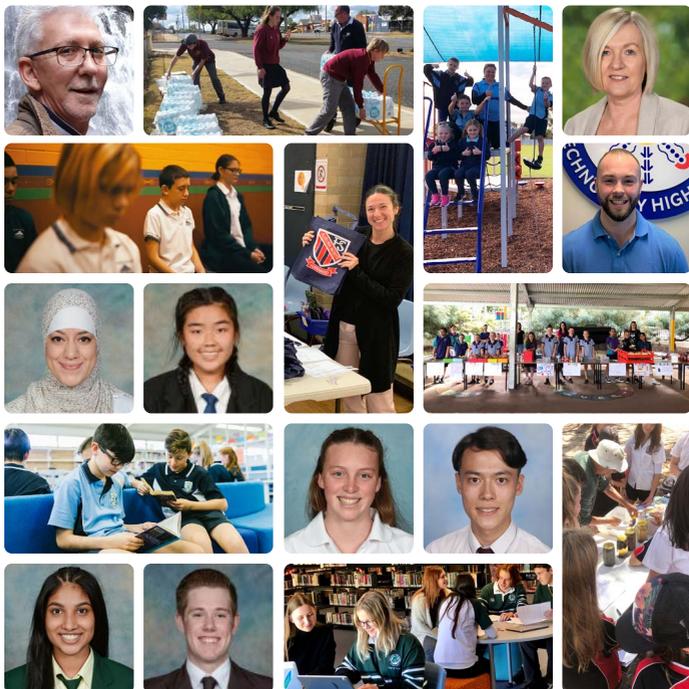


2020 Minister's and Secretary's Awards for

Excellence



Welcome

It is an absolute pleasure to present the winners of the 2020 Minister's and Secretary's Awards for Excellence. These Awards showcase the exceptional work that occurs every day across NSW public education – by schools, students, teachers, employees and parents.

One of the Public Education Foundation's primary roles is to celebrate the best of public schooling, and the Minister's and Secretary's Awards do that in spades. The Foundation is proud to manage the Awards on behalf of The Hon. Sarah Mitchell MLC, Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning and Mr Mark Scott AO, Secretary of the NSW Department of Education.

In normal times, we would be meeting this week for a large Awards ceremony, but this year COVID-19 means that we are recognising our winners locally in their school environments.

That does nothing to diminish the quality of the winners we are celebrating. You will read here about outstanding contributions and innovative initiatives from across NSW, from community drought relief at Trundle Central School to Wellbeing Wednesday at Canterbury Boys High.

Finally, I want to share a quick reminder that our 2021 scholarship round for primary and secondary students are closing soon. We have hundreds of scholarships to award, including new scholarships for Indigenous and regional and remote students. Head to our website and take a look!

We hope to see you back in person for next year's Award ceremony.

David Hetherington
Executive Director
Public Education Foundation



Award Recipients

Minister's Awards 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.

Akash Biradar
Endeavour Sports High School

Kristie Caplikas
Prairiewood High School

Alexandra Carroll
NBSC Mackellar Girls Campus

Jacob Carson
Lambton High School

Nicholas Cavanaugh
Bossley Park High School

Rowan Chate
Cumberland High School

Elka Devney
Moree Secondary College

Georgia Elphinston
Prairiewood High School

Bridget Gard
Fort Street High School

Mackenzie Gilligan
Merewether High School

Natasha Goundar
Merrylands High School

Sophia Hadjimichael
Penrith High School

Piper Harrison
NBSC Mackellar Girls Campus

Purvi Kapur
Cumberland High School

Annabel Knight
Strathfield Girls High School

Anson Lee
Fort Street High School

Joshua Levin
Whitebridge High School

Wendy Li
Penrith High School

Imogen McDonald
Inverell High School

Cassandra McMurdo
Elderslie High School

Jade Mudge
Ulladulla High School

Edward Prescott
Wagga Wagga High School

Mackenzie Purtill-Wright
Wagga Wagga High School

Swathy Raveendran
Lambton High School

Jacob Read
Corowa High School

Maddison Reichert
West Wallsend High School

Annalise Robertson
Macksville High School

Molly Robinson
Jindabyne Central School

Rowan Silcock
North Sydney Boys High School

Lachlan Taylor
Elderslie High School

Kayla Tiga
Girraween High School

Aimy Trang
Hurlstone Agricultural
High School

Holly Trikilis
Bossley Park High School

Amy Wade
Sydney Girls High School

Elizabeth Waugh
Dorrigo 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.

Zainab Bazzi
Merrylands High School

Kellie Chapman
Turvey Park Public School

Michelle Collison
Thomas Reddall High School

Rebecca Ferris
Elderslie High School

Nick Forrester
Murwillumbah High School

David Gillard
Wagga Wagga High School

Karen Gourlay
The Forest High School

Dion Hobbins
Murwillumbah High School

Sheree Jones
Dubbo College Delroy Campus

Rhonda Kaidbay
Ryde Secondary College

Tania Maddison
Wagga Wagga High School

Megan Mitchell
Airds High School

Candice Morris-Grant
Murwillumbah High School

Janet Phillips
Revesby Public School

Mat Rhodes
Dapto High School

Craig Roder
James Fallon High School

Mika Rodic
Prairiewood High School

Aaron Routh
Orange High School

Nagiha Sahyouni
Doonside Technology High School

Conie Sinnott
Murwillumbah High School

Jake Tonkin
Ryde Secondary College

Georgia Valatiadis
Prairiewood High School

Katerina Zito
Ryde Secondary College

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.

- Jade Arnold**
Galston High School
- Bradley Bannister**
Delegate Public School
- Lee Bateman**
Airds High School
- Rachel Byrne**
Hunter Sports High School
- Leanne Colley**
Ulladulla High School
- Gabrielle Curry**
Ulladulla High School
- Cherie Edwards**
Thomas Reddall High School
- Ben Gerard**
Doonside Technology High School
- Christopher Haberecht**
Guildford Public School
- Lyn Harris**
James Fallon High School
- Ric Hutchinson**
Red Range Public School
- Sharon Jenness**
West Wallsend High School

- Stephen Keogh**
Campbelltown Performing Arts High School
- Nick Littlewood**
Orange High School
- Melissa Milburn**
Thomas Reddall High School
- Nick Patsianis**
Morriset High School
- Joanne Petterson**
Endeavour Sports High School
- Denise Russell**
Elderslie High School
- Denise Smith**
Prairiewood High School
- Jessica Yell**
Oran Park Public School



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**
COVID-19 Blended Approach to Flexible Learning Project
- Canterbury Boys High School**
Wellbeing Wednesday
- Chifley College Senior Campus**
HSC Minimum Standards
- Cowra High School**
Learning Hub Initiative
- Deniliquin High School**
Sustainability 2.0
- Elderslie Public School**
Student Leadership: Ministries
- EZEC Network**
Learning from Home Project
- Gateway Learning Community**
Early Years Intervention: Strong Start, Successful Learners

- Liverpool Boys High School**
Take Over Project
- Rooty Hill High School**
Entrepreneurial Learning Initiative
- Strathfield Girls High School**
Improving Student Learning Outcomes through Tracking Profile Data
- The Forest High School**
Trailblazer Program
- Trundle Central School**
Community Drought Relief
- Ulladulla High School**
A Mindful School – Room to Breathe
- West Wallsend High School**
Powerful Practices for Improved Reading Performance



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.

Charlestown South Public School
Explicit Instruction Whole School Program

Chifley College Senior Campus
Literacy and Numeracy

Claymore Public School
Achievement of Significant Improvement in Educational Outcomes and Opportunities for Students

Hill End Public School
Immersive Classroom Program

Ingleburn Public School
PCIT at School

Kurri Kurri High School
Peer Critique

Kurri Kurri High School
Staged Learning Approach

Murwillumbah High School
Collaborative Leadership and Learning

Saturday School of Community Languages
Collaborative 7 to 10 Languages Syllabus Implementation Project

Sir Joseph Banks High School
Senior Pathways Transition

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.

Erika Crevatin
Wagga Wagga High School

Penny Haldane
Blaxland East Public School

Camilla Hoddle
Carroll Public School

Tracey Petruszenko
Elderslie Public School

Deb Radvan
Valentine Public School

Kathryn Reynolds
Nicholson Street Public School

Lesley Rowley
Delegate Public School

Melanie Saunders
Northern Beaches Secondary College – Cromer Campus

Amanda Shaw
The Forest High School

Carol Vigo
Harrington Street Public School

Peter Wilson
Covra High School



Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement

Recipient Citations



Akash Biradar
Endeavour Sports High School

Akash Biradar is an outstanding young man who is a role model student. Akash is highly academic, an exceptional sportsman, a natural leader, respectful of others and someone who clearly loves his school. Akash was dux of Year 11 and after serving as a long term member of the SRC was elected as the male School Captain for 2019-20. Since 2018 he has been the Endeavour Sports' Opens Cricket Captain & squad leader, a sport for which he has competed at a state level. Akash comprehensively displays the values of integrity, excellence, respect, responsibility, cooperation, participation, care and fairness.



