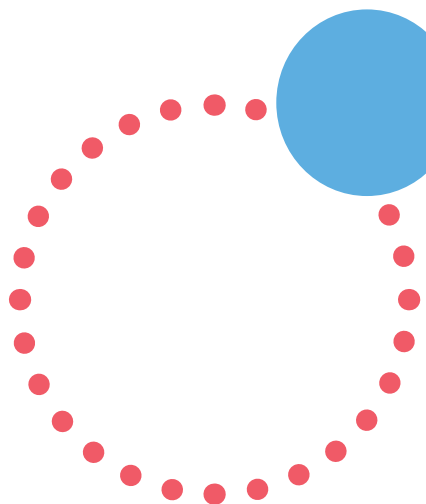


2021 Nanga Mai Awards

Nanga Mai is an
Eora (Sydney) word
meaning: To dream





The Aboriginal Outcomes and Partnerships Directorate respects and acknowledges all the traditional custodians of the land upon which our schools and workplaces stand.

We acknowledge the Elders past and present, all Aboriginal people attending the awards today and welcome everyone to the 2021 Nanga Mai Awards.

Welcome to the 2021 Nanga Mai Awards

The NSW Department of Education is proud to present the 15th Annual Nanga Mai Awards celebrating the outstanding achievements of Aboriginal students, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal teachers, other departmental staff, Aboriginal community members and schools demonstrating outstanding achievement in a range of areas of endeavour.

Special thanks to our Regional and State selection panels.

Presenters

Opening Address

- Mark Scott AO, Secretary, NSW Department of Education

Speakers

- Karen Jones, Executive Director, Aboriginal Outcomes and Partnerships
- The Hon. Sarah Mitchell, Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning.
- Anne Dennis, North West Regional Committee President, NSW AECG Inc.
- Michele Hall, Executive Director, Connected Communities.

Presenters

Acknowledgement of Country



Isaiah Reti

Matraville Sports High School

Isaiah (Izzy) is a proud Aboriginal student who has family connections to Bourke, La Perouse and the South Coast of NSW. Izzy was last years recipient of the Outstanding Achievement in Public Speaking Award. Izzy was selected out of 150 students to present the Acknowledgment of Country at Yarn Up 2019 which was held at NSW Parliament House. Through his public speaking, Izzy is an advocate for Reconciliation and aims to educate people about Aboriginal history.

Masters of Ceremonies



Monique Tait-Owens

Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School

As a proud Aboriginal woman Monique has undertaken every opportunity to develop and grow as a leader. Selected School Captain in 2021 Monique has coordinated and led numerous whole-school events. This year Monique has developed an exciting project to proactively support youth mental health, uniting leaders across the Nepean Valley for a common focus on wellness.



Dylan Tracey

Toronto High School

Dylan is a proud Darkinjung man and Year 11 student at Toronto High School and is studying to become a plumber through his School-based Traineeship with Reece Plumbing. Dylan is a foundation academy member of the Toronto Clontarf Academy that works with First Nations students around education, employment and life skills since its establishment at Toronto High School in 2019.

Dylan is also an avid sportsman often representing his School, Academy and local sporting clubs in Oz-Tag, basketball and soccer. Dylan already has some experience in public speaking when he was chosen to MC the Toronto Clontarf Academy Awards Night last year. On the night, Dylan was recognised for his outstanding contribution to his work experience by being awarded the Employment Award for 2020.



Janaya Rose

Dubbo College, Senior Campus

Janaya is a proud Mardigan and Wakka Wakka woman whose family originates from Quilpie and Cherbourg, Queensland. Janaya was born on Wiradjuri country in Dubbo, New South Wales and has studied most of her schooling within the Dubbo area. She is currently completing her HSC at Dubbo College Senior Campus where she has earned the new role of Cultural Captain for 2021. After school Janaya would like to join the Navy and hopes to study abroad, she has strong opinions on all topics that involve Human Rights.

Presenters

Performers



Tom Woods

Northern Beaches Secondary College,
Manly Campus

Tom has excelled in all areas of music, representing his school through numerous Arts Unit ensembles. Last year contributing both drum and cello solo pieces for the NAIDOC week collaboration with Uncle Archie Roach. A valued member of the Student Representative Council, Tom regularly performs Acknowledgment of Country for school events.



Mulgu Dancers

Endeavour Sports High School

Mulgu Dancers meaning black swan is a male and female dance group from Endeavour Sports High School Sutherland in the Shire. Mulgu Dancers are a new dance group featuring Reneigh Scott, Tamara Scott and Isaac Hooper. The group hopes to educate the wider community about Aboriginal culture and stories through dance. Mulgu the black swan symbolises spiritual love and freedom, as this is hope for our future generations



Gorokan High School Aboriginal Dance Group

Gorokan High School students perform 'The Dreaming' dance. The dance tells the story of the connection Aboriginal women have with the Spirit Ancestors and their mother, the Land.

Nanga Mai Awards Partner



**New South Wales
Aboriginal Education
Consultative Group Inc.**

The NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Incorporated (NSW AECG Inc.)

The NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Incorporated (NSW AECG Inc.) is a non for profit Aboriginal organisation that provides advice on all matters relevant to education and training with the mandate that this advice represents the Aboriginal community viewpoint.

