

**THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION  
QUEENSLAND BRANCH**



**THE 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS CITIZENSHIP AWARDS  
PRESENTATION  
2017**

**Parliament House, Brisbane**  
The Old Legislative Council Chamber  
(The Red Chamber)

**Friday, 15 September 2017**

Commemorative plaques presented by

**Her Honour Catherine Holmes**  
**Chief Justice of Queensland**

Certificates of Community Service  
presented by

*Associate Professor John Harden AM, Chairman,  
The Order of Australia Association, Queensland Branch*

*Compered by Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO*

*Music by Brisbane Girls Grammar School String Quartet*

Geoff Cowles OAM, Awards Coordinator

**Proudly sponsored by**

**Tim Fairfax AC**

## *Commemorative Plaque and Certificate of Merit Recipients 2017*

*Elizabeth Clarke*

*Jack Cobon*

*Adam Doughty*

*Selena Ferguson*

*Cameron Hall*

*Chandler Kamradt*

*Darby Ngwe*

*Emma Nolan*

*Karl Rosenberg*

*Alexandria Skrandies*

*Abirami Somasundaram*

*Sophie Taylor*

*The Rockhampton Grammar School*

*Ignatius Park College*

*Alexandra Hills State High School*

*Mount Gravatt State High School*

*Southport State High School*

*Noosa District State High School*

*Centenary State High School*

*Kirwan State High School*

*Ipswich Grammar School*

*Cavendish Road State High School*

*Brisbane Girls Grammar School*

*All Hallows' School*



**Our award winning students with Her Honour – Standing from L to R –** Alexandria Skrandies (Cavendish Road State High School); Her Honour Catherine Holmes, Chief Justice of Queensland; Jack Cobon (Ignatius Park College); Adam Doughty (Alexandra Hills State High School) ; Selena Ferguson (Mount Gravatt State High School); Cameron Hall (Southport State High School); Karl Rosenberg (Ipswich Grammar School); **Kneeling from L-R** Darby Ngwe (Centenary State High School); Abirami Somasundaram (Brisbane Girls Grammar School); Sophie Taylor (All Hallows' School); Elizabeth Clarke (The Rockhampton Grammar School) and Chandler Kamradt (Noosa District State High School). **Absent** - Emma Nolan (Kirwan State High School) - overseas in Indonesia as part of the Kirwan High 'Scientists enacting change' tour.

# 2017 Commemorative Plaque Winners

## Student Profiles



**Elizabeth Clarke**

**The Rockhampton Grammar School**

### **School Captain**

Mix together a dash of the Easter Bunny, a splash of humility, a sprinkling of stage magic and good cheer to all, in all of her endeavours, and you have Elizabeth Clarke.

Elizabeth's sense of community is strong and diverse.

Not only has she been instrumental in the organising committee for the annual Preppies Easter Egg Hunt but also school-wide events including the annual Year 12 Valedictory dinner and raising awareness and support for a multitude of charities.

Music plays a major role in Elizabeth's life.

Not only has she been the recipient of multiple accolades in musical theatre, speech and drama, Elizabeth pays it back by being an outstanding mentor and role model to younger students in the areas of stagecraft and enhancing literacy.

In the words of her school, 'a very special young lady who has demonstrated outstanding leadership on a daily basis'.



**Jack Cobon**

**Ignatius Park College, Townsville**

Selflessness and kindness of heart and respect epitomises Jack Cobon.

Jack espouses the Ignatius Park College motto of "Seek Truth" through all of his daily interactions.

Jack is proactive and goes above and beyond with a hands-on approach focused on building positive relationships.

Jack walks the talk.

For example, to fully engage with implementation of the Close the Gap Campaign to raise awareness for the health of Indigenous Australians at Ignatius Park College, Jack travelled to Palm Island to fully engage with the indigenous students at their local school.

Jack's energy, initiative and sense of responsibility are evident to all who work with him.

He never shies away from the most daunting projects and challenges.

For example, raising the awareness of mental health through active fundraising – and we mean active – Jack walked up a hill continuously for 24 hours!



# 2017 Commemorative Plaque Winners

## Student Profiles



**Adam Doughty**  
**Alexandra Hills State High School**

**School Captain**

Hear Adam roar!

After receiving a Lions Club scholarship in 2015, Adam has gone on to become President of Alexandra Hills State High School's Leo club and has raised funds for numerous charities and has been a selfless mentor to younger members of the club.

You can also hear Adam play lead guitar as he is a member of an up-and-coming rock band that performs at many community events in the Redlands district.

