in high regard by all members of the community and ensures that every student is known and cared for. Nathan aims to ensure all students are responsible, resilient, happy and well rounded global citizens.



Robyn Harmon
Ballina Public School

Robyn Harmon is a passionate and dedicated educator who models exemplary integrity and professionalism in all areas of her life. She is a steadfast advocate for human rights and improving young people's outcomes in every way. As Assistant Principal Learning and Support, Robyn works shoulder to shoulder with a variety of staff across different settings to support students to ensure their needs are met, and potential outcomes are exceeded. She embodies the Department of Education's values, and takes on challenges with dedication and commitment to overcoming disadvantage and adversity to improve the community we live in.



James Harris
Heaton Public School

James Harris is an outstanding contributor to public education. His work as an SLSO to support our diverse community has been second to none. He has formed relationships with all our EAL/D and refugee students and has gone above and beyond to learn his craft to become a classroom teacher all whilst managing his fulltime studies. James has a huge career ahead of him and we are so proud of him receiving this award.



Matthew Johnson
Glenvale School

Matthew Johnson is an excellent principal within the Mooney Mooney Principal Network, Regional North. He has a strong commitment to serving students in complex settings and pursuing quality outcomes. Matthew has extensive experience and knowledge in the area of special education. His experience and dedication to serving students with disabilities and complex needs has formed a significant part of his career. Currently Matthew is leading a complex multi site special school. He is committed to equity and inclusive practices and is a proud Department of Education public school leader.



Ana Latu
Thomas Reddall High School

Ana Latu is an outstanding educational leader who has made a significant contribution to improving teaching and learning in Mathematics and Numeracy. She has transformed educational programs to ensure they are inclusive, engaging and rigorous. As an outstanding teacher and role model, mentor and leader, Ana has made significant improvements to the teaching practice and capacity of those she supervises. This has led to exceptional growth in the areas of Mathematics and Numeracy. Ana's exceptional interpersonal skills and strong work ethic mean that she is well respected by her students, colleagues, parents and the wider community. Ana is very deserving awardee.



Emma Mackenzie
Padstow North Public School

Emma Mackenzie is an exceptional educator and students are the centre of her practice. Her true passion is wellbeing and building confident, resilient and self directed young people. Emma is the schools learning and support coordinator and enriches the lives of students and families through her contact. She builds strong collaborative partnerships with colleagues, families, support organisations and students resulting in a school culture that nurtures and cares. She has implemented a whole school social and emotional program, 1st framework that captures and tracks the needs of students and her wellbeing knowledge is sought across schools. She is an exceptional leader.



Brian O'Hora
Finley High School

Brian O'Hora always goes beyond to ensure Finley High School is a safe and engaging environment. He continually works with staff, students and wider community to provide the utmost of outcomes in every area. He is a positive member of staff who over the years has built great rapport with those working with him. There is never a task too big for Brian, he thinks holistically to benefit all involved. He is greatly appreciated within his role as General Assistant and also in our community.



Tamlyn Phillips
Ulladulla High School

Tamlyn Phillips, our extraordinary and hardworking Senior Psychologist, Education has been an incredible support to our school for many years. Her work has had a tremendously positive impact on our school through her ability to empower schools and provide us with the tools we need to build safe communities. Her service and care on wellbeing measures is significant. Despite the slow wearing impact of COVID 19, bushfire impact, tragic loss of a student and growing demands of wellbeing issues in our schools/community, Tamlyn has always been superb in the support of our students. A wonderful person, deserving of this recognition.



Brenda Pyett
Endeavour Sports High School

Brenda Pyett has been the Head Teacher of Endeavour's Special Education Unit (SEU) for two decades. Under Brenda's leadership the unit has grown to 73 students and is regarded as an exemplar within the Sutherland Shire and beyond. Realising that standard funding of special needs was inadequate, a decade ago Brenda created the Endeavour Special Kids With A Disability (SKWAD) charity. SKWAD has since raised nearly \$1 million to provide additional resources and experiences for the SEU's students. Brenda is an outstanding school leader with an unrivaled dedication to students with a disability, the Endeavour community and public education.