The NSW AECG Inc. promotes respect, empowerment and self-determination and believes the process of collaborative consultation is integral to equal partnership and is fundamental to the achievement of equality. Advocating cultural affirmation, integrity and the pursuit of equality to ensure that the unique and diverse identity of Aboriginal students is recognised and valued.

www.aecg.nsw.edu.au

2021 Nanga Mai Awards Sponsors



Hicksons Lawyers

Hicksons Lawyers is an Australian commercial law firm who assists governments, organisations and individuals throughout Australia and in Asia to create sustainable value by delivering legal and commercial advice, services and solutions
www.hicksons.com.au



Primary English Teaching Association Australia

Primary English Teaching Association Australia (PETAA) are a national, not-for-profit professional association supporting primary school educators in the teaching and learning of English and literacies across the curriculum.
www.petaa.edu.au



CQUniversity Australia

CQ University Australia offers certificates, diplomas and degrees and with more than 30,000 students across 25 locations Australia-wide is the country's largest regional university. CQUniversity and its Sydney campus is proud to support the Nanga Mai awards.
www.cqu.edu.au



Aboriginal
Education
Council (NSW) Inc
ABN 07 588 237 557

The Aboriginal Education Council (AEC)

The Aboriginal Education Council (AEC) was established in 1963 and since then has built a proud history of delivering educational opportunities and outcomes to Aboriginal people.
www.aec.org.au

Event Program

Opening

Acknowledgement of Country

Isaiah Reti, Matraville Sports High School

Student Performance

Mulgu Dance Group, Endeavour Sports High School

Masters of Ceremonies

Monique Tait-Owens, Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School

Dylan Tracey, Toronto High School

Opening Address

Mark Scott AO, Secretary, NSW Department of Education

Welcome – Executive Director Address

Karen Jones, Executive Director, Aboriginal Outcomes and Partnerships

Student Awards

- Student Leadership Award
- Academic Excellence Award
- Highest Achieving Aboriginal student(s) in the 2020 Higher School Certificate Award

Student Interview

Janaya Rose, Dubbo Senior Campus - Interviews the Highest achieving Aboriginal student(s) in the 2020 Higher School Certificate

- Encouragement Award
- Outstanding Student Engagement Award

Ministers' Address

The Hon. Sarah Mitchell, Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning

- Outstanding Achievement in Sport Award
- Outstanding Achievement in the Performing, Creative and Visual Arts Award
- Outstanding Achievement in Public Speaking Award

NSW AECG Inc. Address

Anne Dennis, North West Regional Committee President, NSW AECG Inc.

Staff Awards

- Outstanding Leadership in Aboriginal Languages
- Outstanding Contribution to Educational Achievement by an Aboriginal Staff Member
- Outstanding Contribution to Educational Achievement by a Non-Aboriginal Staff Member

Student Performance

Tom Woods, Northern Beaches Secondary College – Manly Campus

- Outstanding Leadership in Aboriginal Education
- Outstanding Commitment to Increasing Knowledge and Understanding of Aboriginal Histories, Culture and Experiences of Aboriginal Peoples

Event Program

School and Community Awards

Connected Communities Executive Director Address

Michele Hall, Executive Director, Connected Communities

- NSW Connected Communities Excellence Award
- Award for Outstanding School and Community Partnerships
- Award for Outstanding Contribution to Educational Achievement by an Aboriginal Community Member
- Department of Education and NSW AECG Inc. Partnership Award

Closing

Masters of Ceremonies

Final words

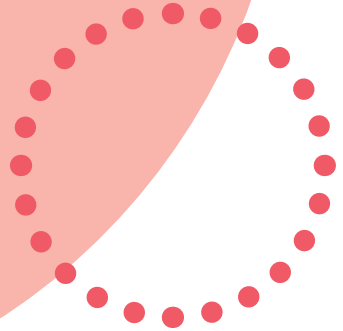
Executive Director Closing Address

Karen Jones, Executive Director, Aboriginal Outcomes and Partnerships

Student Performance

Gorokan High School - Aboriginal Dance Group

Student Awards



Student Leadership Award

This award is presented to Aboriginal students who have demonstrated exceptional skills in promoting, encouraging and supporting student participation across their school and in their community.

Student Leadership Award

Natalya Hicks

Briar Road Public School

Natalya is a proud young Kamilaroi girl with outstanding role modelling skills for all other Aboriginal students. Elected as school captain in 2020, she performed her duties with great distinction.

Natalya also represented the school's Junior AECG, led whole-school NAIDOC and Reconciliation Week assemblies along with facilitating cultural workshops to students across the school. Natalya shares her knowledge of her Aboriginal culture in the Sista Speak program and also leads the school's girls Aboriginal dance group.

Her contribution to her leadership responsibilities were admired by the wider school community and also contributed to her receiving the prestigious 'Mary Chatfield Aboriginal Education Award'. Natalya was also honoured with winning the 2020 Regional Aboriginal Education Award for leadership.

Student Leadership Award

Piper Stewart

Murrumbidgee Regional High School

In early 2018 Piper founded her own charity, Bambigi to support Aboriginal children in Griffith to learn to swim. Many Aboriginal families in Griffith cannot afford to enrol their children in swimming lessons so Piper wanted to change this so she worked with Griffith's AECG and Community Working Party to design Bambigi, which means "to swim" in Wiradjuri.

Piper started fundraising and held a NAIDOC swimathon, where she swam over 8km in three hours. Piper has raised just over \$18,000 through fundraising which has funded 94 local Aboriginal children to have at least one term of lessons. A remarkable achievement for 13-year-old Piper.

Her work with Bambigi has been recognised through several awards, including Griffith's NAIDOC Community Award, the Proud and Deadly Cultural Award, Attendance Award, AECG Community Award and International Corporation GHD Reconciliation Award. She was recognised by the local member for Murray Helen Dalton, receiving a Community Recognition Statement award which was read out in Parliament. Piper is the youngest person to receive this award. Piper was also chosen by swimming NSW to attend Beyond the Black Line, a program to develop the leadership skills of young swimmers.