Not content with being a front man, Adam has been part of the Tech Crew at his school for the past five years, leading and training a dedicated team and giving up many hours of his own time to provide a wide range of technical and audio visual support across the school calendar.

He has an entrepreneurial flair, too, having established his own guitar school.



**Selena Ferguson**  
**Mount Gravatt State High School**  
**School Senior Leader**

Despite her busy schedule, Selena is always ready to volunteer and positively impact in her community.

The Australian Scout Law states "Be respectful, be friendly and considerate, care for others and the environment, face challenges with courage".

Selena's passion lies in the Scouting movement and she has received the highest awards in both the cub and scout sections and is on track to receive the Queen Scout Award - widely considered to be the greatest achievement in the Scouting movement.

Recently, Selena played a leadership role supporting children with disabilities to experience inclusive participation of Scouting activities.

Selena has set the agenda for making a difference to the school and local community by founding the school environmental club and leading the annual Clean Up Australia campaign.

At Mt Gravatt State High School, Selena is widely acknowledged as a young woman who can see good in every person and every situation.

# 2017 Commemorative Plaque Winners

## Student Profiles



### Cameron Hall

#### Southport State High School

Life has no barriers for Cameron and he brings a touch of sunshine wherever he treads.

A true leader, Cameron gains knowledge and then puts it into practice for the benefit of his community.

For example, Cameron diligently engaged in a certificate course in Health Services.

Although he had to balance school work, TAFE study and family life, Cameron became an advocate for a fellow student facing significant challenges and became their “voice” on campus.

Not content with only undertaking work experience, Cameron volunteers weekly at a local nursing home engaging residents in conversations and walks around the garden to brighten their day.

Cameron is a passionate soccer player where he inspires and nurtures a four year old boy to become the best he can be on the soccer field by instilling confidence, skills and fun.

It is no surprise his school describes him as ‘kind, caring and altruistic in his endeavours to volunteer and assist his peers’.



### Chandler Kamradt

#### Noosa District State High School

##### Student Council President

Chandler is a rising talent within the Australian Navy Cadet program where he has attained the rank of Leader.

Life skills learnt through Cadets compliments Chandler’s academic achievements at school.

These achievements share the common values of honour, honesty, courage, integrity and loyalty.

In so many ways, Chandler embodies these concepts.

His teaching of PCYC members throughout Queensland and his active volunteering at his local SES unit has seen Chandler successfully complete the Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh awards.

Chandler is the President of his school’s Student Council and is always at the forefront of organising fundraising activities that promote the welfare of others including the annual Harmony Day celebrations.

Consequently, Chandler has provided an amazing example of social service and engagement with the community for his fellow students at Noosa District State High School.



# 2017 Commemorative Plaque Winners

## Student Profiles



**Photo left** - Emma was unable to attend the Presentation as she was overseas in Indonesia as part of the Kirwan High 'Scientists enacting change' tour. Ms Meredith Wenta, her mentoring teacher from Kirwan State High School, received the award on Emma's behalf.

**Photo right** - Emma at Kirwan State High School with her award accompanied by Ms Meredith Wenta, her mentoring teacher →



### Darby Ngwe

#### Centenary State High School

#### School Captain

There is generosity of spirit to Darby as she goes out of her way to enrich the lives of people and animals in need of a helping hand.

Whether it be through organising Sweetheart Day, a school-wide talent quest run over eight days, or organising the budding chefs of the school to bake cupcakes to support the RSPCA, Darby is indeed an admirable young woman.

In 2016, Darby was the Queensland winner of the Donate for Life Writing competition where she drew on her personal experience earlier that year when she donated her hair to the Variety Children's Charity which contributed to the wig-making process for those suffering alopecia.

The school's submission stated that Darby is "astute, willing to please and shows resilience that surprises and an astounding ability to dedicate herself to the community".

### Emma Nolan

#### Kirwan State High School,

#### School Captain

Service to her community is paramount for Emma Nolan.

A young woman who has attained the rank of Sergeant, she tirelessly volunteers most weekends and holidays assisting, mentoring and teaching within the St John Ambulance Cadet Program.

As part of her involvement in the St John Ambulance International Cadet Camp held in Hong Kong, Emma actively engaged in a range of community service activities including providing first aid instruction to students in Hong Kong.

Back home, she leads a range of fundraising and service activities at Kirwan State High School to support cancer research.

This strong and passionate interest in the field of medicine translates into outstanding academic success where Emma was recognised for her efforts when she was presented with the 2017 Peter Doherty Outstanding Senior Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Student Award. Described by her school as a 'quiet achiever', Emma is destined to continue to make a difference.

