



## THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND BRANCH

THE 23<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS CITIZENSHIP AWARDS  
PRESENTATION

# 2022



Parliament House, Brisbane  
The Premiers' Hall

### Friday, 16 September 2022

Commemorative plaques presented by

**The Honourable Chief Justice Helen Bowskill**

Certificates of Community Service presented by Chris Lassig, Member of the Judging Panel

**Compere** -Mr Royce Voss OAM: **Music** – The Amadeus Strings, Corinda State High School

Awards proudly sponsored by Tim Fairfax AC

Geoff Cowles OAM, Awards Coordinator

## *Commemorative Plaque and Certificate of Merit Recipients 2022*

<i>Micaela Anstey</i>	<i>Corinda State High School</i>
<i>Tia Fitzpatrick</i>	<i>Brisbane Girls Grammar School</i>
<i>Darcy Gray</i>	<i>Moreton Bay Boys' College</i>
<i>Sophie Greenhalgh</i>	<i>Mountain Creek State High School</i>
<i>Katura Halleday</i>	<i>All Saints Anglican School</i>
<i>Mercedes Kirwin</i>	<i>The Cathedral College, Rockhampton</i>
<i>Mahsa Nabizada</i>	<i>Fairholme College</i>
<i>Bonita Norman</i>	<i>Cavendish Road State High School</i>
<i>Ella Raymond</i>	<i>Lourdes Hill College</i>
<i>Eva Skinner</i>	<i>Cavendish Road State High School</i>
<i>Stefanie Stan</i>	<i>Queensland Academies Creative Industries</i>
<i>Kerralyn Tucker</i>	<i>Maroochydore State High School</i>
<i>Bella Van Krieken</i>	<i>Kirwan State High School</i>



**Her Honour with the 2022 award students** – Back row from L-R – Eva Skinner (Cavendish Road State High School); Darcy Gray (Moreton Bay Boys' College) Micaela Anstey (Corinda State High School); The Honourable Chief Justice Helen Bowskill; Stefanie Stan (Queensland Academies Creative Industries) Bella Van Krieken (Kirwan State High School); Kerralyn Tucker (Maroochydore State High School); and Tia Fitzpatrick (Brisbane Girls Grammar School). Front row – from L-R Mahsa Nabizada (Fairholme College); Ella Raymond (Lourdes Hill College); Bonita Norman (Cavendish Road State High School); Katura Halleday (All Saints' Anglican School); and Sophie Greenhalgh (Mountain Creek State High School). Absent from Presentation: Mercedes Kirwin (The Cathedral College, Rockhampton) – see bottom right hand inset.

# 2022 Commemorative Plaque Winners Student Profiles 1 and 2



## Micaela Anstey

### Corinda State High School

As an engaging member of her school community fundraising activities, Micaela introduced Pink Day to her school this year to support Project Pink, a breast cancer fundraising initiative established by the PA Research Foundation where the school – and food – turned pink for the day!

Outside of school, Micaela is a Youth Group Leader at her church, coordinating activities for the younger members every Friday evening; an active participant in the Girls Brigade; and currently undergoing the Queen's Award nomination process - the award is the highest and most prestigious Girl's Brigade award in Australia.

Micaela is the current co-Captain of the Year 12 Girls Futsal team and volunteers her time coaching the school's Junior Girls Futsal team each week, assisting the coach and providing encouragement to all team members.

In their nomination of Micaela, Corinda State High School's Principal stated *"Her social intelligence and exceptional ability to work in leading a team under pressure makes her an asset to any community or group"*.



## Tia Fitzpatrick

### Brisbane Girls Grammar School

Tia has contributed significantly to her school and the wider community over many years and has embraced the opportunity to participate in the schools sporting, instrumental music, cultural and service programs.

Tia has helped her local community by volunteering as a Study Buddy to Year 7 and 8 students, as well as supporting students at Brisbane Central State School as a reading mentor to prep students.

Her healthcare focus and passion for service was solidified through her experience in 2018 when she visited Cambodia and volunteered for the Australian Humanitarian Health aid charity.

She volunteered alongside dentists and doctors to provide essential healthcare to those in need and distributed water filters and food to rural villages.