Kristie Caplikas
Prairieview High School

Kristie Caplikas is a worthy recipient of the 2020 Minister's Award for Student Excellence! Her ability to triumph in multiple fields of student leadership, academics and sporting endeavour is inspiring, infectious, and growing. In her proactive journey to become an astro-physicist, Kristie has used her passion for astronomy and scientific inquiry to promote the image of Prairieview High, as a school of high achievement and learning excellence. Additionally, as a triathlon national champion, she embodies the dedication, self-discipline and determination required to achieve sporting excellence; both as an individual and teams' competitor. Overall, Kristie is most deserving of this honour.



Alexandra Carroll
NBSC Mackellar Girls Campus

Alexandra Carroll has distinguished herself in every aspect of her school life. As School Captain, Alexandra has been exemplary; with strong leadership capabilities matched with a most caring, positive manner. She has consistently displayed integrity and responsibility, and is always a productive individual. Alexandra has distinguished herself academically in all her subjects and by her selection for the National Constitutional Convention. Alexandra'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 sporting, cultural and community achievements and her prolific fundraising for charity.



Jacob Carson
Lambton High School

Jacob Carson is an outstanding, highly motivated and dedicated student with an enquiring mind. He has consistently attained excellent scholastic achievement in all areas, including distinguished achievement in accelerated HSC Mathematics in Year 11. A dedicated high achiever in all his endeavours, Jacob has made significant contributions and led improvements to his school and community, through his commitment and leadership in the SRC and as School Captain. Jacob embodies the core values of public education and this is demonstrated by his passionate and tireless support of fellow students and staff and community groups. Jacob is a worthy recipient of this award.



Nicholas Cavanaugh
Bossley Park High School

Nicholas Cavanaugh is an outstanding student. He is quietly confident and has applied himself consistently to his academic studies to achieve excellent results. His genuine and friendly personality, together with his willingness take on new challenges, and work with peers and staff for school improvement has seen him elected as School Captain 2020. Nicholas is a deep thinker and a leader in the school's successful Robotics Program. His leadership and involvement in robotics competitions has seen him travel to Houston USA as well as being instrumental in the achievement of the award of Leader in Robotics – NSW Secondary Schools.



Rowan Chate
Cumberland High School

Rowan Chate is an outstanding leader who has demonstrated an unswerving commitment to the school and broader community. Rowan has achieved with distinction in academic, cultural and creative pursuits and his dedication and diligent application have enabled him to excel in all aspects of school life. His leadership as School Captain and across a range of extracurricular initiatives including the IRIS Conference, Futures Project, Drama and Music Ensembles and volunteering in environmental programs capture his extraordinary talents and exceptional commitment to service. Rowan's exemplary citizenship makes him a most worthy recipient of the Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement.



Elka Devney
Moree Secondary College

Elka Devney is an exemplary student whose diligence and determination is evident and she is held in high regard by the community and school. Elka has been an active member of our school's AECG and in 2019, Elka participated in the NSW DoE, Secretary for a Day program, won the Rotary Public Speaking Competition, the regional final of the Lions Youth of the Year competition and the ABC Heywire creative writing competition. Elka actively involves herself in extra-curricular activities, for example, school musicals and MADD showcases, has also qualified for State swimming and is an active member of the Moree Youth Council.



Georgia Elphinston
Prairiewood High School

Georgia Elphinston is a Prairiewood High School student, whose level of achievement across a broad range of school programs and community initiatives, is outstanding! As School Captain, she is an exemplary leader, with skills and abilities honed through years of proactive involvement in student governance and school sports development. Georgia's innate drive, in academic achievement and national sports representation, has been a consistent attribute in her pursuit of excellence. Her impressive self-discipline, willingness to take on a challenge, and application to task combine to enable her to excel in all programs and activities to which she commits. She is outstanding!



Bridget Gard
Fort Street High School

Bridget Gard excels academically and has been awarded Speech Day prizes each year. As SRC Vice-President 2018-2019 Bridget ran whole-school assemblies and the Speech Day ceremony at the Sydney Town Hall as well as representing the school at several formal functions. Bridget has been a long-term member of the school's Instrumental Music Program (Vocal Ensemble, Chamber Choir) including their European Tour of 2018. For ten years she has also been a leading member of the Greenlees Netball Club. Bridget brings dignity, poise and a natural affinity with others to all her activities, making her an outstanding representative of public education.



Mackenzie Gilligan
Merewether High School

Mackenzie Gilligan embodies public education and its values. He excels in the areas of academia, cultural involvement and sporting aspects. Mackenzie's high personal standards ensure he extends himself, striving to achieve at the highest possible level. He has been a true asset to the school and student body. His drive and high-level intelligence ensures he successfully meets the challenges he is presented. Mackenzie involves himself in school life and the wider community. He is highly respected by his peers, younger students and staff. Mackenzie is a very worthy recipient of the Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement.



Natasha Goundar
Merrylands High School

Natasha Goundar is an outstanding HSC student who has excelled academically, socially and through numerous and significant leadership opportunities. Natasha is currently the School Captain, the culmination of a long history of humble service as a member of our Student Representative Council (2015-20). Natasha is a student of whom our school is immensely proud, such as initiating the Sustainability Project and embracing the visibility of the learning environment. Her integrity, respect, cooperation, refined civic values, active participation, collaboration and leadership of the school community make her a worthy recipient of this prestigious award.



Sophia Hadjimichael
Penrith High School

Sophia Hadjimichael is a high-achieving student who excels across the curriculum. Her dedication to learning have earned her many wonderful accolades, including the "2019 Rotary Club of Nepean Youth Award" for her outstanding contribution to the school/community and, her election as School Captain. In this role, Sophia has set an example of excellence in behaviour, leadership, integrity and responsibility. Sophia's academic excellence has continued, across the curriculum, throughout the past six years. She is truly a gifted student who always strives for the highest in all that she does. Sophia Hadjimichael is a most worthy candidate for this award.



Piper Harrison
NBSC Mackellar Girls Campus

Piper Harrison has demonstrated excellence in every aspect of her school life. As School Captain, Piper displays the strongest leadership, integrity and responsibility, and is a proactive and productive individual with a keen sense of the welfare of others. Piper has distinguished herself academically, excelling to the highest level. Her National and State achievements in Swimming, Athletics, Cross Country, Surf Lifesaving and Triathlon, further evidence Piper's commitment to excellence and broad talent, her exceptionally high personal standards and her contributions to community make her an outstanding role model. Piper is a remarkable young woman, the consummate student of excellence.



Purvi Kapur
Cumberland High School

Purvi Kapur's excellence in academic achievement, exemplary citizenship, exceptional service and commitment to the school and broader community have enabled her to emerge as an outstanding leader. Purvi is celebrated as a highly respected role-model within and beyond the school domain. Purvi has coordinated and contributed significantly to whole-school projects, cultural, sporting, music and community-based initiatives that have not only positively impacted Cumberland High School but also offered immense service to community partners. She is an exceptional leader who has contributed with distinction to her school and local community making her a most worthy recipient of this prestigious award.



Annabel Knight
Strathfield Girls High School

Annabel Knight is an all-rounder who has excelled both within and outside academia. She is a reliable, articulate and respectable young person, who reflects the values of leadership and public education. She demonstrates a positive attitude in all her endeavours. Her academic focus and encouragement of others make her an outstanding candidate for a Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement in 2020. She is very deserving of the recognition as a student of excellence.



Anson Lee
Fort Street High School

Anson Lee consistently demonstrates outstanding academic achievement, including Second-in-State ranking for HSC Information Processes Technology as an accelerated student in 2018. He was awarded several Speech Day prizes each year across all subject areas. Anson has applied his excellent coding skills in many real-world scenarios, including the CSIRO's Data61 division, the "initiate48" start-up competition and the 2020 National Computer Science Summer School. Anson was Principal Violinist of the school's Symphony and Philharmonic orchestras and String Ensemble, SRC Secretary, a Silver Duke of Edinburgh recipient and Scout Troop President. In everything he does, Anson epitomises the very best of public education.