# 2017 Commemorative Plaque Winners

## Student Profiles



**Karl Rosenberg**  
**Ipswich Grammar School**  
**School Prefect**

Karl has soul!

While soul music can be described as combining the elements of gospel music, rhythm and blues and jazz, Karl, who is a member of the school's soul band, is a perfect mix of leading by example, highly organised and generosity of spirit.

Not one to wait for opportunities, he is proactive in seeking out how he can give back to his community.

For example, outside of school he is keenly involved at his local church, youth and children's programs and successfully leads a school holiday club.

A team player, Karl is a keen sportsman who has represented his school in volleyball, football and rugby union.

We congratulate Karl on receiving one of the twelve Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards for 2017.



**Alexandria Skrandies**  
**Cavendish Road State High School**

For the past four years, Alexandria has been actively involved in the Brisbane Outrigging Canoe Club, not only as a recipient of a number of awards, including the prestigious Junior Female Paddler of the Year, but also as an assistant coach and an inspiring volunteer at state and national canoeing events.

Through her tireless efforts, Alexandria is leading the inaugural "Wear It Purple Day" event at her school to highlight and support the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Inter-gender community.

Alexandria is passionate in her commitment of her school's International Students program through which she has made lasting friendships and special memories with students from across the globe.

When a student is far from home and family and friends on international exchange at Cavendish Road State High School, be safe in the knowledge they are in the caring and supportive hands of Alexandria Skrandies.



# 2017 Commemorative Plaque Winners

## Student Profiles



**Abirami Somasundaram**  
**Brisbane Girls Grammar School**

### House Captain

While Abirami is a source of inspiration and admiration to her fellow students in her role as a House Captain she, in turn, is inspired by science.

Abirami has initiated a Doctors Without Borders program at Brisbane Girls Grammar School; is an involved member of the Save the Children Fund, and an award recipient of the 2016 Australian Chemistry Olympiad where she won a Bronze Medal and High Distinction.

In addition, Abirami volunteers her time at a local retirement home where she brings a beautiful ray of happiness to dementia patients by engaging them in physical and mental activities as well as musical therapy sessions - playing her flute to the delight of the centre's residents and staff alike.

Therefore, it is with total confidence that her school concluded its nomination on her behalf with the words: "Her involvement in school and community services is exemplary".



**Sophie Taylor**  
**All Hallows' School**  
**School Captain**

*"... approaches every commitment with gentle determination and a contagious zest for life" is testament of Sophie's enthusiasm to lead a diverse cross-section of service activities both at All Hallows' and within the greater community.*

Sophie immerses herself in a number of social service and leadership events at school where her creativity shines.

For example, as School Captain she facilitates open conversations with younger students on issues such as bullying and the complexities of social media as well as bringing attention to social justice issues.

In addition, she toured both Cherbourg and Cape York Indigenous communities to gain a deeper understanding and respect for the culture, stories and spirituality.

An accomplished musician and sportswoman, Sophie has attained excellence in both these fields.

We congratulate this remarkable young woman for her dedication to the betterment of others and we are delighted she is a recipient of the Secondary Schools Citizenship Award.

*The Association thanks Michelle Mills from Education Queensland for kindly producing these student profiles.*



## PHOTO GALLERY – EXTRA



*The nine students selected to receive their Certificates of Community Service at the Presentation from Associate Professor John Harden AM, Chairman, OAA Qld – **Top row - from L to R** – Connor Ryan (St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace); Connor Hurley (Redeemer Lutheran College); Amelia Webster (Lockyer District High School); Alex Colvin (Caboolture State High School); Oliver Lee (Parklands Christian College); and Associate Professor John Harden AM; **Front Row – kneeling L-R** – Kiara Ah Boo (Albany Creek State High School); Yasmine Bock (Laidley State High School); Julia Buczynski (Maroochydore State High School); and Emerald Gaydon (Moreton Bay College).*



### **“Odds and Ends” – Clockwise from top left**

1. Emeritus Professor Mary Mahoney AO (comper) (left) presents flowers to Her Honour Catherine Holmes.
2. The winning students around the centre table in the Old Legislative Council Chamber at Parliament House, Brisbane.
3. Geoff Cowles OAM, Awards Coordinator (a former student from Cavendish Road State High School), congratulates Cavendish Road State High School's Alexandria Skrandies, one of the winning students in 2017.



*This highlights package has been produced by  
Geoff Cowles OAM  
Queensland Branch Secretary and  
Awards Coordinator -September 2017*