Tia has participated in a wide range of co-curricular programs, representing the school in tennis softball, cross country, singing in various choirs, playing the viola, debating and performing in drama productions.

Consequently, Tia has provided an amazing example of social service and engagement with the community for her fellow students at Brisbane Girls Grammar School.

# 2022 Commemorative Plaque Winners Student Profiles 3 and 4



**Darcy Gray**  
**Moreton Bay Boys' College**

*“Nothing is too much trouble for Darcy, he listens and considers differing viewpoints and seeks to establish a common ground of understanding”* writes his Principal of Darcy in his nomination statement.

Darcy has been awarded the Australian Defence Force Long Tan Leadership Award for his demonstrated leadership at a school level where he fostered co-operation within team and made positive contributions to the team’s performance.

He has also received the Eagle Award for Christian character and service in recognition of his demonstrated active commitment to the Christian faith and participating in service opportunities to improve the lives of others.

Darcy was an instigating member of the college Reconciliation Action Plan and has assisted in planning reconciliation ceremonies, raising the profile and providing a voice for Indigenous students within the school community.

He is an excellent role model for his peers and younger students in his honest, positive demeanour, and his disciplined work ethic.

We congratulate Darcy on receiving his award today.



**Sophie Greenhalgh**  
**Mountain Creek State High School**

Sophie’s involvement in social services at Mountain Creek State High School is wide-ranging and stands as evidence of Sophie’s commitment to her community.

Sophie’s keen interest in the human health fields has led to the organisation of implementation of pancake breakfasts at the school in partnership with the school chaplains to prioritise student wellbeing.

Being a weekly volunteer as part of the Lifestyle Crew, since age 12, at her local aged care facility, led to Sophie completing certificate courses to become an Assistant in Nursing which enables her to care for the aged care residents.

Sophie is a keen clarinet student and has represented the school at Fanfare competitions.

As an integral member of the school’s STEM leadership team, Sophie’s initiative has been evidenced by delivering engaging STEM experiences to encourage younger students to pursue STEM subjects.

Her school states in their nomination of Sophie – *“Sophie’s overwhelming empathy and compassion for her fellow student underpins her approach to all aspects of both her student life and community engagements”*.

# 2022 Commemorative Plaque Winners Student Profiles 5 and 6



## Katura Halleday

### All Saints Anglican School

When we remember Diana, Princess of Wales, we acknowledge her devotion to serving others, especially those without a voice and her belief that young people have the power to change the world. Established in her memory, The Diana Award is the most prestigious international accolade a young person aged 9-25 years can receive for their social action or humanitarian work.

Meet Katura, the only Australian recipient of the 2021 Princess Diana Award for her work on equality.

Katura is passionate about art and the education of young women in developing countries.

A rising talent on the world stage, she excels in public speaking; leadership; advocacy; community service; and is a gifted artist who was a finalist in the Young Archibald Art Awards in 2020 and is the Junior Director of the Darcy Doyle Art Awards showcasing the work of young artists.

She was a keynote speaker at the International Volunteers Forum held in Russia; addressed Ambassadors at the United Nations in New York as well as events throughout Asia.

Closer to home, Katura organises donations to support the indigenous community at Cherbourg.

Her school describes her as a “confident and caring young person, but this is tempered with humility and unflinching politeness.:

It was only natural All Saints Anglican School would nominate this valued student who has made a very significant contribution to her community.



## Mahsa Nabizada

### Fairholme College

Within her local community, Mahsa has served two terms as a member of Youth Parliament where she has written a policy and written two bills which are youth Acts, and served as youth opposition leader and youth member.

Mahsa has been a peace and youth advocate for the past 5 years with numerous projects including

- travelling to Singapore as an Australian delegate and advocated for young people in the region;
- attended the *International Interfaith Peace Conference* this year in Malaysia where she spoke at the conference about the opportunities to collaborate with Australia to make connections and build on the two nation’s relationships; and
- worked with the Lighthouse team and the ABC to produce their first episode of *Awake! Awake* is now a podcast that provides a platform for young voices.