Piper is a motivated leader who encourages and supports others to participate and get involved. But it is not just about swimming for Piper. She is a dedicated student and positive role model. Each year she has competed in the NAIDOC public speaking and debating competition, making it to the state finals four times. Piper is also well known for her Wiradjuri language skills and is called on by a range of forums in the Griffith community to do acknowledgment to Country in language. She is also teaching other students at her school how to do this.

Student Leadership Award

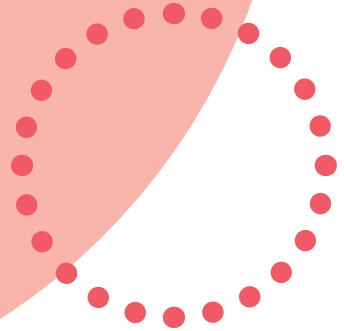
Stephanie Evans

Northern Beaches Secondary College
Manly Campus

Stephanie balances her outstanding academic achievement with her strong extracurricular focus. As the Founder and Director of the charity 'Seas of Change' (since 2014), she leads the protection of our marine fauna through education, awareness-raising and research. Stephanie mentor's students locally and globally and is often required to speak at events in both school, community and local council meetings.

This year Stephanie represented our First Nations people's experiences by giving a voice to her own and other stories via School Assemblies. She is proactively involved in promoting youth concerns at a school, local state and federal government level.

Student Awards



Student Academic Excellence Award

This award is presented to Aboriginal students who have demonstrated outstanding academic excellence in any curriculum area in 2020 and who have displayed a positive attitude to school and a commitment to their future

Academic Excellence Award

Ashley Van Vliet-Williams Albion Park High School

Ashley Van Vliet-Williams is a highly deserving and academically competent Wiradjuri woman. Ashley's accomplishments during her final year at school are a testament to her unwavering dedication to achieving at the highest standard.

Ashley is the very first Aboriginal student to achieve dux in the history of our school. She achieved first place in Advanced Maths, Biology and Investigating science subjects and 2nd place in Ancient History. She also received 4 merits during Year 12, demonstrating high success across numerous subject areas.

Ashley was the sole recipient of the Illawarra Principal's Recommendation Scholarship, an award that aims to encourage and support students in the Illawarra and South Coast areas to pursue study at the University of Wollongong. It is awarded to a student who displays UOW's key indicators of success: academic readiness, motivation and passion, communication and collaboration and planning and persistence.

Ashley has secured an early entry position to the University of Wollongong to study medicine. While displaying dedication and commitment to study Ashley has also been a positive role model at Albion Park High School, participating in NAIDOC debating, Reconciliation Week activities and having exemplary attendance.

Academic Excellence Award

Jaida Conway

Alexandria Park Community School

Jaida is an exceptional student who demonstrates a commitment to everything she does. Placing 'First in Course' for HSC Aboriginal Studies, her fierce dedication to 'always do better' has been remarkable. In researching the relationship between colonisation and the criminal justice system for Aboriginal peoples, for her Aboriginal Studies Major Project, Jaida interviewed Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in all levels of the system and read over fifty secondary sources. The passion and enthusiasm evident in her research notes truly captures Jaida's excellence, culminating in an 8000-word fully referenced research paper.

Jaida will commence her Bachelor of Law/Bachelor of Arts degree in 2021 at the University of Sydney. She will be completing a Major in Indigenous Studies within this degree.

Academic Excellence Award

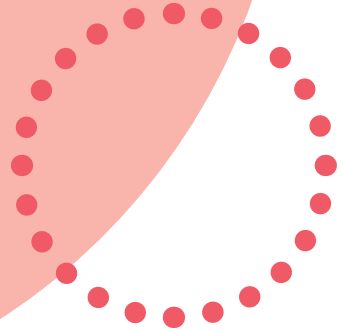
Raymond Sattler

Gosford Public School

Raymond is a highly gifted member of Gosford Public School who has a desire to learn. He has shown that mathematics is an area where he excels well beyond his years and has achieved outstanding results this year.

Raymond is working well beyond the level of his peers, particularly in number and algebra where he has shown the ability to complete work at a Stage 3 level, using the language of mathematics to explain and discuss concepts.

Student Awards



Highest Achieving Aboriginal Student in 2020 Higher School Certificate Award

This award is presented to the Aboriginal student with the highest marks in the 2020 Higher School Certificate

Highest Achieving Aboriginal Student in 2020 Higher School Certificate Award

Mia Thom

Byron Bay High School

Mia Thom, 2020 HSC graduate of Byron Bay High School, received very impressive results, a testimony to Mia's intelligence and hard work. Her ATAR of 99.95 is the result of her outstanding work. Mia was a leading student of Byron Bay High School representing Aboriginal Education and Environmental causes within the school and local community. She also received an award at the Society and Culture Association awards.

Mia placed 5th in the state for her HSC Society and Culture exam and received a distinction for her Personal Interest Project, Decolonising the Patriarchy.

Mia will be studying a Bachelor of Law with an emphasis in Indigenous Studies and Human Rights at the University of Sydney in 2021.