Joshua Levin
Whitebridge High School

Joshua Levin has maturity beyond his years. He is thoughtful and considered in all he does and is a natural leader. Josh is School Captain giving much of his time to ensuring that students have a genuine and active voice in the school. He contributes to the school and is a community leader for "Feel the Magic". He has continued to give back to this charity by supporting its work and leading fundraising initiatives. Josh is an academic high achiever who is dedicated to his studies, and is a very worthy recipient of this award.



Wendy Li
Penrith High School

Wendy Li is an exceptional student who excels across the curriculum. Her dedication to learning have earned her the prestigious 2019 Stuart Aryes All Rounder Award for her outstanding excellence in learning, sports, leadership and community. This commitment to learning and her engagement with school and co-curricular activities is a trend evident throughout Wendy's six years at school. Wendy sets an example of excellence in behaviour, leadership, integrity and responsibility. She is a gifted student who has always followed our school motto of "Altiora Peto" – "Striving for the highest" and is a most worthy candidate for this award.



Imogen McDonald
Inverell High School

Imogen McDonald strives for personal excellence in her academic and extra-curricular pursuits. This is demonstrated through her achievements in the NSW Youth Parliament, Country to Canberra Rural Women in Politics and her role in the SRC where she represented student voice and displayed empathy for student issues. Imogen has demonstrated skills in cooperation to others through her public speaking, performance in ballet and music. Her integrity, caring nature and belief in a positive future for all has been demonstrated through her community involvement and fundraising efforts. She is an excellent role model for other students and displays a deep understanding of democracy.



Cassandra McMurdo
Elderslie High School

Cassandra McMurdo is an exceptional student who has demonstrated her academic talent along with the admirable qualities of determination and commitment. She is a driven student who manages a complex range of responsibilities including debating, performing arts and leadership. As a School Captain and Prefect, she leads by example and has earned the respect of the student body and the staff alike. She is an outstanding public speaker and is committed to guiding younger students in their skill development. There was no hesitation in recommending Cassandra for this award – she is the epitome of the very best in public education.



Jade Mudge
Ulladulla High School

Jade Mudge is an exceptional young environmentalist where her words are actions. She has moved her school and her community to actively make a difference from ensuring that our local youth 'Take 3 For the Sea', that they consciously understand and make efforts around climate change encouraged and led by Jade. Jade has the ability and the perseverance to balance her commitment to her academic achievement with serving her school and her community. Her commitment and leadership as the School Captain and to her work on the projects for the Student Representative Council are outstanding. An extraordinary young person.



Edward Prescott
Wagga Wagga High School

Edward Prescott is an exemplar student and genuine all-rounder. He has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to his responsibilities, representing the school and peers with integrity and dignity. He consistently demonstrates outstanding achievement in all areas of school life. As a senior student, Edward has shown leadership and maturity beyond his years. He has made a significant contribution to the whole school community, particularly in the creative arts. WWHS considers Edward Prescott to be an outstanding student who exhibits outstanding personal qualities of honesty, integrity and determination and we proudly nominate him to receive the Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement.



Mackenzie Purtill-Wright
Wagga Wagga High School

During her time at WWHS, Mackenzie Purtill-Wright has consistently displayed all values of NSW public education. She is an outstanding student who is well respected by students and staff for her honesty and responsible approach to all aspects of her school life. Mackenzie has shown through her strong sense of fairness and social justice that she has empathy for all regardless of their background. Her honesty, determination and integrity make her a worthy recipient of this award.



Swathy Raveendran
Lambton High School

Swathy Raveendran is a creative, highly motivated and dedicated student. She has consistently attained excellent scholastic achievement in all areas, including distinguished achievement in accelerated HSC Visual Art in Year 11. A dedicated high achiever in all her endeavours, Swathy has made significant contributions and led improvements to her school, region and community, through her academic achievements and leadership in the SRC and as School Vice-Captain. Swathy is passionate about serving others, her community, her language and culture and has been recognised for her significant contributions to school events, dance and cultural festivals. Swathy is a worthy recipient of this award.



Jacob Read
Corowa High School

Throughout his time at Corowa High School, Jacob Read has shown himself to be an outstanding ambassador and role model for public education. He has consistently endeavoured to achieve at the highest level in all aspects of his school life. His academic achievements in all courses have been outstanding, and was awarded the Victor Chang School Science Award for demonstrating the highest level of educational achievement, innovation, creativity and hard work. Jacob has also found time to promote the values of public education within our community through his efforts with local sporting clubs and membership of Federation Youth Council.



Maddison Reichert
West Wallsend High School

Maddison Reichert's academic achievements have been consistently excellent during six years of high school. She is ranked in the top two of her HSC subjects which has led to her inclusion in the regional high achievers program. Maddison has always contributed positively to school culture through her involvement in leadership, wellbeing and community opportunities. She was a founding member of the student wellbeing team which designed a highly successful whole school wellbeing week. Maddison is a proud Aboriginal woman and School Captain who has acted as an outstanding role model to younger peers facilitating diversity and inclusion.



Annalise Robertson
Macksville High School

Annalise Robertson is an exceptional student with a diverse range of talents. Annalise is highly motivated and has excelled academically through her dedication to her studies. She demonstrates passion, fairness and integrity in her leadership roles and always displays a strong sense of empathy, advocacy and justice for others. She willingly participates in Youth forums utilising her public speaking skills to ensure the voice of regional youth is heard. She generously volunteers her time in organising numerous fundraising activities and school functions. Annalise is a young person with fine qualities who will meet all opportunities with enthusiasm and hard work.



Molly Robinson
Jindabyne Central School

Molly Robinson has consistently demonstrated outstanding achievement in academic, sporting, cultural, community and leadership endeavours. Her positive and vibrant attitude endears her to all members of the school community which resulted in her being elected a worthy School Captain. Molly's accomplishments both within the school and in the community are evidence of her ability and drive to achieve personal goals. Molly has shown maturity beyond her years and has developed personal strengths that ensures a bright and successful future in whatever pathway she chooses. Molly is highly deserving of this award.



Rowan Silcock
North Sydney Boys High School

Rowan Silcock is a young man with a love of learning and an exceptional academic achiever in a high performing school. He is a true all rounder, contributing to school life through sport, public speaking, debating, and music. He is held in high regard by all of those around him. His warmth and natural leadership skills make him a valued member of our school community exemplifying falcon pride, the set of values held dear in our school. He is a most deserving candidate and represents what is good about public education.



Lachlan Taylor
Elderslie High School

Lachlan Taylor demonstrates academic excellence, advocacy for others and extensive commitment to leadership. Lachlan has ranked first for five of his HSC subjects, results that indicate his determination and exemplary study habits. He sets clear goals, has an unquestionable work ethic and proactively seeks feedback to improve his performance. Lachlan can be relied upon to take initiative as School Captain to carry out his responsibilities beyond all expectations. He is an outstanding public speaker who engages all members of the school community. Lachlan is a responsible young man who epitomises the values of public education and is an outstanding role model.



Kayla Tiga
Girraween High School

Kayla Tiga is an outstanding student who has made great contributions to the community of Girraween High School. She has demonstrated excellence in her academic studies, community service, co-curricular and leadership endeavours. Kayla's service as School Captain has been exemplary and of the highest standard. She has initiated and led various programs which have benefited students in all year groups. Kayla has actively demonstrated an outstanding ability to balance her studies at an academically selective high school with a variety of other co-curricular activities both within the school and the wider community. Kayla is a most deserving recipient of this award.



Aimy Trang
Hurlstone Agricultural High School

Aimy Trang is nominated as an outstanding young person possessing a strong sense of social justice who gives time generously in school and community while maintaining excellent academic results. As 2020 School Vice-Captain and 2019 Student Representative Council member she led initiatives to promote improved outcomes for her peers. Participating in both Australian Navy Cadets and school cadets honed Aimy's leadership skills. Volunteering regularly for charities - the Salvation Army, the Cancer Council and the Heart Foundation - Aimy gives selflessly to support others. She performs at cultural celebrations in Cabramatta and Fairfield. Aimy's participation in sport and academic pursuits is impressive.



Holly Trikilis
Bossley Park High School

Holly Trikilis is a joyful, dedicated and talented student who has consistently achieved outstanding academic results. Her success has seen her receive the Sydney University Academic excellence award and the Victor Chang School Science Award for Chemistry. Holly has a wide field of accomplishments, including being an excellent pianist who has completed all classical piano grades and is currently working on completing the Associate Diploma of Performance. She is part of the Australian Girls Choir and the Australian Youth Orchestra. She is an outstanding leader, a major contributor and an excellent mentor in the school's successful Robotics Program.