Her school states in their nomination of Mahsa – “*She has advocated for Toowoomba and Queensland in politics and continues to make strong connections with other nations across the world.*”

## 2022 Commemorative Plaque Winners Student Profiles 7 and 8



### **Bonita Norman**

#### **Cavendish Road State High School**

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

As her school's Community Captain, Bonita has been passionate about coordinating a youth-led mission to change the car driving culture in her community and organised the "You Choose Youth Road Safety" campaign within her Year 12 cohort.

After school, you may find Bonita volunteering to make school lunches for disadvantaged students in support of the "Eat Up" charity assisting schools across Australia supporting students who may miss out on lunch due to financial hardship, violence or homelessness; or you may find Bonita working at the office of her local state MP.

She actively campaigned for the development of a school open girls' AFL team in 2020 and has been a core part of the team's leadership group and experienced considerable success.

Bonita's enthusiastic motivation for girls to get involved in AFL is also reflected through her published poems and short stories in past editions of "The Women's Footy Almanac".

We congratulate Bonita on receiving one of the thirteen Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards for 2022.



### **Ella Raymond**

#### **Lourdes Hill College**

Ella has participated in a number of justice forums including Indigenous Rights; Domestic Violence; and Human Trafficking forums with local schools.

For the past four years, Ella has been involved in a group, raising awareness of mental health including coordinating her fellow students to write letters to the local aged care residents during COVID-19 lockdowns; inspiring students to compile inspirational quotes, attached to chocolates, to give to Year 12 students on their first day of external exams; and spreading positiveness throughout the school community!

A strong campaigner for anti-bullying, Ella has introduced to her school the inaugural "Do It for Dolly Day"; and led awareness raising and fundraising activities.

Outside of school Ella is involved in the St Vincent De Paul Youth program and has volunteered as a leader at a four day camp for disadvantaged children.

Ella's character and dedication to servant leadership is beyond reproach and her extensive contribution to her school and her community has been ongoing and unswerving during her six years at Lourdes Hill College.

# 2022 Commemorative Plaque Winners Student Profiles 9 and 10



## Eva Skinner

### Cavendish Road State High School

Eva has been a very active, enthusiastic and integral member of her school community.

She consistently demonstrates the qualities of an admirable leader and is always willing to lead.

Eva enthusiastically welcomes new students into the school and last year, she developed and implemented a school wide buddy program which connected disengaged junior students with senior students during lunch breaks.

The program involved over 100 students and she created short lessons with the assistance of the Student Dean and Guidance Officers to provide opportunities to positively engage within the school community.

And her gracious welcome extends to her role as International Student Ambassador to international and exchange students upon their arrival at the school.

Eva is both a University of Queensland Young Changemaker and a member of the QUT Young Scholars program where she has been involved with research projects.

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



## Stefanie Stan

### Queensland Academies Creative Industries

Stefanie is a fantastic contributor to the wider school community

- through volunteer involvement with organisations such as Red Cross to raise funds for victims of the war in Ukraine;
- by being invited by the International Baccalaureate to feature in this year's International Women's Day campaign in The Hague;
- by raising awareness to help end violence against children; and
- being involved in supporting local business and buying locally and sustainably.

In addition, Stefanie works tirelessly to create platforms to provide support to the younger cohorts of her school by contributing to making a video to provide advice to the Year 10 cohort; sharing her study tips and time management skills on the school online forum; and role modelling as the epitome of being prepared for every situation possible in a rigorous academic environment.

Queensland Academies state in their nomination of Stefanie – *“Through her engagement in activities in the school and in the wider community, she has demonstrated commitment to both ethics and global concerns.”*

## 2022 Commemorative Plaque Winners Student Profiles 11 and 12



### Kerralyn Tucker

#### Maroochydore State High School

A talented saxophonist and accomplished actress, Kerralyn’s school describes her as humorous, persistent and a generous leader who prefers to contribute outside of the spotlight – but be warned - Kerralyn flourished in the role of a plant that devours humans in the recent school musical ‘Little Shop of Horrors’!

Outside of school, Kerralyn has amassed over 400 volunteering hours to help run a not-for-profit café which provides a space for local charities to raise much needed funds for their programs.

A can-do person, Kerralyn offers her ongoing support to organise students to sew teddy bears and make fairy houses to be sold at local markets to aid the school Chaplaincy program.