Highest Achieving Aboriginal Student in 2020 Higher School Certificate Award

Patrick Kerrigan

Nowra High School

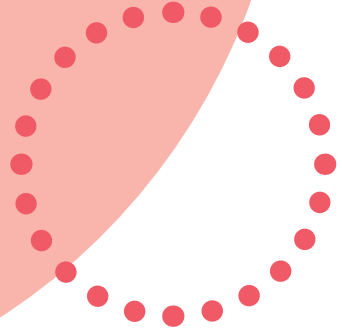
Patrick attended Nowra High School between 2015 and 2020. Throughout his secondary schooling, Patrick was a valued and highly respected member of the school community. He participated in Rural Firefighting and Peer Support training, as well as being elected House Captain in 2018.

During 2019, his Preliminary year, Patrick continued to excel academically, receiving the Victor Chang award for his achievement in Science and several first places in his subjects. In year 12, Patrick successfully balanced his role as School Captain with his studies, receiving several commendations for his outstanding efforts in science and maths.

With his high academic achievement and exemplary behaviour, he has been a fine role model for Aboriginal students within the school. Patrick was placed on the Distinguished Achievers list and made DUX of Nowra High, with an ATAR of 97.85.

Patrick will be studying a Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine at the University of NSW in Sydney in 2021.

Student Awards



Encouragement Award

This award is presented to Aboriginal students who have demonstrated excellent attendance, progress in learning, consistent effort and a positive attitude to school

Encouragement Award

Alexis Cherry

Campbelltown Performing Arts
High School

Alexis successfully completed her HSC in 2020. Over the course of her schooling, she maintained outstanding attendance.

Alexis always demonstrated a genuine interest in learning and as a result, she was successful in gaining entry into Nursing at Western Sydney University. Over the years, she has achieved 12 Principal's awards for academic achievement, consistent effort and teamwork.

Alexis always performed and presented at NAIDOC week and Reconciliation Week assemblies. Alexis's ability to connect with those around her in a positive way have earned her the respect of students and staff. On a number of occasions, Alexis has acted as a lead mentor at the Year 6 into 7 Aboriginal Transition Camp. During these camps, Alexis created a positive and caring environment for students who were struggling with transitioning into high school. Her contributions to cultural and community events have left a great impression upon the students, staff and local community. She is a proud and confident Aboriginal woman and an outstanding example for all students.

Encouragement Award

Dakota Gibbons

Toronto High School

Dakota has excellent attendance and is a very good role model for other students. Teachers recognise the diligence Dakota has to his learning with comments such as excellent behaviour and participation, excellent class contribution, conscientious effort, excellent comprehension skills.

He received a large number of positive referrals throughout the year from a wide range of teachers across all subjects demonstrating his commitment to learning.

Encouragement Award

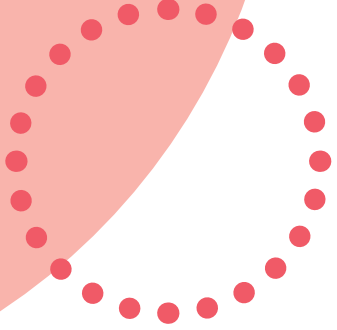
Shae Buchanan

North Nowra High School

Throughout 2020, even with the effects of COVID-19, Shae demonstrated a commitment to improving her academic outcomes that were recognised across the school when she received an award for outstanding academic growth at our whole-school academic achievement assembly. Shae made 1.5 years of growth in just three terms in literacy and numeracy as demonstrated through various forms of data collection.

In 2020, Shae's attendance markedly improved and she consistently demonstrated commitment to improvement. This has lead to her becoming a role-model within the school as she encourages other students when they find learning difficult. Shae comes to school every day with a smile on her face and a positive attitude towards school. Shae demonstrates our school values on a daily basis and she has independently taken on a leadership role with our Kindergarten students, giving up her break times to display kindness and enthusiasm along with assisting teachers with whatever tasks are required.

Student Awards

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Outstanding Student Engagement Award

This award is presented to Aboriginal students who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to engaging in a range of educational and extra-curricular activities in their school

Outstanding Student Engagement Award

Banjo Golder

Bogangar Public School

Banjo is an engaged, self-motivated, inclusive, respectful and culturally proud Year 6 Aboriginal student. Displaying a strong commitment to learning he was accepted into the Kingscliff High School academic stream class in 2021. Actively involved in both school and community Banjo assisted his peers to navigate Microsoft Teams, an online learning platform used during learning from home during the COVID-19 lockdown. A passionate public speaker Banjo acknowledges Country at school events and led the whole-school assembly during NAIDOC week.

Outside school hours, a motivated singer-songwriter, didgeridoo maker and player, Banjo regularly engages in community cultural activities, helps local AFL teams, keeps the local headland clean by picking up rubbish with his family and in 2019 led the Murwillumbah Public School band, winning at eisteddfod and placing in a drum solo.

Outstanding Student Engagement Award

Mayra Brewer Oak Flats High School

Mayra is an outstanding allrounder, working hard to ensure her academic success while making a significant contribution to our broader school community. In Year 11 she was placed in the top 3 for all of her courses, a testament to her commitment to learning. During the holidays she successfully completed the University of Wollongong Summer Masterclass in English.

Mayra plays bass and sings in the Oak Flats High School performance ensemble, and participates in our free music tutoring program for local primary school students before school. She is a natural leader and was elected School Captain for 2021, reflecting the high esteem in which she is held by students and staff alike.

She is passionate about her culture and proud of her identity as a young Aboriginal woman, expressing her Aboriginality through her artwork. Mayra aspires to be a Music teacher.