Amy Wade
Sydney Girls High School

Amy Wade is an exemplary student and outstanding leader at Sydney Girls High. Elected as Captain of the School, she embodies the attributes of public education through her willingness to support other students to reach their potential, as a mentor, and an accomplished public speaker, able to motivate and encourage the student body. She is a remarkable role model, engaged in many school programs, being at the top of some endeavours, such as a State Debating Champion and in others being a valued team member. She is committed to serving the school with dignity, integrity and kindness.



Elizabeth Waugh
Dorrigo High School

Elizabeth Waugh is a dedicated student who has shown outstanding leadership as School Captain, at Dorrigo High. During these challenging times, she has sought to provide leadership that was inclusive and actively tried to help the younger students. She is a very positive role model and is committed to her academic studies where she is excelling. Another notable achievement is that Elizabeth is currently an Australian Champion in surf lifesaving, in the ski relay. She also supports the community through volunteer work, through surf patrols, and helping those impacted by the bush fires in our local community.

Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching

Recipient Citations



Zainab Bazzi
Head Teacher, Mathematics,
Merrylands High School

Zainab Bazzi has been an ornament to our school and to public education since 2015. Zainab is an exceptional practitioner and educational leader who selflessly serves young people through applying deep professional knowledge, exemplary practice and ongoing engagement. She is expert at engaging students, employing her remarkable interpersonal skills to build rapport and connection with all students. Zainab extends her service by expertly dedicating herself to a range of pursuits including being a Head Teacher, Year Advisor and PBL Team leader. She has also led the school's compliance and induction programs, the subject selection committee and the attendance team.



Kellie Chapman
EALD Support Teacher,
Turvey Park Public School

Kellie Chapman is an outstanding educator who is dedicated to supporting new arrivals, refugee students and their families to Turvey Park Public School. She has established a strong support network for EALD teachers and has been active in accessing services, professional learning and links with community organisations. Kellie's dedication and care for students and community have ensured equity and excellence for all students at Turvey Park Public School.



Michelle Collison
Classroom Teacher,
Thomas Reddall High School

Michelle Collison is an outstanding practitioner who knows how to unlock the potential within her students. She develops strong relationships and solid teaching practices which engage, motivate and encourage her students to achieve success and take risks with their own learning. Michelle develops the whole child; nurturing them in a climate of high expectations and allowing them to thrive in the HSC. Her students consistently achieve their best results in her subject. In her capacity as Teacher Mentor she has fostered and developed the capacity of other teachers in their formative years to grow exemplary educators for our school and system.



Rebecca Ferris
Head Teacher, Science,
Elderslie High School

Rebecca Ferris is an outstanding Head Teacher who has made an exceptional difference to whole school and faculty practices. She has led STEM innovation through her work on our Project Innovate program, resulting in the integration of a range of highly engaging resources to teaching and learning. Rebecca has led this in a cross KLA manner that steps well out of her role in the Science faculty. Rebecca has made a tremendous impact on teaching in the Science faculty and is responsible for the Community Science Fair in which partner primary schools work with our students to showcase scientific understanding.



Nick Forrester
Special Education Teacher,
Murwillumbah High School

Nick Forrester is an outstanding teacher. As the teacher of the school's Tutorial Class, Nick specialises in helping students to reflect upon their strengths and challenges them to rise above their weaknesses. He successfully reinspires students who have lost their way with schooling, positively impacting many lives. He maintains an outstanding rapport with students. Nick has been integral in re-imagining the Tutorial Centre and it is now recognised as best practice across the region. Nick uses his skillset to support colleagues in our school and others to improve their capacity to improve student engagement and behaviour. He is an absolute asset to public education.



David Gillard
Teacher, Agriculture,
Wagga Wagga High School

David Gillard has long been at the forefront of Agriculture education at Wagga Wagga High School and the surrounding Riverina region. He is a highly accomplished, innovative and respected teacher who has had a profound impact on the students and teachers he interacts with on a daily basis. Wagga Wagga High School considers David Gillard to be an exceptional teacher who demonstrates personal qualities of inclusivity, cooperation, high expectations and compassion with all members of the school community.



Karen Gourlay
Head Teacher, Mathematics,
The Forest High School

Karen Gourlay is an outstanding teacher and leader who demonstrates the Australian Professional Standards to an exemplary level. Karen is recognised by the whole school and professional associations for her expert knowledge and leadership of colleagues. Under Karen's leadership, differentiation of the curriculum has ensured that students with diverse characteristics and backgrounds are challenged and inspired to enjoy and succeed in mathematics. Karen's passion and dedication to students, staff and the community make her a worthy recipient of this award.



Dion Hobbins
Music Teacher,
Murwillumbah High School

Dion Hobbins is an exceptional Music teacher. Over the past years his HSC Music students have consistently achieved mostly band 6 results. Dion inspires his students to be curious about learning and passionate about Music. He holds high expectations for every student and guides them to find their 'groove'. Dion is held in very high regard by his students, parents and staff alike. He is an asset to public education.



Sheree Jones
Head Teacher, Support,
Dubbo College Delroy Campus

Sheree Jones is a highly valued staff member at Dubbo College Delroy Campus. As Head Teacher of Support she effectively manages eight classes in ensuring that the individual needs of all students are met. Sheree's outstanding manner in which she approaches all aspects of her position, has earned her the utmost respect of her students, faculty, executive staff and the wider community. She is organisational and leadership skills were significantly highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic where she led the implementation of online learning platforms whilst also catering to the needs of students without access to technology so that learning could continue.



Rhonda Kaidbay
Head Teacher, Social Sciences/
LOTE, Ryde Secondary College

Rhonda Kaidbay is an exemplary teacher and instructional leader. Her passion for pedagogy underpins her work and is evident in the consistently high HSC performance of her faculty. Rhonda has inspired many teachers, particularly through her role on the Steering Committee of Project Zero, a professional cross-sector network of Sydney educators. She also introduced teachers to visible thinking pedagogy to explicitly develop student metacognition through classroom teaching at Ryde Secondary College. As SE02 whilst recently seconded, she successfully led mentoring programs and LEAPS programs, upskilling ten schools, 12 law firms and parent communities.



Tania Maddison
Deputy Principal,
Wagga Wagga High School

Tania Maddison has been leading education at Wagga Wagga High School and the Riverina region for many years. She is a highly accomplished, innovative and respected leader who is a source of inspiration for students and staff. She provides a dependable and consistent influence on young people as they make choices about further education, work and life. Wagga Wagga High School considers Tania to be an exceptional leader and educator who demonstrates personal qualities of inclusivity, cooperation, high expectations and compassion with all members of the school community.



Megan Mitchell
Head Teacher, Innovation and
Learning, Airds High School

Megan Mitchell is a highly valued teacher of the executive team at Airds High School. Her role as Head Teacher Innovation and Learning allows her to share her deep professional knowledge of structuring teaching programs, using the latest research and collegial advice to get the best learning outcomes for all students, including our low socio-demographic and ATSI student population. She commits to sharing her teaching and professional learning skills to address the needs of our students and to maximise engagement to create lifelong learners with high learning outcomes. Megan is an outstanding teacher leader in the classroom.



Candice Morris-Grant
Head Teacher,
Murwillumbah High School

Candice Morris-Grant is an exceptional teacher who holds high expectations for herself and her students. Her lessons are student centred and wherever possible experiential in nature. Her students hold her in high regard. As a Head Teacher she has influenced pedagogical approaches across the school, embedding practices in her own classroom and sharing learning with colleagues beyond her own faculty. For that past few years, Candice has been a key driver of the school's focus on collaborative practice to support student growth through learning dispositions.



Janet Phillips
Relieving Assistant Principal,
Revesby Public School

Janet Phillips is a dedicated and exceptional practitioner who demonstrates strong ethical leadership to ensure that all students are provided with a quality education. Janet's leadership is based on building the capacity of all staff through scaffolding supports. She strives to seek continual growth and improvement for all students.



Mat Rhodes
Classroom Teacher,
Dapto High School

Mat Rhodes is an outstanding teacher; innovative, well organised and clear in his direction. He has excellent knowledge, ability and expertise in assuming responsibility for an initiative; exploring, planning, developing and implementing it in the context of the school community and South Coast region in which he teaches. He is committed to the engagement and growth of his students and to his own professional learning. Mat has demonstrated a strong capacity to lead, instruct and show evidence of improved student outcomes through professional knowledge, practice and engagement.