Shannon Stanbridge
Scarborough Public School

Shannon Stanbridge's outstanding practice has been instrumental in the development of an inclusive learning environment at Scarborough Public School. She invests her time and energy into every student in her care, identifying their specific needs and the most appropriate adjustments to assist them to engage in a mainstream classroom environment. She works in close collaboration with the classroom teacher, taking on feedback to continually refine her practice. Shannon's proactive approach, combined with her strong emotional intelligence enables her to identify student trigger points and challenges before they escalate, establishing a trusting environment where every student feels known, valued and cared for.



Luz Velez
Kogarah High School Intensive English Centre

Luz Velez is a valued member of the education community. Her tireless work with newly arrived students within Kogarah Intensive English Centre and Kogarah High School provide a calm port in the otherwise stormy seas our students face during the resettlement period. Ms Velez actively seeks opportunities for students to be supported at school, whether that is running maths clinics, operating Breakfast Club or being there as a friendly listener. Her commitment to public education is certainly impressive.



SECRETARY'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SCHOOL INITIATIVE

RECIPIENT CITATIONS

Auburn North Public School Use of Video for Self-Reflection and Peer-Reflection

Auburn North's 'Use of Video for Self-Reflection and Peer-Reflection' initiative was implemented in semester 2, 2020 to improve leadership, teaching and learning outcomes. The initiative involved leaders reflecting on videos of themselves leading teacher professional development programs, workshops, and sessions, and teachers teaching lessons, with leaders and teachers receiving feedback from colleagues after they had watched the videos themselves. Leaders were filmed leading data conversations, leadership development programs, professional learning workshops, and teaching lessons using the school's Instructional Model. Teachers were filmed teaching lessons to facilitate self-reflection and peer-reflection. Data shows this initiative significantly improved leadership, teaching and learning outcomes.

Hoxton Park High School Stage 5 Moving Forward Program

With a vision that all students will leave school with a career path, we developed a Stage 5 Moving Forward Class to support disengaged students with an authentic transition plan. The program is designed to assist students in becoming 'job ready' whilst completing both their ROSA and Certificate qualifications. The school works in partnership with TAFE NSW, My Gateway, SkillsRoad, Job Quest, Bunnings and Motor Trade Association to shape students' understanding of the world of work and the role education plays in their success to future pathways. Students successfully transition to either an apprenticeship, full-time TAFE or traineeship.

Hunter River High School Learning Opportunities for Tomorrow

Hunter River High School has utilised COVID funding support to design the Learning Opportunities for Tomorrow (LOFT) program to provide targeted, evidence-based withdrawal support to drive literacy and numeracy improvement. The team of passionate public-school educators was strategically formulated to match the specific needs of students. High student engagement has been achieved through innovative approaches to teaching reading, writing and numeracy skills whilst enhancing student wellbeing and engagement. Whole school data walls support a purposeful student-centred approach to knowing every student, including their areas, strengths and improvement.

Liverpool Boys High School Big Picture Academy

Liverpool Boys High School is one of the only schools within Sydney to host a Big Picture Academy. Big Picture is an opportunity for students to pursue their passions and interests through deep learning experiences. Putting students at the centre of decisions around what, how and when they learn is the key to nurturing the next generations of engaged, independent learners. Students combine academic work with real-world internships, use their head, heart and hands to explore their world and plan their own pathways to future employment, study or enterprise.

Murray High School

Engagement and Transition Centre

The Engagement and Transition Centre provides targeted support to students at risk of disengaging from schooling. It builds capacity in students, including all students returning from suspension, on how to re-engage at school, re-integrate to positive work habits and prevent recurrence of inappropriate behaviours. It has provided holistic support from classroom teachers, behaviour staff, wellbeing staff, and careers adviser. The Centre has seen an increase in participating students' academic outcomes and attendance, a substantial decrease in inappropriate behaviour; and has enhanced the school's standing in the local community by demonstrating the ability to support all students to engage with education.

