

**THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION  
QUEENSLAND BRANCH**



**THE 22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS CITIZENSHIP AWARDS  
PRESENTATION**

**2021**

**Parliament House, Brisbane**  
The Premiers' Hall

**Friday, 17 September 2021**

Commemorative plaques presented by  
**His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC**  
**Governor of Queensland**

Certificates of Community Service  
presented by

*Tim Fairfax AC, the Awards Sponsor*

*Compered by Mr Royce Voss OAM*

*Music by the CHAC String Quintet, Cannon Hill Anglican College*

Geoff Cowles OAM, Awards Coordinator

**Proudly sponsored by**

**Tim Fairfax AC**

## *Commemorative Plaque and Certificate of Merit Recipients 2021*

*Eleanor Barker*

*Tahnee Dilger*

*Angelique Hallett*

*Sienna Haxton*

*Millie Kent*

*Corey McCormick*

*Crystal-Rose Paul*

*Kelly-Ann Sparks*

*Matthew Stoward*

*Lilliana Swainson*

*Jack Watson*

*Emmett Withers*

*Kirwan State High School*

*Atherton State High School*

*Glasshouse Christian College*

*Mountain Creek State High School*

*Brigidine College*

*North Lakes State College*

*Dysart State High School*

*Cannon Hill Anglican College*

*Cannon Hill Anglican College*

*Somerset College*

*Burnside State High School*

*Whitsunday Anglican School*



**His Excellency with the 2021 award students – Back row from L-R** –Eleanor Barker (Kirwan State High School); Angelique Hallett (Glasshouse Christian College); Millie Kent (Brigidine College); Sienna Haxton (Mountain Creek State High School); Crystal-Rose Paul (Dysart State High School); His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC CVO, Governor of Queensland; Kelly-Ann Sparks (Cannon Hill Anglican College); Tahnee Dilger (Atherton State High School); Lilliana Swainson (Somerset College); and Jack Watson (Burnside State High School). **Front row kneeling–** from L-R Corey McCormick (North Lakes State College); Matthew Stoward (Cannon Hill Anglican College) and Emmett Withers (Whitsunday Anglican School).

# 2021 Commemorative Plaque Winners

## Student Profiles



**Eleanor Barker**  
**Kirwan State High School**

Taking it easy does not seem to be in Eleanor Barker's high-energy world!

As Kirwan State High School's Female Sports Captain, she motivates and encourages fellow students.

A lover of all things aquatic, Eleanor is an inspirational elite long course swimmer, competing in the State Swimming Long Course Championships; Club Captain at her local swim club; an accredited Learn to Swim teacher and a member of a Coaching Mentorship Program.

No surprises, Eleanor is planning a degree in Marine Science.

Her commitment to service is demonstrated through her engagement with the school's Interact Club; completing her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award; and individually, this year she raised almost \$1 000 for The Cure Start's now and donated her hair for Cut for a Cure.

And while most of us are looking forward to some down time during these school holidays, Eleanor has been selected to take part in the Cairns Kokoda Track Challenge!

It was only natural Kirwan State High School would nominate this valued student who has made a very significant contribution to her community.



**Tahnee Dilger**  
**Atherton State High School**

Tahnee is a steady all-rounder – talented musician; actor; and has a selfless commitment to the service of others.

A founding member of her school's Eco Committee which educates students about recycling, Tahnee devotes many voluntary hours to the promotion of science within the school and across her wider community.

When not working as a serving member of her local rural fire brigade where she assists with hazard reduction burns across the Atherton Tablelands, you may find her sailing the magnificent local waterways where she is a long-term member of the Atherton State High School sailing team, where she provides support and mentorship to younger team members.

Tahnee's team has qualified for the national titles since 2017!

We congratulate Tahnee on her award today and in the words of her Principal - *"Tahnee lives her life with a glass half full outlook...she is a young lady who will certainly pursue a life-path that will positively impact many others."*



# 2021 Commemorative Plaque Winners

## Student Profiles



### Angelique Hallett

#### Glasshouse Christian College

Angelique's nomination from her school states *"Angelique is a young lady with a genuinely beautiful nature and a kind and servant heart...and personifies citizenship."*

Angelique has founded her own charity "Loving Hope Bears".

This charity provides people the opportunity to gift a teddy bear to a child living in local domestic violence shelters.

To date, Angelique has facilitated the donations of over 300 bears to children on the Sunshine Coast, Brisbane and Gympie regions; and is a worthy recipient of the 2021 Sunshine Coast Young Citizen of the Year.

Furthermore, Angelique was awarded the University of Queensland Create Change Award at the 2021 Young Achievement Awards.

She has been an excellent role model for subsequent grades - mentoring younger students to create change for others in the community.

Angelique is currently living the best version of herself and in her incredible humble manner, is encouraging others to do the same.