Craig Roder
Head Teacher, Mathematics,
James Fallon High School

Craig Roder has been an outstanding teacher and leader of Mathematics in the Riverina. He has led the way in supporting the Albury alignment of schools, professional associations, developing new syllabuses and pedagogies. Craig is a superb mentor for beginning teachers. He has mentored and supported at least 15 early career teachers through their careers as educators. He supports the whole of James Fallon High School through managing the timetable, a responsibility he has held for many years. Craig is a deserving recipient of the Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching.



Mika Rodic
Head Teacher, English (Relieving),
Prairiewood High School

Mika Rodic has been a NSW public education leader for thirty years dedicated to achieving excellence in Secondary School, English Teaching. As a classroom teacher, she excelled; substantially adding value to her students' learning outcomes. As Head of Faculty, Mika has been an accomplished mentor to colleagues within her own faculties and beyond, sharing her expertise and exemplary practice to lift the performance outcomes of all students state-wide. Mika further empowers colleagues in quality English teaching pedagogy through her sustained working relationship with NESA, as a supervisor of marking and mentor.



Aaron Routh
Science Teacher,
Orange High School

Aaron Routh is a wonderful young, innovative and enthusiastic leader within our school. He holds the position of Assistant Head Teacher, Science and has relieved extensively in executive positions for a number of years. Aaron has outstanding relationships with his students and his colleagues and supports early career teachers as a mentor within the school. He consistently achieves strong HSC and VALID results and is an extremely valuable member of a diverse Science faculty. Aaron is involved in all aspects of our school including sport, community initiatives and extra curricula science programs. He also leads our after-school homework initiative.



Nagiha Sahyouni
Head Teacher, Middle School,
Doonside Technology High School

Nagiha Sahyouni has lead colleagues in a collaborative approach to embed a highly effective program which engages students and community in the teaching and learning at Doonside Technology High School. She has created a change in both teaching and learning to enable an approach which integrates inquiry across multiple disciplines. The inclusion of real-world target audiences involved throughout the learning process ensures students are creating meaningful work and designing solutions to authentic problems. Student engagement and teacher effectiveness have both seen enormous growth because of Nagiha's expertise, dedication and determination.



Conie Sinnott
Special Needs Teacher,
Murwillumbah High School

Conie Sinnott is an outstanding special educator and leader. She is passionate about improving outcomes for all of her students, often taking innovative, experiential learning approaches to engage and support them achieve each their learning and social goals. Conie is held in high regard by colleagues in our school and in others. She has been instrumental in leading a culture of inclusivity across the school. She is one of the drivers for the T5 special education camp that brings students from 5 high schools together to share in learning and friendship. Parents, staff and students hold Conie in the highest regard.



Jake Tonkin
Head Teacher, Teaching and
Learning, Ryde Secondary College

Jake Tonkin is a highly talented Head Teacher, Teaching and Learning with a passion for leading evidence-based pedagogy in schools. An outstanding role model, his lessons reveal high expectations, thoughtful preparation, innovation, quality instruction, formative assessment and feedback. His leadership of professional learning in programs like Cultures of Thinking, and GAT Education have ensured high levels of differentiation essential for our partially selective, co-ed, high EALD school. His coordination of programs for the Ryde led Northern Sydney Entente Cordiale schools, and digital portfolio project for formative assessment for three-way learning conversations with parents, is exceptional.



Georgia Valatiadis
Head Teacher, Visual Arts,
Praiiewood High School

Georgia Valatiadis is an educational leader, whose long-term commitment to public education has been outstanding! As a classroom practitioner in Visual Arts and Head Teacher CAPA, Praiiewood HS, she is unsurpassed! In 2020, PHS was acknowledged as the most outstanding VA faculty in the 2019 HSC by being awarded the Sir William Dobell Art Foundation Award. Additionally, Georgia's impressive, indefatigable work ethic coupled with her consistently indisputable, demonstrated ability to achieve teaching excellence, has resulted in her recent appointment as a HSC Strategy Advisor, in the TQU.



Katerina Zito
Relieving Deputy Principal,
Head Teacher, Science,
Ryde Secondary College

Katie Zito demonstrates excellence in instructional leadership, as leader of an innovative Science faculty, and currently, as Deputy Principal. Katie initiates school improvement using research aligned with CESE's What Works Best. She fosters excellence through leading high quality professional learning experiences at Ryde, through our community of schools, the NS EC, and beyond, with Wagga schools. She has co-led online digital portfolios for our "three-way learning conversations" model. She has co-led a regional Differentiation project, developed staff skills in leading Project Based Learning, Literacy and Gifted and Talented initiatives, and initiated STEM projects with primary schools, CSIRO and Macquarie University.

Secretary's Award for Excellent Service

Recipient Citations



Jade Arnold
Teacher, Librarian,
Galston High School

Jade Arnold is an outstanding Teacher, Librarian who has created a lighthouse library at Galston High School. Over the past five years Jade has transformed the library into a vibrant, dynamic environment that encourages students to engage in life-long learning and develop a passion for reading. Under Jade's leadership the Premier's Reading Challenge and the Sustained Reading Program have resulted in significant improvements in NAPLAN Reading results. Jade's contributions to professional organisations through webinars, workshops and the formation of a librarian support group, is testament to her commitment and dedication to cultivating a library experience that is second to none.



Bradley Bannister
Principal,
Delegate Public School

Brad Bannister has served his students, parents, staff, community and the NSW Department of Education with distinction. He has demonstrated outstanding leadership, support and advocacy by ensuring every student, family and staff member is truly known, valued and cared for. He has prioritised providing all students with a high quality learning environment that is engaging, future focused, inclusive and aspirational. He has removed the barrier of isolation by providing all students with every opportunity to succeed across all fields of endeavour. Brad's leadership during drought, bushfire and COVID-19 has been outstanding. Brad is well respected across his local community.



Lee Bateman
Teacher,
Airds High School

Lee Bateman is an outstanding teacher whose dedicated approach has delivered high quality learning outcomes for students of Airds High School for 30 years. She has been instrumental in providing professional knowledge to support inclusivity within her classrooms, differentiating lessons to meet the needs of her students. She professionally engages and supports all school events to maximise community and student engagement creating life long learners with high learning outcomes. Lee models high efficacy in her dedication to improving the educational opportunities for Airds students and to this end, she is held in high regard for her approachability, transparency and professionalism.



Rachel Byrne
Principal,
Hunter Sports High School

Rachel Byrne has a strong focus on innovation providing multiple learning pathways to support the specific needs of target sports students. Rachel has been integral in the redevelopment of Hunter Sports High School. With the construction started in April 2017, she spearheaded the schools' vision in the design, management and build through the redevelopment process of Hunter Sports High School. Rachel advocates to provide all students at Hunter Sports High School equal opportunities to quality education. As such, the school has developed a strong model of inclusivity for all learners including students from a low socio-economic background, ATSI students and talented athletes.



Leanne Colley
School Administrative Officer,
Ulladulla High School

Leanne Colley has been an outstanding Senior Office Manager, for more than 15 years. Always on the forefront of deployment of administrative platforms for many years, Leanne is the administrator behind the success. Leanne has provided impeccable and outstanding support over many years to the students, teachers and the community of our school. In response to the recent South Coast Bushfires and the current COVID-19 pandemic, Leanne has been invaluable in the support of students and families during the recent catastrophic circumstances. Always a highly professional, caring and dedicated member of our team, she is highly deserving of this prestigious award.



Gabrielle Curry
Head Teacher,
Technology & Applied Sciences,
Ulladulla High School

Gabrielle Curry is a Technology and Applied Studies and Hospitality Head Teacher who has transformed lives through her dedication to students of the Ulladulla and Milton Community, as a dedicated member of the Teachers Association along with her inspiring and dedicated role in leading Vocational Education and Training (VET and the faculty of Technology and Applied Studies). In particular, Gab ensures students with cognitive and emotional disabilities from the school's Support Unit are provided with real world skills that enrich their lives. A remarkable, patient and dedicated professional who builds the hearts and minds of our young people.



Cherie Edwards
Head Teacher,
Technology & Applied Sciences,
Thomas Reddall High School

Cherie Edwards is an outstanding educator who is driven by her deep commitment to providing quality learning experiences for all students. She fosters ingenuity and models this to her staff whilst encouraging them to take risks with their own professional learning and growth. Cherie is a well respected colleague and is held in high esteem within the wider school community. She has nurtured sustainable partnerships that have continued to provide an array of extra-curricular opportunities and experiences for our students. Cherie provides strong leadership and support to her team who, in turn, deliver solid results across many of the HSC TAS subjects.