Murrumbidgee Regional High School

Australia New Zealand STEM Education Alliance

The Australia New Zealand STEM Education Alliance (ANZSEA) program is an example of how an effective STEM program can benefit like-minded students in regional and rural locations not only in NSW and Australia but also internationally. Partnering with companies such as IBM, students in the ANZSEA pilot have gained deeper STEM knowledge. They have become insightful problem solvers and confident online collaborators. The success of ANZSEA has led to MRHS being selected to introduce the NSW Virtual STEM Academy. This will provide more students with the ability to develop 21st Century skill development particularly in collaboration and complex problem solving.

Murwillumbah High School

Partners in Learning

Murwillumbah High School's Partners in Learning initiative addresses the question 'How can we positively impact on learning by enhancing partnership with students, parents and staff?' The initiative is underpinned by three key activities: 1. Teaching and non-teaching staff meet regularly sharing strategies to improve learning for each Stage group; 2. Teachers, students and parents partner in collaborative observation of learning in action; 3. Student led conferences involve families, teaching and non-teaching staff and student peers. Every student in Y8-10 now has a learning coach and an individual learning plan. The Project has seen a significant increase in parental involvement for Stage 4.

NSW School of Languages

Stage 6 Online Languages Courses

NSW School of Languages offers distance education languages to 2600 students from all education sectors. Teacher-writers have developed ten new online language courses which bring together the latest research in languages pedagogy and the best use of technology. Early results have shown increased student engagement with the courses and students are demonstrating greater skills in authentic language use. Teachers have developed their skills in the use of collaborative, project-based focus tasks and in giving meaningful feedback. Teachers are able to differentiate for individual learners and ensure that students meet the high expectations presented by the courses.

Prairiewood High School

Reaching for the Stars

The Astronomy and Space Science program is one of the High Performing and Gifted Education initiatives that extend student learning at Prairiewood High School. The school boasts an onsite observatory and two state-of-the-art telescopes that bring Science learning to life. These resources support the implementation of an exceptional and unique Stage 5 Astronomy curriculum elective that is built into school culture and organisation. Further extension opportunities exist for Year 7-12 students including: stargazing nights with students, staff and parent/careers; participation in the PHS Astronomy Club, Astronomy camps and excursions to Questacon and Universities supporting Science education.



SECRETARY'S SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

RECIPIENT CITATIONS

Albury High School Pivotal Wellbeing

Utilising data on student wellbeing from the School Excellence Framework, External Validation process it was evident that to achieve our desired outcome of every child being cared for, safe and engaged a change to policy and practice was needed. A whole school team was formed and student input gathered. A researched informed direction based on the work of Dr Helen Street and Paul Dix was formed and embedded in our School Plan. Results have validated our approach with a reduction in suspensions and students playing and interacting in a positive manner in the playground, a real whole school team effort.

Auburn North Public School Collaborative School Culture

'Auburn North's Culture of Collaborative Leadership and Teaching' was developed in response to research and other evidence that demonstrate leader and teacher collaboration significantly improves collective teacher efficacy, teaching programs and practices, and student outcomes. The school's leaders and teachers have collaboratively developed and implemented a range of high-quality programs including improvement plans, curriculum, scope and sequence plans, and teaching and professional learning programs. Data show the school's collaborative culture, and its programs and practices, have significantly contributed to the development of an outstanding school learning community where leaders and teachers have worked cohesively together to achieve outstanding outcomes.



Callaghan College – Jesmond Senior Campus – Wallsend Campus – Waratah Campus Faculty Leadership Improvement Project

We are very proud of our outstanding College Instructional Leaders. Through the College 'FLIP' initiative they have each demonstrated a value of leading for impact and have developed a high level skillset. Each of them have effectively led a targeted project to address an area of need in their faculty. They have built the capacity of others through distributed leadership and most importantly have impacted positively on the learning culture of our entire College.