Outstanding Student Engagement Award

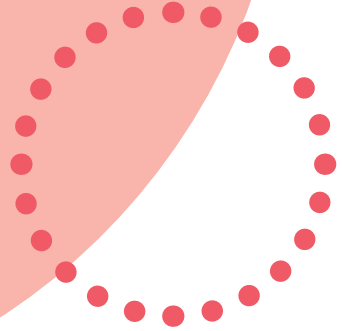
Yasmin Speakman

Briar Road Public School

Yasmin is a natural leader and a proud member of the Junior AECG at Briar Road Public School. She is a member of Sista Speak where she leads cultural programs, such as Traditional Indigenous Games and weaving for infants and primary students across the school. Yasmin is a House Captain and a member of the SRC. She attends initiatives such as book club, choir, the Aboriginal dance group, coding club and public speaking.

Her leadership in Aboriginal culture and as a Year 6 role model shines through daily. Yasmin represents her culture in the community where she attends Tharawal NAIDOC and cultural events and has sought out opportunities to be involved in any school event within the local community. She has performed cultural dance at community events and at local schools with pride.

Student Awards



Outstanding Achievement in Sport Award

This award is presented to Aboriginal students who have represented their school and community, demonstrated fairness, integrity and outstanding achievement in their chosen sporting fields

Outstanding Achievement in Sport Award

Jake Callen

Toronto High School

Jake has been highly successful in his sporting achievements. He actively participates in Toronto High School open boys' soccer and has participated in many external competitions. These include Captain of the Australian Indigenous All-Stars Team in its New Zealand Tour, Japan Nationals Youth Championships, TSP (Talent and Support Program) Under 15s in 2020, Australian Futsal Championships under 15s 2019/2020, National Championships Coffs Harbour, Hunter Indigenous Games Basketball and Soccer Tournament. Jake has also won The Golden Boot at the Australian Futsal Championships 2019/2020 and the Edgeworth Football Club under 15s Players Player Award.

Outstanding Achievement in Sport Award

Jasmin Morrissey

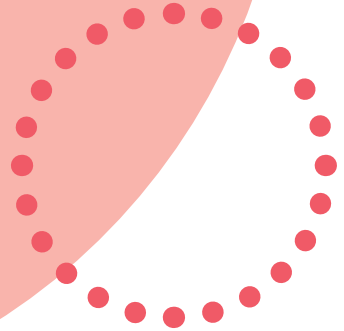
Tweed River High School

Jasmin is an outstanding sportswoman and has represented both her school and state in various sports including hockey, touch and athletics. Jasmin is also school captain and is a member of the Student Representative Council where she is involved in organising and overseeing many school events.

Jasmin has always been involved in representative sports since she was in Year 4, where she represented the North Coast region in hockey. Jasmin continued her representation through to Year 6 where she was selected as captain of the NSW PSSA Hockey Team. Since enrolling at Tweed River High School Jasmin has continued to represent the North Coast each year from Year 7 to Year 10, but due to COVID-19 all school sporting events this year were suspended. In Year 9 and Year 10 Jasmin represented NSW CHS in Hockey and was the first Year 9 student to be selected in the Opens Girls CHS Team.

Jasmin is also a member of the Queensland Under 18's Girls Hockey Squad outside of school. Prior to this Jasmin also represented Queensland in U 13's and U 15's Girls Hockey Team. Jasmin is a very talented sports person and is someone to keep an eye out for in the future.

Student Awards



Outstanding Achievement in the Performing, Creative and Visual Arts Award

This award is presented to Aboriginal students who have demonstrated outstanding talent and application in the Performing, Creative and/or Visual Arts

Outstanding Achievement in the Performing, Creative and Visual Arts Award

Kiahn Ladkin

Byron Bay High School

Kiahn is a capable student and has achieved very high academic results throughout her school career. Given Kiahn's passion and commitment to a professional dancing career, this is an admirable achievement attesting to her strength of character and desire to succeed.

Kiahn is involved with Bangarra Dance Theatre where her list of achievements include performing in 2016-2019 Schools Spectacular, Company A and Company B workshops, a Seymour Centre (Sydney) ensemble performance and an Indigenous Community Workshop for two weeks in Grafton.

Dedicated to the creative arts, Kiahn still finds time to contribute regularly to the school community. For example, she regularly performs in front of the whole-school as part of NAIDOC celebrations. For her efforts, Kiahn is a recipient of Byron Bay High School's valuable Lighthouse Award given to only those students who demonstrate an ongoing commitment to community participation and academic progress.

Kiahn completed HSC Dance in year 11 and was called back for her exemplary dance work in HSC dance. She was nominated in the categories of Major Studies Performance and Core Performance. Kiahn is a mentor to younger Aboriginal students and is engaged in teaching them to dance throughout the year as part of the feeder school program.

Outstanding Achievement in the Performing, Creative and Visual Arts Award

Olivia Fox

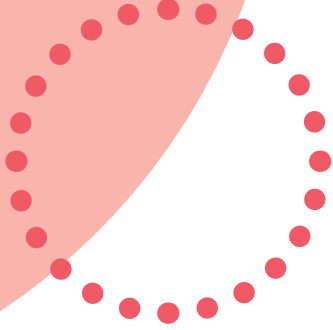
Newtown High School of the Performing Arts

Olivia Fox is in Year 12 at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts. She is a proud Wiradjuri woman and very proud of her heritage.

Olivia became an overnight sensation after performing a moving rendition of the national anthem in both Eora and English language before the Tri Nations rugby union game between the Wallabies and Argentina in December of last year.

She is a member of the Aboriginal VIP program which has helped her improve her confidence when performing. Olivia enjoys listening to all types of music, but really enjoys singing country music. When she finishes school, Olivia would like a career in the entertainment industry, and is also passionate about becoming a primary school teacher.