Therefore, it is with total confidence that her school concluded its nomination with the words *“Kerralyn is the type of person who rolls up her sleeves and contributes without the slightest regard for recognition or reward.”*

We congratulate Kerralyn on receiving one of the thirteen Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards for 2022.



### Bella Van Krieken

#### Kirwan State High School

Bella is making positive, life-changing impacts for the youth in her wider community.

In fact, when not representing her school as School Captain and tutoring younger students at lunch time and after school, you will find her volunteering at the Townsville Hospital’s Ronald McDonald House.

This goes hand in hand with her commitment to service as she joins her school in fundraising for epilepsy; making quilts for the children’s hospital; packing birthing kits for Zonta; and a foundation member of Kirwan State High School’s Global Citizen Club.

As a STEM Girl Power Ambassador and having represented North Queensland at the University of Queensland’s STEM Girl Power Camp, Bella has been selected to be a Student Staff Volunteer for 2023’s National Youth Science Forum in Canberra.

Her school writes *“Her capacity to balance her music, academic, and service commitments is remarkable, and continues to inspire all members of our school community.”*



## 2022 Commemorative Plaque Winners Student Profile 13

### Mercedes Kirwin - The Cathedral College, Rockhampton

*Mercedes Kirwin, from the Cathedral College, Rockhampton (pictured below, photo taken at her College) was unable to attend the Presentation, so Mr Monil Beotra, one of her teachers, received the award at the Presentation on Mercedes's behalf (photo below the one of Mercedes).*



Everything runs smoothly when Mercedes is around – during the AFL season you can find her at her local AFL club volunteering at the canteen; and she has been involved with the local Rugby League carnival; and assisted in coaching, as well as playing, for a number of netball and touch football teams for both school and local clubs.

When not playing sports, you will find Mercedes at a local Rockhampton organisation that works with disadvantaged children with disabilities.

Mercedes is an active member of the college Indigenous community and has led initiatives in conjunction with the Indigenous Liaison Officers and is always the first to volunteer for events both for the school and the local community.

She is currently working with Darumbal Youth to organise work experience as a social worker around legal opportunities to represent Indigenous youth.

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



*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*



**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.**

## PHOTO GALLERY – EXTRA



The twelve local students selected to receive their Certificates of Community Service at the Presentation from Mr Chris Lassig, Education Queensland, Member of the Judging Panel – **Back Row** - from L to R – Meg Porter (Sandgate District State High School); Tyrah Read (Springfield Central State High School); Mr Chris Lassig; Jasmine Hochen (Everton Park State High School); Bella Susanto (Kenmore State High School); Grace Wilson (Australian Christian College – Moreton); and David Westphal (Mueller College). **Front Row** – from L to R - Taylor Randall (Nerang State High School); Samara Cosijn (Holland Park State High School); Grace Campbell (St Aiden’s Anglican Girls’ School); Elizabeth Ducke (Redeemer Lutheran College); Madeline Milton Sheahan (Earnshaw State College); and Lily Suttle (Palm Beach Currumbin State High School).



### The three photos above

**Top photo** - The Amadeus Strings, Corinda State High School receive their accolades from the audience present.

**Middle photo** - The Cavendish Road (Cav Road) State High Connection – Geoff Cowles OAM, the Awards Coordinator and former Cav Road student ( 2<sup>nd</sup> from left) with six Cav Road teachers who attended the Presentation and the two Cav Road awardees kneeling at front – Eva Skinner (left) and Bonita Norman (right)

**Bottom photo** – Geoff Cowles OAM (far left) meets the grandparents from Romania (middle two) of Stefanie Stan (far right), from Queensland Academies Creative Industries.

### The three oval photos

Clockwise from top left

1. Two Secondary Schools Citizenship Award winners from Lourdes Hill College from different eras – left - Stephanie Stone ( teacher 2022 and a winner in 2011) and Ella Raymond (student winner in 2022)
2. Ms Heather Murry. Principal, Kirwan State High School gives the response on behalf of all schools
3. Mrs Dina Browne AO, member of the judging panel, reading out the student citations.



*This highlights package has been produced by and photos provided by Geoff Cowles OAM Awards and Metro Events Coordinator –September 2022*