Ben Gerard
Teacher,
Doonside Technology High School

Ben Gerard is highly respected as he continues to give freely of his time to students and families in the school community ensuring our young people grow with self-worth and a belief that personal contributions can make a better world. Often out of school hours, he works to build a sense of belonging and pride for at risk young people by raising funds for charity. He has steered a wellbeing team who have successfully created a positive learning culture around the school's key strengths – Community, Ownership, Resilience and Empowerment.



Christopher Haberecht
Principal,
Guildford Public School

Christopher Haberecht is an outstanding leader in his school and the wider educational community. He is a dedicated proponent of Aboriginal education at all levels of the educational community in NSW and Australia. Christopher proudly blends his Aboriginal perspective and his educational philosophy ensuring his staff and students are presented with a differentiated curriculum that caters to all their needs. It is a joy to see Christopher developing the skill set of his team and most importantly working with his students. Everyone should once in their lifetime see him reading a story with an Aboriginal perspective to one of his classes.



Lyn Harris
School Learning and Support
Officer, James Fallon High School

Lyn Harris embodies the principle of every student being known, valued and cared for. Her support of students in the classroom goes beyond expectations. Lyn has been passionate about her work as a Student Learning Support Officer for at least three generations, and continually considers how to improve her practice. She is an excellent member of the Special Education Faculty at James Fallon High School, and is a very worthy recipient of a Secretary's Award for Excellent Service.



Ric Hutchinson
School Learning Support Officer
& General Assistant,
Red Range Public School

Warwick (Ric) Hutchinson is an outstanding employee who always goes above and beyond for Red Range Public School, the staff and students. He is a dedicated team member who strives to support all staff and students to achieve the highest possible educational outcomes. Ric ensures that all students at Red Range are known, valued and cared for. He strives to build strong community connections with local community groups and businesses. Ric is also an active member of the local Red Range community through his involvement in the NSW RFS Red Range Brigade and the Red Range Sport and Hall Trust.



Sharon Jenness
Head Teacher, Wellbeing,
West Wallsend High School

As Head Teacher of Wellbeing, Sharon Jenness fosters high expectations of self-efficacy and resilience among students and encourages them to believe they can succeed and thrive in all aspects of their lives. With 33 years teaching experience, she is a fundamental member of the school executive and driver of learning support across the wider school community. Sharon's educational philosophy centres around the cultivation of positive relationships. The range of programs and initiatives she has led have impacted many different aspects of school and the wider community. Sharon has helped to create a proactive and dynamic culture within and across West Wallsend.



Stephen Keogh
Head Teacher,
Campbelltown Performing Arts
High School

Stephen Keogh is an outstanding practitioner who has exemplified the values of public education over the past 36 years of service to Campbelltown Performing Arts High School. Across roles he has excelled in all areas and improved the capacity of staff across the school. Notably, Stephen's commitment to equity through his support for students with additional and complex needs and his capacity to embrace and broker parent and community partnerships has significantly increased student engagement and learning.



Nick Littlewood
Business Manager,
Orange High School

Nick Littlewood has been employed as our Business Manager for the past two years. During this time, the school has benefited enormously from his passion and service to the school community. Nick works tirelessly supporting the school in achieving grants to improve teaching and learning opportunities for students. He leads all aspects of operational activities outside of teaching and learning and has allowed the senior executive team to focus on improving outcomes for students. Nick is a highly valued member of the school executive and we would not be able to achieve the successes that we do without his dedication.



Melissa Milburn
School Administrative Officer,
Thomas Reddall High School

Melissa Milburn is an integral member of our administrative team who transformed our communication strategy to ensure we deliver a consistent and professional image at all times. This is complemented by her outstanding interpersonal skills and deep respect for all members of our school community. Melissa prides herself on developing and sustaining positive relationships and goes above and beyond every day to support the work of others. Her work ethic is supreme and her capacity to deliver an exceptional product, under pressure and in a timely manner, is unparalleled. Melissa consistently exceeds expectations and thoroughly deserves this award.



Nick Patsianis
Technical Support Officer,
Morriset High School

Nick Patsianis epitomises the success of public education. He now promotes and builds the use of IT in all public schools as a vehicle to engage students in learning relevant to their future. His professional, undeniable IT skill is dedicated to building the environments and infrastructure in schools to enable teachers to use technology to promote true learning. His focus is to ensure optimum IT to enable all teachers to truly engage, know, care for and value each student. He selflessly shares innovative solutions, workarounds and fixes to issues that eliminate barriers to student engagement to all public schools through Yammer.



Joanne Petterson
Business Manager,
Endeavour Sports High School

Joanne Petterson is the Business Manager at Endeavour Sports High School but has performed in a variety of critical roles for many years at the school. A person of immense integrity, Joanne has brought her considerable skill set to every role, most notably in the key position of Business Manager. Joanne has earned the respect of the entire Endeavour community with her intelligence, diligence, commitment to the school and its values and her care and respect for others. Her professionalism consistently translates into work of the highest standard. Joanne is without doubt one of the most highly regarded members of Endeavour.



Denise Russell
Business Manager,
Elderslie High School

Denise Russell has an outstanding work ethic which she demonstrates everyday at Elderslie HS to improve the learning and teaching conditions for students and staff. She goes to extraordinary lengths to see that improvements to the school environment are sourced by the most economical providers who can consistently provide quality, professional service. Her commitment to the job means that the same quality of service is experienced by all community members who are lucky enough to cross her path, where her efforts ensure the school is the best it can be and are appreciated by all.



Denise Smith
Teacher, Equity,
Prairiewood High School

Denise Smith is what every school needs: a capable, dedicated and talented scholarship and submission writer who thrives on securing opportunities for low SES students. Across 47 years in public education, Denise genuinely cares about each student whom she assists. When they do obtain the scholarship, the cadetship or that great enrichment experience, it is as if it is her own child's future that has just been launched. Denise's commitment to the school community of Prairiewood High School has seen students and the school supported by more than \$1.5 million in seven years. She is a worthy recipient of this award.



Jessica Yell
Counsellor,
Oran Park Public School

Jessica Yell demonstrates leadership with her ability to support others, capacity to understand and exemplify Department of Education policy and procedures, and ability to promote the school counsellor role, while maintaining a thorough understanding of the teaching profession and curricular demands. Jessica demonstrates excellence in her own counselling practice. She works tirelessly with experienced and early career counsellors and school psychologists to strengthen their knowledge and build their counselling and assessment skills. Jessica demonstrates a strong commitment to public education. Her ability to promote respectful dialogue in difficult situations endears her as a valued member of school and counselling teams.

Secretary's Award for an Outstanding School Initiative

Recipient Citations

Auburn North Public School COVID-19 Blended Approach to Flexible Learning Project

Quantitative and qualitative data demonstrated that Auburn North's 'COVID-19 Blended Approach to Flexible Learning Project' and its strategies effectively facilitated outstanding continuity of teaching and learning during the COVID-19 learning from home time. The project's perfect blend of printed materials such as its fortnightly differentiated 'Learning from Home Booklets', videos of explicit teaching skills, app-based learning, and innovative, multi-lingual communication strategies assisted:

- Students achieve excellent wellbeing and learning outcomes.
- Parents develop the knowledge and skills to assist their children's learning at home.
- Teachers engage in high-quality professional learning, further developing their technology skills to engage students in innovative learning.

Canterbury Boys High School Wellbeing Wednesday

The Wellbeing Wednesday program was developed and implemented to support, teachers, students and parents who were finding remote learning during COVID-19 a difficult, stressful and anxious time. The school, in partnership with our community, developed a program where the focus was on the person's social, emotional and physical health. We developed activities that addressed these areas, whilst at the same time, allowed for real life applications of skills learnt at school. The program was so successful that it continued when students came back to school full time. The program has been a game changer at Canterbury Boys High School.

Chifley College Senior Campus HSC Minimum Standards

The Minimum Standards project has affected significant student growth in literacy and numeracy outcomes, and addresses entrenched equity and educational challenges faced by students. The project

improves student access to the HSC, and improves their post-school life chances by developing literacy and numeracy skills. The achievements of the MS project are measurable, and data shows meaningful growth in Minimum Standards proficiency for the 2020 cohort (changing from 28.9% to 98% meeting proficiency), and suggests that the impact of strategies are sustainable and transferrable to the 2021 cohort (changing from 35% to 67% of students meeting proficiency in one school term).

Cowra High School Learning Hub Initiative

The Learning Hub Initiative at Cowra High School has grown from strength to strength due to the commitment of dedicated, passionate and nurturing staff ensuring students are known, valued and cared for. The Learning Hub at Cowra High School is a place where students feel a sense of belonging to the school community and that education is not a perk, but a lifeline essential to students fulfilling their dreams. All programs the Learning Hub offer maintains student's health and wellbeing. This team is highly experienced and is seen by the community as an extended family who supports students unconditionally.