Caringbah North Public School **Jannali Public School** **Miranda North Public School** 4C Community of Practice

The sustainability of transformative practices that focus on the continual development of the whole child are sadly rarely achievable in schools and even rarer within community of practices (CoP) that span across schools. These initiatives often fail for a myriad of reasons. The commitment of CNPS, MNPS and JPS to sustain a 4C CoP is founded on the significant impact that this is having on their students, staff and broader community. This is an outstanding school initiative that has a strong future in significantly having a positive effect on the possible futures of students across the 3 schools.

Caringbah North Public School Connect 4 Wellbeing Program

The C4 initiative that operates at Caringbah North Public School is an exemplar of holistic practice that makes a daily difference to the lives of children. Through this peer learning model based around concepts of equitable relationships, social and emotional learning, individual and collective achievement, students and staff demonstrate the core elements that are foundational to the virtues of public education. The C4 initiative is an authentic collaborative model that focus upon wellbeing, learning and leadership for all at CNPS. It is a practice that respects the profession of teaching, respects the optimistic potential of students and respects the values of public education.

Glenbrook Public School Quality Teaching Coordinator

The Quality Teaching Coordinator role at Glenbrook Public School has proven to be invaluable in the improvement of outcomes in learning. The initiative has been presented to a number of schools, who are now incorporating aspects of this project. The initiative has been sustainable over time, demonstrating measurable improvement in student outcomes over a number of curriculum areas. Website development for the QTC project provides quality resourcing for the ongoing support of teachers. The authentic connection between; School Improvement Plan, SEF, Performance and Development (HIPL) and What Works Best in Practice is what validates the project at the highest level.



Moree East Public School Learning for Life Cafeteria

Moree East Public School deserves recognition for the successful implementation of a healthy school cafeteria for every child, every school day. From the onset, the whole school community has highly valued and supported this project. Their determination and effort in working together has contributed greatly to the positive impacts on students, families and our community. The school is proud of our achievements and of the numerous examples of recognition received from students, staff, parents/carers, parliamentarians, businesses/organisations, within and beyond Moree. We are dedicated to continuous evidence-based improvement, focusing on "Closing the Gap" outcomes as a catalyst for generational change.

Towradgi Public School School Wellbeing Framework – A Positive School Experience For All

A team of dedicated staff guided by Assistant Principal, Brent Pritchard and Wellbeing Team Coordinator, Aimee Woodley have worked intensely over two years to bring this initiative to fruition. It involved an intense and honest self-reflection on school practices, surveys of all stakeholders and research. The team created a wellbeing framework to support all students to build resilience, show empathy and promote positive self-esteem and relationships with others. Social-emotional learning, Aboriginal wellbeing practices and a supportive approach to mental health are key aspects. The framework is aligned to NSW syllabus outcomes and reflect ACARA's Personal and Social Capability Learning Continuum.

Winmalee Public School Whole School Achievement

Winmalee Public School has applied a data driven approach to shift pedagogy and teacher practice. This has improved student learning outcomes across all domains. The staff at Winmalee Public School have re-imagined their collective purpose, built a culture of shared understanding and focus, and have collaborated to provide the highest quality teaching and learning experiences for staff. The outcomes of their hard work and rigorous focus on improvement through looking inward, looking outward and moving forward are many. However at the heart of their work are the best interests and maximum growth for each of their students.

PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

RECIPIENT CITATIONS



Dianne Bentley
Bringelly Public School

Di Bentley is a very worthy recipient of the Parent of the Year Award. She has been part of the school's P&C since 2018, Treasurer and Canteen Manager for three years very dedicated to maintaining the Healthy Canteen status the school was awarded in 2019 by making most of the food. She also operates the P&C's uniform shop. Her passion for helping others flows onto her family which comprises of her own family and eight foster children. The Bringelly staff have the highest respect for Di and her dedication to family, community and the school.