### Sienna Haxton

#### Mountain Creek State High School

Sienna is a fantastic contributor to the wider school community – where she leads and inspires all those around her.

An all-rounder sportswoman, Sienna has been the school volleyball coach for the past four years running weekly training sessions and mentoring younger students.

She has been a district volleyball representative, including participating at national titles, and a medal winner in athletics, swimming, district cross country, indoor and outdoor beach volleyball.

Away from school, she is coach, social media manager, referee and event manager for her local volleyball club.

Feeling exhausted yet?

As school captain, Sienna leads a raft of fundraising events during the year and participated in the Buderim Foundation Youth in Philanthropy Project 2020 where she collaborated with student leaders from regional schools to develop philanthropic projects at her school.

Sienna excels academically and participated in the Harvard Global Education Movement Innovation and Leadership Europe Workshop 2021, which highlights her active engagement in learning leadership skills and investment in being a global citizen.



# 2021 Commemorative Plaque Winners

## Student Profiles



**Millie Kent**  
**Brigidine College**

Millie has shown consistent commitment and passion to many social service activities.

She is passionate about celebrating multiculturalism and empowerment of women and regularly visits Milpera State High School to engage the young women socially and to develop their communication skills.

Millie was awarded the College's Community Spirit Award 2020 for services and devotion to the community and also recognised as the recipient of the Young Community Leader award.

Millie is involved in many community programs and is a Red Cross Volunteer and volunteers for the Homeless Connect event which provides clothing, food and supplies to support vulnerable members of our community.

As the 2021 College Sports Ambassador, Millie motivates a culture of greater sports participation amongst her peers.

Therefore, it is with total confidence that her school concluded its nomination on her behalf with the words: *"Millie is an excellent role model for others. Her enthusiasm for service is admirable and contagious amongst her peers."*



**Corey McCormick**  
**North Lakes State College**

Corey is College Captain and has a passion of digital technologies that has seen him accepted in the QUT STEM Internship program and participate in the Artificial Intelligence and Road Safety program.

He was also a finalist and individual winner in past Premier's Coding Challenges.

As Tech Crew Coordinator at the College, Corey's skills came to the fore during the learning at home period.

He assisted with setting up virtual assemblies for students to access from home, ensuring all students would be able to stay connected with school from home.

On a broader community level, Corey coordinated the livestreaming of services at his local church for parishioners – an incredible benefit to their spiritual and general wellbeing.

Corey is also an admirable representative at ANZAC services and major school events.

His school states in their nomination of Corey – *"Corey is always the first to volunteer....and encourages all to have a voice."*

# 2021 Commemorative Plaque Winners

## Student Profiles



**Crystal-Rose Paul**  
**Dysart State High School**

Crystal-Rose has immersed herself in not only her school community but also in her rural community where her Principal has said *"she will be sorely missed when she leaves to study at university."*

With impressive academic achievements including fast tracking her Year 12 subjects, Crystal-Rose has achieved Excellence Subject Awards each year since Year 7.

An advocate for encouraging girls into STEM programs and the mining sector, she is one of a select few to be chosen for a mentoring program within Queensland Mining.

A quiet achiever, determined, kind and humble who started her community service pathway from eight years of age after joining the Girl Guides, Crystal-Rose has been involved in the Dysart ANZAC memoriam services for the past eight years from singing the National Anthem to volunteering at the Gun Fire Breakfast.

We congratulate Crystal-Rose for her dedication to the betterment of others and delighted she is the recipient of the Secondary Schools Citizenship Award.



**Kelly-Ann Sparks**  
**Cannon Hill Anglican College**

At nine years of age, Kelly-Ann volunteered at a South African orphanage assisting workers to care for the children, resulting in her lifelong passion to give back to society through servant leadership.

As an engaging member of her school community fundraising activities, Kelly-Ann has worked with the local Zonta club to produce breast cushions for local breast cancer sufferers; is a buddy in the Smith Family literacy program; bakes for raising funds for charities; and is a committed Young Variety Ambassador for the Variety Club.

World Vision gave Kelly a wonderful opportunity to run their isolation challenges initiatives during COVID lockdown - videos were posted to World Vision's social media accounts to promote connection across the world.

Kelly-Ann has received the Principal's Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement; and her commitment to sport has resulted in being named Most Valuable Player and Sports person in both tennis and hockey.

Consequently, Kelly has provided an amazing example of social service, academic excellence and sportsmanship.

# 2021 Commemorative Plaque Winners

## Student Profiles



### Matthew Stoward

#### Cannon Hill Anglican College

*"Matthew is caring and compassionate, and his relationships with staff and students alike sets him apart from other students and makes him an outstanding representative for the College."*

- words from the Principal of the Cannon Hill Anglican College where Matthew has attended for the past six years.

Matthew's leadership across a wide range of activities led him to his current position as College Captain.