Student Awards

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Outstanding Achievement in Public Speaking Award

This award is presented to Aboriginal students who have demonstrated exemplary skills in public speaking. The award recognises Aboriginal students' ability to speak with authority and confidence and the ability to maintain audience interest

Outstanding Achievement in Public Speaking Award

Cody Moran

Toronto High School

Cody has been a member of Toronto High School Debating team since 2015 including being a finalist in the University Cup. In 2020 he has received a large number of positive referrals for outstanding work in class and academic achievement.

Cody was also part of a three-member team that entered the Rotary Club of Australia MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly) where they won the Regional competition. Enabling them to compete in the State competition in Canberra where they achieved a special mention due to their presentation. Cody is currently School Vice-Captain and an integral part of the student leadership team.

Outstanding Achievement in Public Speaking Award

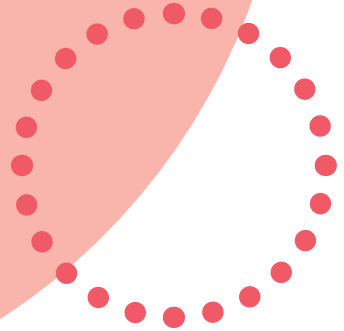
Tyjah Higgins

Blue Haven Public School

Tyjah is a talented public speaker demonstrating confidence and original opinions. Tyjah represented Blue Haven Public School in the Premier's Debating competition. She took on the role of the fourth speaker and her team quickly became dependent on her decisive thoughts on how to construct their arguments.

Tyjah played a vital role in helping her team win the Zone Championship and should be commended on her commitment to debating.

Student Awards



Outstanding Leadership in Aboriginal Languages Award

This award is presented to a NSW Department of Education employee who demonstrated strong commitment to improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal students through implementation of a school Aboriginal Languages program

Outstanding Leadership in Aboriginal Languages Award

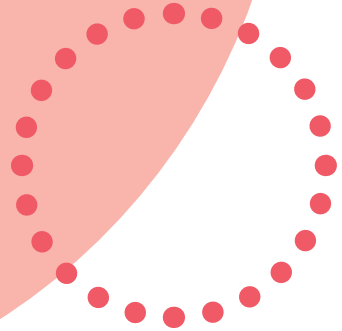
Pricilla Strasek and Tom Barker Lightning Ridge Central School

Priscilla Strasek, the Culture Nest AECG Project Officer along with Mr Tom Barker have worked tirelessly over the past 2 years with the (Gamilaraay, Yuwaalaraay, Yuwaalayaay) GYY language and culture programs within Lightning Ridge Central School.

This dynamic team have maintained the language and culture program since the resignation of the GYY Teacher in 2019. They have trained Language and Culture Tutors and Educators in developing programs and stage relevant booklets in particular during the COVID-19 restrictions.

Pricilla and Tom have been nominated not only for their outstanding contribution to the language and culture within the area but also for their humble personas and dedication to the wider school community.

Staff Awards



Outstanding Contribution to Educational Achievement by an Aboriginal Staff Member Award

This award is presented to an Aboriginal employee of the NSW Department of Education who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal students, their families and communities

Outstanding Contribution to Educational Achievement by an Aboriginal Staff Member Award

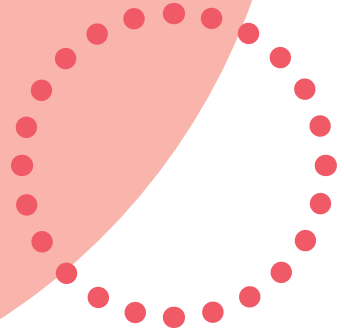
Leslie Pitt

The Forest High School

Leslie is an excellent teacher and school leader who has provided outstanding academic and wellbeing support for Aboriginal students, connecting with families, organising cultural workshops and providing them with leadership opportunities.

Leslie is leading the process of reconciliation in the whole school community. He is an active member and leader of The Forest Network Aboriginal Reference Group and the AECG. Leslie uses his connection with the Aboriginal community to develop and lead whole school events, effectively raising community awareness and understanding of Aboriginal perspectives and history.

Staff Awards



Outstanding Contribution to Educational Achievement by a Non-Aboriginal Staff Member Award

This award is presented to a non-Aboriginal employee of the NSW Department of Education who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal students and a commitment to working with Aboriginal students, their families and communities

Outstanding Contribution to Educational Achievement by a non-Aboriginal Staff Member Award

Matthew Knowles

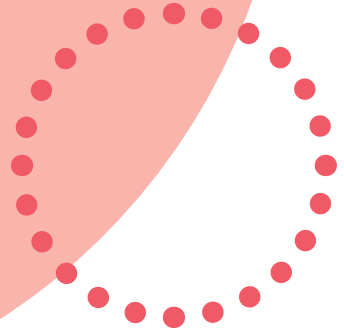
Nepean Creative and Performing Arts School

As Deputy Principal, Matthew works compassionately to develop strong connections with Aboriginal students and their families to ensure their access to education is optimised.

He has been instrumental in the development and ongoing delivery of the Aboriginal Studies program in Year 7, ensuring that every student develops an appreciation of traditional and contemporary Aboriginal issues, contributing significantly to educational achievement for our Aboriginal students.

Matthew is regularly active in the school grounds planting and tending to native Australian plants, particularly “bush tucker” plants. He was instrumental in creating a school Yarning Circle space in the school grounds and speaks passionately on assemblies about respect for Aboriginal culture and histories.

