



THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND BRANCH

THE 24th ANNUAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS CITIZENSHIP
AWARDS PRESENTATION

2023



Parliament House, Brisbane

The Premiers' Hall

Friday, 15 September 2023

Commemorative plaques presented by

The Honourable Paul de Jersey AC CVO KC

(former (26th) Governor of Queensland

Certificates of Community Service presented by Mrs Gina Fairfax AC, wife of Mr Tim Fairfax AC, the awards sponsor

Compere -Mr Royce Voss OAM: **Music** – Cleveland District State High School Chamber Strings

Awards proudly sponsored by Tim Fairfax AC

Geoff Cowles OAM, Awards Coordinator

Commemorative Plaque and Certificate of Merit Recipients 2023

<i>Nicholas Brammer</i>	<i>St Stephen's Catholic College</i>
<i>Penelope Earl</i>	<i>Maroochydore State High School</i>
<i>Vanessa Feng</i>	<i>Cleveland District State High School</i>
<i>Chloe Forbes-Hood</i>	<i>Glasshouse Christian College</i>
<i>Caleb Haxton</i>	<i>Mountain Creek State High School</i>
<i>Mackenzie Head</i>	<i>Heights College</i>
<i>Elle Hetherington</i>	<i>Toolooa State High School</i>
<i>Danzel Lewis</i>	<i>Bowen State High School</i>
<i>Ellana Magarry</i>	<i>Yeronga State High School</i>
<i>Lakeeta McGrath</i>	<i>Coomabah State High School</i>
<i>Lily Mifsud</i>	<i>Whitsunday Anglican School</i>
<i>Zachary Stevenson</i>	<i>All Saints Anglican School</i>



Simply the Best!! – Our twelve Awardees for 2023 with the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC CVO KC-

Back row from L-R – Chloe Forbes-Hood (*Glasshouse Christian College*); Nicholas Brammer (*St Stephen's Catholic College*); Caleb Haxton (*Mountain Creek State High School*); Zachary Stevenson (*All Saints Anglican School*); Danzel Lewis (*Bowen State High School*); Elana Magarry (*Yeronga State High School*); Lily Mifsud (*Whitsunday Anglican School*); and Lakeeta McGrath (*Coomabah State High School*).

Front Row from L-R – Vanessa Feng (*Cleveland District State High School*); Mackenzie Head (*Heights College*); The Honourable Paul de Jersey AC CVO KC, former (26th) Governor of Queensland; Elle Hetherington (*Toolooa State High School*); and Penelope Earl (*Maroochydore State High School*).

2023 Commemorative Plaque Winners Student Profiles 1 and 2



Nicholas Brammer

St Stephen's Catholic College

A definition of a person who “shines” is one who has a certain confidence that inspires others and who is happy with life and what they are achieving - and it’s contagious.”

This is exactly the term staff at St Stephen’s Catholic College Mareeba use to describe Nicholas Brammer.

Nicholas’ participation in social service activities at his school include

- a willingness to always lend a hand to organise and prepare student council activities;
- engaging the student voice;
- being a member of the Australian Air Force Cadets where he teaches and instructs Drill and Ceremonial activities;
- being a published poet;
- swimming 16km in 20 days to raise money for the Starlight Children’s Foundation;
- and captaining the 2023 wheelbarrow race team which raised money running 140km with a wheelbarrow.

Therefore it is with total confidence that his school concluded its nomination by stating *“Nicholas is a fine young man that upholds the values we teach at the College and a student that has high expectations, as evidenced by the way he carries himself.”*



Penelope Earl

Maroochydore State High School

Penelope commenced her schooling at Maroochydore State High School at the start of 2022.

Her community contributions over that short time are testament why she is receiving a Secondary Schools Citizenship Award.

A talented visual artist who supports her fellow students to develop their skills, Penelope has led a group of students working on the Year 12 Formal Committee where she has liaised with venue and event stylists to ensure a great celebration will take place.

Outside of school, Penelope is involved with Surf Life Saving Queensland through the Mudjimba Surf Life Saving Club where she is the Vice Youth Development Officer and Nippers Age Manager.

Penelope has gained accreditations in Surf Rescue, Advanced First Aid and rescue certifications.

She is completing a Certificate III in Health Services Assistance with her goal to work in aged care services.

Described as a persistent and dedicated individual who has a natural ability to connect with and support people, we wish her the very best for a bright future.