Danielle Harris
Ulladulla High School

Danielle Harris has been a devoted and loyal parent who has supported the school to purchase a bus to provide students the opportunity to travel and enrich their learning experiences. She has supported the evolution of the canteen into an outstanding hearty healthy canteen serving our 1270 strong students superb food. Her enthusiasm during Covid restrictions to support isolated parents and ensure the meetings progressed, albeit online, and despite the hesitation and the technical challenges was outstanding. Danielle managed during all the ups and downs of COVID to keep the parents supported and engaged. A terrific person deserving of this recognition.



Anna McFarlane
Rose Bay Secondary College

Anna McFarlane has demonstrated extraordinary dedication to the Music Ensemble Program (MEP) at Rose Bay Secondary College. She has served on the parent committee of MEP for seven years. Anna is generous in giving of her time, passion and expertise to the Music Ensemble Program and has raised thousands of dollars through fundraising to ensure instruments can be purchased and high quality tutors can be employed to support this now thriving program.



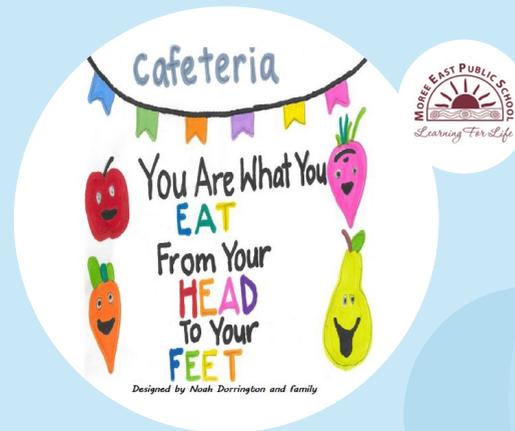
Helen Mundy
Wagga Wagga High School

Helen Mundy is a worthy recipient of the Public School Parent of the Year award. She has been a highly respected and valued member of the Wagga Wagga High School P&C since 2017 and a strong voice for the parents of the WWHS community. Helen's commitment has been unwavering and her enthusiasm and positive leadership have been appreciated by all members of the P&C and school community. Her unwavering support and dedication to public education make her a respected member of WWHS and the wider community.



Ben and Swannida Stewart
Harrington Street Public School

Ben and Swannida Stewart are highly respected and valued parents of Harrington Street Public School and have both been a strong voice for parents across the community for a number of years. They are dedicated long time members of the school P&C committee and have volunteered endless hours in coordinating and assisting with fundraisers and community events that have benefited the students, staff and community of Harrington Street Public School. Ben served as school captain at HSPS in 1992, and their children are third generation HSPS students, which shows their strong connection with the school and community. They are outstanding recipients of this award.



PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

We Give Life-Changing Scholarships

The Public Education Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to providing life-changing scholarships to young people in public education and enhancing the value and reputation of public schools across Australia.

Our scholarships identify and support potential, based on need, and individual excellence amongst students and educators in the public education system.

- Scholarships for students from refugee backgrounds
- Scholarships for students with a physical disability
- Scholarships for students with an interest in social justice
- Primary and secondary school scholarships for Indigenous students
- Scholarships for primary students to support them through their critical years of schooling
- Scholarships for Principals, Teachers and Emerging Leaders

The Foundation works in collaboration with the Education Departments around Australia, schools, communities, individuals, the private sector, government agencies and unions to help students achieve their full potential and acknowledge teaching and learning excellence in the public education system.

For more information:
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Investing in education

To support the important role played by public education in ensuring fair, equitable and high-quality education for all, you can donate to the Public Education Foundation. The Foundation is committed to building long-term partnerships with business and philanthropic organisations to achieve the best results for educational goals. We work with our partners to create a scholarship package for particular areas of disadvantage and/or help students pursue excellence in particular curriculum areas.

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