Staff Awards



Outstanding Leadership in Aboriginal Education Award

This award is presented to a NSW Department of Education employee who has demonstrated exemplary leadership and capacity building among staff, schools and the school community and an ongoing commitment to improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal students

Outstanding Leadership in Aboriginal Education Award

Allison Alliston

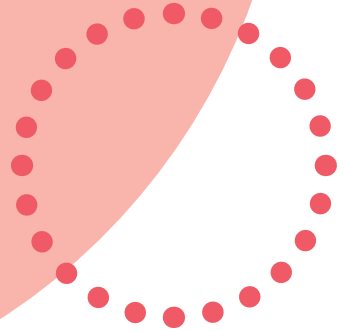
Taree High School

Allison has dedicated her career to leading Aboriginal Education. For the past eight years Allison has held the Executive Principal Connected Communities position at Taree High School. Her vocation has seen her living and teaching in Aboriginal communities including Walgett and Taree.

As the Executive Principal, Allison has established the Elder In-Residence program as a vital resource for staff and students. The Elder collaborates with staff in programming units of work, embedding Biripi culture, tradition, history and languages into lessons, as well as co-delivering material to students in classes. This has been an outstanding initiative, fostering ongoing positive feedback from staff and students.

In addition, she has also introduced Taree High School Reference Group and the local Aboriginal language of Gathang as the Stage 4 Language Other Than English (LOTE) Mandatory course ensuring that every student of Taree High School learns Gathang and develops a respectful connection to local Biripi culture, Elders and the wider community. Recognising the need for genuine collaboration.

Staff Awards



Outstanding Commitment to Increasing Knowledge and Understanding of Aboriginal Histories, Culture and Experiences of Aboriginal Peoples Award

This award is presented to a school or a community of schools that have demonstrated a strong commitment to establishing a culture of respect, caring and inclusive teaching practices which recognise, value and meet the diverse needs of Aboriginal students

Outstanding Commitment to Increasing Knowledge and Understanding of Aboriginal Histories, Culture and Experience of Aboriginal Peoples Award

Banora Point High School

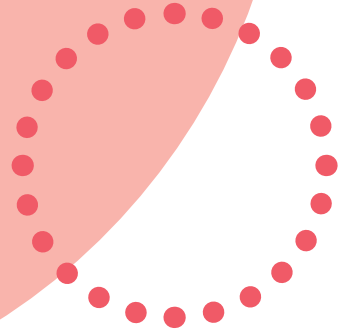
Banora Point High School developed a year 7 Pathways on Journey excursion collaboratively developed by the school Aboriginal Education team to local sites of Aboriginal significance connecting all students with Aboriginal history and culture, as well as with each other and Aboriginal Elders who facilitate the excursion.

NAIDOC week celebrations at the school are identified as an opportunity to engage local Aboriginal people. This year each key learning area developed a curriculum-based learning activity aligned with the theme 'Always was Always will be'. The week culminated with Indigenous performances at a Friday lunchtime concert including a Welcome to Country by Uncle Victor Slockee, a student musical performance of the song by Archie Roach 'They Took the Children Away' and a student dance performance to Baker Boys version of the song Treaty.

A cross-curricular NAIDOC initiative involving Geography and Visual Arts subjects involved students mapping local Aboriginal sites of significance and then building a 3D model of the map with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. In 2020 a teaching and learning unit which meets stage 4 Technology Mandatory curriculum outcomes was developed.

It is centred on the traditional use of native ingredients in food and medicine as well as traditional farming techniques. As part of the unit, the school acquired a native stingless beehive. Local Bundjulong elder, Uncle John Fonmosa worked with class groups to explain the importance of native stingless bees as a food source, for trade between groups in celebrations, and medicine.

School and Community Awards



NSW Connected Communities Excellence Award

This award has been nominated by the Executive Director, Connected Communities and presented to NSW Department of Education staff for commitment and support of students, staff and school communities

NSW Connected Communities Excellence Awards

School Infrastructure NSW

Anthony Manning recipient on behalf of School Infrastructure NSW

This division has been an outstanding with supporting the implementation of the Connected Communities Strategy from a system's perspective.

Many of this division's officers, through their relentless support, especially throughout 2020 on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, ensured Connected Communities schools and their Communities were well resourced and assisted in having the equipment they needed to remain safe, so they felt protected and out of harm's way.

The responsiveness of this division to work differently and creatively to ensure the Connected Communities schools are structured to deliver teaching and learning in creative and innovative ways is also acknowledged by students, their families and their Communities as well as school staff.

All of the Connected Communities schools have benefited greatly from the leadership and good will provided and we thank and recognise School Infrastructure NSW and congratulate Anthony Manning, Chief Executive, School Infrastructure NSW, in accepting this award on behalf of the Division.

NSW Connected Communities Excellence Awards

Work Place Health and Safety

Marnie O'Brien recipient on behalf of Work Place Health and Safety

Officers within this directorate work around the clock to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our staff and students is a high priority. Their generosity of time and assistance ensures processes and measures are in place so the Connected Communities schools operate smoothly and with the least disruption. The range of services available to support the safe working and learning in our schools is both culturally sensitive and responsive which adds a differential layer that assists with raising the confidence levels to maximise engagement.

This division offers a range of useful and relevant information and resources that customises a framework of tailored assistance, including a dedicated telephone service that connects staff in Connected Communities locations within rural and remote areas of the State to feel connected and heard.

Connected Communities schools have valued the high-level leadership, expertise and collegiality provided and are grateful for the ongoing assistance from the officers within Work Place Health and Safety and congratulate Marnie O'Brien, Executive Director, Health and Safety in accepting this award on behalf of the directorate.