Deniliquin High School Sustainability 2.0

Sustainability 2.0 is a project based learning initiative, an innovative year 8 cohort across key learning area delivery mode. This initiative has added great value to the learning of students, staff and relevant community related to knowledge, skills and understanding of sustainability in the local environment. Delivery of this project reflects both the school improvement targets (identified from NAPLAN data) and embedding the local environment into across curriculum learning, namely the town lagoon system, school farm and school digital learning centres. Staff enthusiasm and willingness to undertake professional learning has enabled this project to become a highly valued learning opportunity.

Elderslie Public School Student Leadership: Ministries

The transformation of student leadership at Elderslie Public School through the ministry model has been outstanding. The model has revolutionised the leadership structures within the school to provide all Stage Three students with authentic opportunities that significantly increase the engagement of students in the decision making process. Students have flourished with the possibilities and opportunities provided and have demonstrated authentic community leadership. The ministry model has also led to a deep and genuine engagement of students in the general capabilities.

EZEC Network

Learning from Home Project

Gibberagong EEC
Awabakal and Wetlands EEC
Kamay Botany Bay EEC
Bournda EEC
Brewongle EEC
Camden Park EEC
Doroughby EEC
Rumbalara EEC
Field of Mars EEC
Georges River EEC
Illawarra EEC
Long Neck Lagoon EEC
Observatory Hill EEC
Penrith Lakes EEC
Red Hill EEC
Riverina EEC
Royal National Park EEC
Thalgarrah EEC
Wambangalang EEC
Warrumbungle National Park EEC
Wooglemai EEC
Wetlands EEC

As the Principal Representative for the EZEC network I am pleased and proud to endorse this application. Over the past few months I have witnessed the EZEC network respond brilliantly to the disruption to their normal operation due to COVID-19. Through an incredible collaborative effort, the network has been able to produce an amazing amount of quality learning resources to support learning at home and school in the areas of science, geography, environment and Aboriginal education. Although a visit to the natural environment can never be replaced, these resources have brilliantly brought a slice of this into their homes and schools.

Gateway Learning Community

Early Years Intervention: Strong Start, Successful Learners

Tarro Public School
Woodberry Public School
Beresfield Public School
Thornton Public School
Black Hill Public School
Millers Forest Public School

The Strong Start, Successful Learners Transition Support program assists early childhood centres to better understand the transition to school process. Working in partnership with the Transition Support Teacher, the process provides both school transition teams and early learning centres with the opportunity to begin looking at children and their needs much earlier, therefore facilitating their transitions over a longer period of time. Strong connections between partner primary schools and local service providers has successfully resulted in 'bridging the gap' from Pre-K to Kindergarten, allowing all children to get the best start to their education.



Liverpool Boys High School

Take Over Project

How do we change what we do to creativity in the whole school? What would happen if we took over the school – curriculum, timetable, buildings – and explored creativity all day, every day? This is how Take Over was born. A deep collaborative partnership between LBHS and the Sydney Opera House. Three weeks, 10 teachers, 8 artists and 100 students all day everyday exploring their passions and creating products which were displayed in an exciting festival. Bring on Take Over 2 – all students 7 – 10, all staff for 3 weeks on a combined creative journey.

Rooty Hill High School

Entrepreneurial Learning Initiative

The Rooty Hill High School Entrepreneurial Learning Initiative was initiated by the school in partnership with the Mitchell Institute, Professor Yong Zhao and Dr Michelle Anderson (2015) to ensure that students had curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities to explore work and enterprise capabilities in innovative ways that promoted learning transfer, social entrepreneurship and new ways of thinking about post school transitions for students in western Sydney. The initiative was recognised in an ACARA case study (2019) featuring innovative career programs with strategic partners including the Origin Foundation, FYA and WSBC. The impact on student pathways and student agency is significant.

Strathfield Girls High School

Improving Student Learning Outcomes through Tracking Profile Data

This initiative led by Karen Shaw and adopted by school staff, has been an outstanding program resulting in every student being known, valued and cared for. It has allowed each student to be tracked as part of their learning process and reflect on areas of strength and further development. The staff have been able to individually support students with intervention strategies and monitoring of progress in each subject to enable success in the learning continuum. The tracking system has been shared with other schools and is being implemented successfully across the network.

The Forest High School

Trailblazer Program

The Trailblazer Program is an outstanding initiative, developed to address the academic and wellbeing needs of senior students through a peer tutoring and mentoring program. The Trailblazers are recently graduated, high achieving students who can relate to senior students and the pressures they are experiencing. Trailblazers act as advocates and role models in the school community and ensure the

continuity of leadership. During the recent health crisis, the Trailblazer team created innovative online support resources and strategies. Qualitative and quantitative data demonstrates the program has improved students' results.

Trundle Central School

Community Drought Relief

Trundle Central School displays the values of public education. Students and staff rallied against the worst drought in Australia's history. Children are often the collateral damage of drought because they often do not have the power to contribute. Relief efforts at the school, in which the children contributed created an emotional oasis for students. Students felt this said to their parents we are strong and in this together. A secondary outcome of local, regional, national and worldwide coverage of drought allowed us to highlight rural decline and the subsequent reduction in educational and social opportunity.

Ulladulla High School

A Mindful School – Room to Breathe

There is overwhelming evidence suggesting that mindfulness is an important life skill that enhances mental health and well-being, concentration, resilience, problem solving, empathy and academic performance. We have improved not only the wellbeing of students but also the well-being of staff. Staff have implemented practices of mindfulness across year 7-12, with particularly great support for Year 12. The skills acquired through this initiative have resulted in reducing anxiety in students during the recent catastrophic bushfires and current pandemic. The unintended improvement and implementation of the mindfulness program has been evidenced and highly beneficial for our students with disabilities who are part of our Support Education Faculty.

West Wallsend High School

Powerful Practices for Improved Reading Performance

Determined to create transformational change, West Wallsend High School implemented an ambitious reading improvement agenda over the past three years, driven by a vision of delivering learning growth for every student. A whole-school instructional model was introduced with a focus on embedding powerful practices to improve reading performance. Its success is evidenced through exceeding targets in NAPLAN, lifting reading performance by more than 17% above expected growth and increasing achievement in the top two bands by more than 11% for Year 9. This trajectory has flowed into HSC achievement, evidenced by a significant shift upwards in value added data.

Secretary's School Achievement Award

Recipient Citations

Charlestown South Public School Explicit Instruction Whole School Program

A small school in the outer Newcastle area whose numbers have dropped to 137 in 2012, NAPLAN results average at best, achieving around what a Family Occupation and Education Index (FOEI) of close to 100 would indicate. Around 20% of students in the Top 2 Bands in each subject each year, around 65% in middle Bands and 15% in the bottom Bands. Some 7 years on and Charlestown South Public School has grown to 261 students and tops the results of all schools from public to private right across the Hunter Region including the top result in Year 3 writing in NSW.

Chifley College Senior Campus Literacy and Numeracy

The literacy and numeracy team has engaged with complex challenges in order to improve delivery in every classroom, for every student. Fundamental to improving outcomes, the range of strategies embraced by the team have made meaningful whole school changes, at every level of school organisation, with measurable positive outcomes. Only 28.9% of the 2020 HSC cohort demonstrated proficiency in Minimum Standards at the initial data point (Day 1 2019), compared to 98% of students at the current data point (20/3/2020). Similarly, only 35% of the 2021 cohort had demonstrated proficiency at enrolment, versus 67% at the end of Term 1.

Claymore Public School Achievement of Significant Improvement in Educational Outcomes and Opportunities for Students

Claymore Public School deserves recognition for its focused, committed and successful achievements in whole school improvement, building a school of excellence in a highly challenging and complex community. The school's success recently featured in the Hon. Mark Latham's report to State Parliament "... it was my pleasure to visit Claymore Public School and I can report to the House a Claymore good-news story. Over the past 10 years the school's NAPLAN results have shown a noticeable upward spike and very fine improvements in all the basic skills".

Hill End Public School Immersive Classroom Program

Hill End Public School enables students to be engaged in rich, challenging and quality learning experiences based on the Science and Technology Syllabus. Historical and Geographical Inquiry, STEM and Aboriginal Culture and Heritage form the basis of this curriculum/pedagogical model. Texts aligned to the Focus Area provide another avenue for students to master skills in reading, understanding and composing text. Students regularly share work, lessons and activities via technology. A two year cycle of learning ensures resources and activities will continue to develop, meeting the needs of the students and continually developing teaching practices, assessment models and technological innovation. In 2020, the program was further developed when the concept was shared with a similar small school – Glen Alice Public School.