He has been awarded the Australian Defence Force Long Tan Leadership Award recognising his involvement within the College and the community; participated in the 2019 Big Ideas Challenge where he gained top prize for innovative recycling and littering processes.

He volunteers to tutor younger students in English language fluency; has coached an Opti-Minds team; manages annual charity fundraising; and builds connections right across the school community.

It was only natural that Cannon Hill Anglican College would nominate this valued student who has made a significant contribution to his school community.



### Lilliana Swainson

#### Somerset College

Social connection is the concept of feeling that you belong to a group and generally feel close to other people.

Lilliana does this in spades!

Passionate about literacy and equity, Lilliana published her own book in English and French with the focus to generate discussion in young children around acceptance and integration of all people; created posters of hope to share with students in Italy during COVID; and is now working with the Yugambeh Museum to translate her book into the Indigenous language of the Gold Coast area.

As well, she reaches out to local aged care residents using technology during lockdowns. Lilliana received the 2020 Study Gold Coast Award for Championing Diversity.

A keen netballer and basketballer, Lilliana received the 2020 Volunteer of the Year for her dedication to her local netball club.

No wonder Lilliana's school describe her as engaging, altruistic and an enthusiastic young woman who consistently demonstrates empathy and concern for others.



# 2021 Commemorative Plaque Winners

## Student Profiles



### Jack Watson

#### Burnside State High School

Jack is making positive, life-changing impacts for the youth in his wider community.

In fact, he will even get shot with jelly if it means demonstrating the effects of bullying and bring this important issue into sharp focus for his peers.

Jack has set up a legacy at his school, where he designed a project to bring a cohesive partnership between the new cohort of Year 7 students with the Year 12s.

Such a positive impact, it will now form an annual event.

But Jack is determined to give a voice to the wider community.

This remarkable young man has founded a number of youth advisory networks across the Sunshine Coast and works tirelessly with local, state and federal politicians to bring about change for young people.

This work includes providing networking opportunities to connect young entrepreneurs with business leaders; facilitating support for youth to develop job skills; engaging with key government stakeholders to help close the Sunshine Coasts youth unemployment gap and bring about everlasting change.

His school writes “*Jack is a charismatic person who goes out of his way to help his peers...a model leader in this community.*”



### Emmett Withers

#### Whitsunday Anglican School

Just imagine for a moment what two tonnes of food looks like!

Since he was just *five years of age*, Emmett has been collecting *at least* two tonnes of essential supplies for abandoned animals in his area *every year*!

His charity, Emmett 4 Animals, supports animal foster carers and shelters from Clermont to Bowen and across Mackay until these precious animals find their forever homes.

In recognition of his tireless work for animals, Emmett was named the 2021 Young Citizen of the Year at Mackay Regional Council’s Australia Day awards.

Emmett has served his school and local community with his musical abilities playing the trumpet at School ANZAC and Remembrance Services. In their nomination, Whitsunday Anglican School describes Emmett, who is the School Service Captain, as self reflective; resilient, good humoured; and whilst often his voice is not at the front of the room he has been the hands and mind behind the voice.

We congratulate Emmett on receiving one of the twelve Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards for 2021.

*The Association thanks Michelle Mills, a working colleague of Chris Lassig, Education Queensland, one of the members of the judging panel, for kindly producing these student profiles.*

## PHOTO GALLERY – EXTRA



The Order of Australia Association Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards were inaugurated in 1999 by the Queensland Branch of the Association. The Awards are designed to foster pride in Australian citizenship and are presented to those secondary school students in Queensland who have demonstrated outstanding service to their schools and to their communities.



*The nine students selected to receive their Certificates of Community Service at the Presentation from Mr Tim Fairfax AC, the Awards Sponsor – **from L to R** – Isuka Muthumuni (St John's Anglican College); Caitlyn George (Kenmore State High School); Hayley Dean (St Paul's School); Nandini Dasi (Corinda State High School); Violet Baleinagasau (Woodcrest State College); Mr Tim Fairfax AC (Awards Sponsor); Jessica Allen (St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School); Serena Huang (Stretton State College); Jade Bailey (Somerset College); and Miku Adachi (Somerset College).*

### Odds and Ends – Clockwise from Top centre

1. Musical interlude from the CHAC String Quintet from Cannon Hill Anglican College – conducted by Dr Malcolm Cole.
2. Portion of the audience in the Premiers' Hall – masks due to Covid 19 protocols the order of the day.
3. His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC CVO, Governor of Queensland addresses the gathering.
4. Mr Geoff Cowles OAM, the Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards Coordinator (left) with Eleanor Barker, one of the awardees from Kirwan State High School
5. Mr Gary O'Brien, the Principal of Cannon Hill Anglican College Delivering the Response on behalf of all schools.



*This highlights package has been produced by  
Geoff Cowles OAM  
Awards and Metro Events  
Coordinator – September 2021*