School and Community Awards

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Outstanding School and Community Partnership Award

This award is presented to a school that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to respectful and productive partnerships with students, staff, parents and their local Aboriginal communities

Outstanding School and Community Partnership Award

Wyong High School

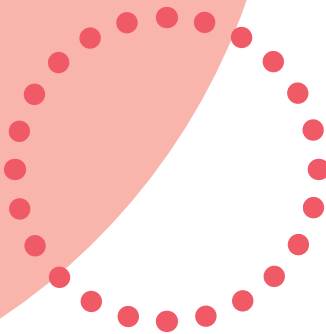
Wyong High School is home to 100 Aboriginal students. Throughout 2020 the school has achieved some exceptional results and made strong community connections. The use of local services, community member involvement along with highly committed staff has ensured all students have had an opportunity to achieve their personal best in what has been a difficult year.

Consistent staff and community support, saw an increase of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students completing their HSC in 2020. Not only did they complete their HSC but many also completed School based apprenticeships and traineeships and have been awarded University scholarships and placements for 2021.

The school undertook whole school professional development on Country in 2020 and built an Aboriginal well-being garden in consultation with community along with engaged service providers to deliver cultural programs to students building cultural knowledge, awareness and pride in their Aboriginality.

Wyong High School has had an outstanding year where staff, Aboriginal students and community have work exceptionally hard to ensure students stayed engaged, been successful and ensure Aboriginal education is everyone business.

School and Community Awards



Outstanding Contribution to Educational Achievement by an Aboriginal Community Member

This award is presented to a school that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to respectful and productive partnerships with students, staff, parents and their local Aboriginal communities

Outstanding Contributions to Educational Achievement by an Aboriginal Community Member

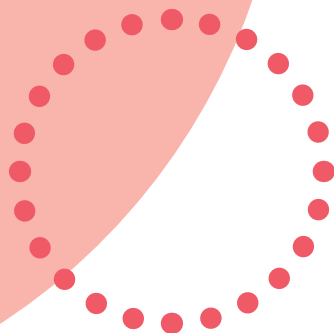
Dean Kelly

Dean Kelly is a very worthy candidate for this category as he works tirelessly to share knowledge with school communities, is a role model to future generations and demonstrates unwavering commitment to ensuring the preservation of culture. Dean is employed as the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer for the Royal National Park - Metropolitan South Region. As part of his role he provides cultural tours for many schools and community groups within the wider Sydney and Wollongong areas about the use of native flora, traditional use and cultural history of the land.

Dean often volunteers his time to work closely with the Environmental Education Centre at Kurnell, various local AECGs, many community organisations, School Services team members and schools in the Metropolitan South Operational Directorate in particular the La Perouse community to present professional learning/cultural awareness sessions, support and attend NAIDOC events and has delivered many smokings and other cultural ceremonies.

Lastly, Dean sees our students as the future leaders of our communities and is always willing to support and lead cultural camps for Aboriginal youth.

School and Community Awards



Department of Education and NSW AECG Inc. Partnership Award

This award recognises outstanding commitment to the Partnership Agreement between the NSW Department of Education and the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group.

Department of Education and NSW AECG Inc. Partnership Award

Cindy Berwick
President, NSW AECG Inc.

A person who has been an outstanding Aboriginal community leader for many years and since 2007 until this month has been the President of the NSW AECG. During this time this person has successfully steered the organisation through many significant changes, particularly the funding changes from the Commonwealth and the increased professional learning for staff and support to students offered by the AECG whilst ensuring the organisation continued to provide high quality advice on all matters relevant to education.

Indeed, the AECG has been strengthened as a result of this person's leadership. If you haven't guessed by now, the recipient for the inaugural 2020 Partnership Award goes to Cindy Berwick.

Through her strong advocacy, the Department has worked shoulder to shoulder with the AECG to co-design its flagship strategy for Aboriginal education and Connected Communities, which is premised on authentic Aboriginal Community input and direction.

In addition, during the 2019/2020 bushfires, Cindy Berwick was instrumental in facilitating local recovery support for Aboriginal families and communities impacted by fires throughout NSW. Community members in bushfire impacted areas have acknowledged the individual support Cindy has given during unprecedented times. Similar leadership was shown throughout 2020 in response to COVID-19.

Students, communities and staff across NSW have benefited from the leadership provided by Cindy.

Congratulations Cindy for all you achievements and your outstanding Leadership.

Department of Education and NSW AECG Inc. Partnership Award

Michele Hall

Executive Director, Connected Communities

Murat Dizdar

Deputy Secretary, School Performance South

Both Michele and Murat have been instrumental in the development and implementation of the Partnership Agreement. Their strong consultative leadership has led to a rigorous document that will inform and support the relationship between Department of Education and the NSW AECG Inc.

Their work ensures decisions are made collaboratively with the voice of Aboriginal peoples front and centre. The Partnership Agreement ensures all students, from their early years to post schooling will achieve their potential through education. It supports schools, students, both Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal and staff in their understanding and appreciation of the richness and diversity of Aboriginal cultures and history, while working toward the outcomes of Aboriginal Children and young people matching or bettering those of the general population.

Knowledge, understanding and the tenacity to lead by example and show what it takes to be an educational leader see Michele and Murat held in high esteem by both education professionals and community partners alike.

Congratulations on receiving the 2020 partnership award Michele and Murat.



NSW Department of Education
would like to thank you for
attending the 15th Annual
Nanga Mai Awards.