Ingleburn Public School PCIT at School

Ingleburn Public School is an innovative school that creates entrepreneurial partnerships to empower teachers, students and communities to be global citizens. We recognise that all learners are the architects of the future, fostering empathy and wellbeing practices. Building the school based PCIT (Parent-Child Interaction Therapy) clinic removes barriers to learning and teaching and reduces the impact of disadvantage so that every student is known, valued and cared for. By strengthening partnerships between student, parent and teacher, children learn appropriate behaviours that greatly enhance their social, academic, mental health and wellbeing outcomes.

Kurri Kurri High School Peer Critique

Peer Critique has reshaped the way we look at assessment at Kurri Kurri High School. As a significant change in practice, the school has embraced a way to authentic work through a process of review. This includes peer review and teacher review of work, through cool and warm feedback. There has been a significant shift in the way students think about their work with a question- 'is this your best work?' applied to all tasks. The results show this has had a dramatic impact on marks and submission rates across the school.

Kurri Kurri High School Staged Learning Approach

HUB learning offers students a pathway to learning that is rigorous, engaging and authentic. This student centric learning places responsibility back to the learner as an active participant in the journey. The staff have worked through shaking off the old and dated industrial model of teaching and have embraced the new. The power of learning sits with all learners not knowing the answer and working together to find it. The pedagogy of the 4C's and the true transdisciplinary model reshapes the way we think of school and continues to yield great results for students

Murwillumbah High School Collaborative Leadership and Learning

The Collaborative Learning and Leadership project is an exploration of the power of genuine collaboration about learning between school, students and parents. The partnership has co-created a new understanding of curriculum, creating deep learning experiences that are beyond the dot points of the syllabus. The project has seen the staff and students delve deep into innovative pedagogies that facilitate experiential learning with authentic assessment in which community is pivotal. There has been an injection of adrenalin into the school and a renaissance of education in the community. Collaborative learning and student agency are emerging as the heart of the school.

Saturday School of Community Languages Collaborative 7 to 10 Languages Syllabus Implementation Project

The Saturday School of Community Languages offers students the opportunity to enhance their background language skills and develop deeper intercultural understanding in a rich, dynamic learning environment. The school operates at 14 school sites across Sydney, Wollongong and Newcastle, offering 26 language courses to over 3,200 students from Years 7-12. The staff at each centre are qualified, experienced and passionate about their work. They participate in extensive professional learning, keeping them at the forefront of languages education in NSW. This project has strengthened classroom practice and has had a positive impact on every teacher and every student in the school.

Sir Joseph Banks High School Senior Pathways Transition

The Senior Transition Pathways Program has been running for over seven years. Throughout this time, the project has grown to include the Head Teacher Transition, Ms Amaney Roumieh, supporting teacher Louris Dahdal, the Careers Advisor, Maria Zaccarini and the Student Support Officer. This team has successfully grown in success to ensure that 'every child leaves Sir Joseph Banks High School with one foot into their future'. Over the last 5 years, the team has been extremely successful as evidenced by every student on an ATAR pattern of study successfully gaining university entry attaining socio-educational equity across each cohort.



Public School Parent of the Year Award

Recipient Citations



Erika Crevatin
Wagga Wagga High School

Erika Crevatin is a worthy recipient of the Public School Parent of the Year and Wagga Wagga High School is proud to nominate her for this prestigious award. Erika has been a highly respected and valued member of the WWHS P&C since 2012. She has been a strong voice for the parents of the WWHS community. Erika's commitment has been unwavering and her enthusiasm, integrity and welcoming nature have been appreciated by all who have had the good fortune of working beside her. Erika's positive personality and leadership will be missed at P&C when her youngest child graduates from WWHS this year.



Penny Haldane
Blaxland East Public School

Penny Haldane is a very worthy recipient of this award. For the past ten years, Penny has gone above and beyond, not only for her own grandchildren, their teachers and our library, but for one very needy student in particular. Penny's special bond with this student extends beyond the classroom. It goes to supporting the student's overall wellbeing, ensuring she has the same opportunities other students have when her parents were not able to provide. Penny has selflessly paid for uniforms, food, excursions, even gifts, giving the student a sense of belonging and pride. Penny also helps in our library.



Camilla Huddle
Carroll Public School

As a parent, Camilla Huddle goes above and beyond for the students of Carroll Public School. During 2019, she was the driving force behind fundraising at our school and due to her determination, dedication and drive, managed to raise over \$50,000. Her goal was to raise enough money to purchase a bus, which would assist with transporting our students to various events. Along with fundraising and assisting with the coordination of our 150 year celebrations here at school, Camilla also ensured that after many years the school P&C committee was correctly incorporated. She is a worthy recipient of this award.



Tracey Petruszenko
Elderslie Public School

Tracey Petruszenko is a parent at Elderslie Public School who goes above and beyond to support the school. Tracey is a working mum but still finds the time to lead our school P&C as the president. She is a dedicated, long-term member of the school's P&C. Tracey spends a great deal of time writing applications for school grants which has and is continuing to make the grounds look amazing. Tracey is extremely active with the local community and formed many beneficial partnerships, including parent forums, working bees, Bunnings BBQs and holding a whole school Trivia Night for two years running.



Deb Radvan
Valentine Public School

At Valentine Public School, Deb Radvan is our academic and wellbeing warrior. She has been highly active for seven years in all facets of our school, but it is the critical friend value that is the definer in terms of impact on student outcomes and staff wellbeing. She is a worthy recipient of this award as her work helps improve the work life balance of our teachers as she critiques our initiatives. She is a voice of reason, care and sustainability as she guides us through new and exciting ways to connect to our community while supporting high expectations for all.



Kathryn Reynolds
Nicholson Street Public School

Kathryn Reynolds' association with Nicholson Street Public School dates back to 1971 when she was a student, with her parents campaigning to save community houses for classrooms and building the school's adventure playground. Kathryn's eighteen years at the school as a parent has seen her volunteer in the P&C roles of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Head of the Music Committee. Her outstanding and selfless contribution to being an active community member makes her the school parent that every community member wants to be and every staff member wants to have in their corner. Kathryn Reynolds is a Nicholson Street treasure!



Lesley Rowley
Delegate Public School

Lesley Rowley is an extraordinary woman, who is a single mother of three, as well as being a career person. Lesley works approximately 230km from home and school. She then gives up any spare time she may have to fundraise, cook, sew and offer transport for school events. She works in pure partnership with school to improve the academic, social and emotional outcomes for all students. Lesley Rowley is an outstanding candidate for this award.



Melanie Saunders
Northern Beaches Secondary College – Cromer Campus

Melanie Saunders is mother of two beautiful children, balancing home and her own career, she somehow finds the time to serve as the school's P&C President. Her desire to make Cromer Campus the school of choice within our community has led to increasing parental engagement, improved school communication and oversight of highly successful fundraising activities. Melanie has overseen upgrades and improvements to many school facilities while supporting the schools vision and commitment to sustainability and environmental programs. Melanie is a worthy recipient of the Public School Parent of the Year Award for her outstanding service to public education.



Amanda Shaw
The Forest High School

Amanda Shaw has served as an executive member and non-office bearing member of the P&C and School Council for five years. Amanda has been P&C President for the last two years after serving three years as Vice President. She has given generously of her time over those years, often rescheduling her work and family commitments to benefit the students, staff and community of The Forest High School. Amanda is a strong parent advocate for the school community who actively promotes and supports public education.



Carol Vigo
Harrington Street Public School

Carol Vigo's contribution to Harrington Street Public School is exceptional. She is an outspoken advocate for students, staff and parents alike. She takes great pride in her work and is a dedicated, efficient and confident community representative who is committed to improving the education and welfare of all students. Through her passion and enthusiasm as a parent in the public education system, Carol has actively promoted community engagement and participation in all aspects of schooling, resulting in an increased number of parents working towards whole school improvements. Carol is a worthy nominee for this award.



Peter Wilson
Cowra High School

The long term dedication of Peter Wilson to Cowra High School, as exemplary P&C President consistently demonstrates outstanding and selfless service leading the Healthy Canteen and Environmental Water Saving initiatives that our school and the wider community benefit from on a daily basis. Peter is genuinely committed to public education and works towards building positive relationships in the community and across the school. His humility as a leader has meant he rarely receives the acknowledgment he so richly deserves. He is invaluable in supporting the leadership team of the school to support the school strategic directions with fidelity.

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