2023 Commemorative Plaque Winners Student Profiles 3 and 4



Vanessa Feng

Cleveland District State High School

Vanessa is a rising talent with excellent public speaking skills.

She is a key organiser of fundraising initiatives; maintains outstanding academic engagement; and always displays a willingness to share her vast skills and knowledge to promote IT.

And speaking of being a rising talent, Vanessa was recognised this year as one of The Courier Mail Redlands City Most Influential Rising Stars for her work in the community including her outstanding contribution to STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields.

She was awarded the 2021 Rotary Young Leadership Scholarship in recognition of her high degree of leadership ability and leadership in community activities with excellent communication skills.

Vanessa is an outstanding student in all respects while remaining humble in her interactions with others and is generous with her time to contribute to school, community and others.

We congratulate Vanessa on receiving one of the twelve Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards for 2023.



Chloe Forbes-Hood

Glasshouse Christian College

Chloe is an inspiring young lady who has earned tremendous respect from her community.

In her unassuming and humble manner, she depicts the true spirit of an engaged citizen who contributes to society.

With a passion for reading, Chloe is a dedicated volunteer in the school library, where she has inspired students to enjoy the wonders of reading.

In the past two years, Chloe has undertaken three Headstart courses in Psychology where she earned a High Distinction, Criminology and Justice and the Australian Legal System.

These have been in Chloe's spare time, in conjunction with regular studies.

Her school describes Chloe as *"a person of integrity with a wonderful sense of humour and one who is the greatest example of resilience and determination witnessed in recent years"*.

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

2023 Commemorative Plaque Winners Student Profiles 5 and 6



Caleb Haxton

Mountain Creek State High School

Caleb's nomination from his school states "Caleb is first and foremost an outstanding leader and does this chiefly by the great example that he sets for others to follow."

Caleb is the current School Captain and has received the Dux award every year since Year 7; is the school's robotics club team captain and qualified and competed at international and national level for First Lego League and First Tech Challenge global robotics competitions.

Furthermore, Caleb is a member of the Sunshine Coast Olympic Youth Taskforce which is responsible for planning and organising the Sunshine Coast's involvement in the 2032 Olympics.

He has participated in Harvard University Pre-Law Masterclass; and attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology autonomous Robot Mentoring Program.

Caleb has always achieved at a very high standard in his academic pursuits.

Caleb follows closely in the footsteps of his sister Sienna, who received a Secondary Schools Citizenship Award from the Association in 2021.

We congratulate Caleb on his award today.



Mackenzie Head

Heights College

Heights College wrote in their nomination about Mackenzie "She is a person of substance and character."

Service is certainly what Mackenzie does, not for recognition or for her future aspirations, but simply because she loves to serve."

It's easy to fully understand why, when you consider this young person puts others first, and is a keen contributor wherever she sees a need.

Mackenzie has been the Dux or runner-up Dux of her year level each year of her high school life; and involved in spearheading and coordinating student clubs and communities.

In addition to her contributions to her school community, Mackenzie is very active in the wider community playing, refereeing, and coaching basketball for the past three years and working with young people through the Salvation Army Guards and Legions Association.

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

2023 Commemorative Plaque Winners Student Profiles 7 and 8



Elle Hetherington
Toolooa State High School

Elle is a fantastic contributor to the wider school community with volunteer involvement as Student Advocate at Volunteering Queensland, to lead programs for National Student Volunteer Week.

Elle was recognised earlier this year by the Gladstone City Council for her contribution to volunteering.

Her exceptional community engagement makes her a valuable asset to both her school and the wider community.

Elle is an outstanding contributor to her school's co-curricular life as she has enthusiastically participated in various activities and programs that showcase her diverse talents and interests.

These include her passion for music; actively competing in Eisteddfods and Arts showcases; and she has represented the school within the 2022 and 2023 Gladstone District Senior Maths Teams Tournament.

Elle's diverse engagement in music, sports, leadership, and academics makes her a standout student at Toolooa State High School.

She is an inspiration to her peers and serves as a shining example of compassion, leadership and dedication.



Danzel Lewis
Bowen State High School

"You can't be what you can't see" (Marian Wright Edelman) is exactly how Danzel Lewis models leadership and personal qualities to his peers, teachers, elders and community members.

Danzel was the regional finalist in the 2023 Queensland Training Awards in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year category; and he is undertaking a Certificate III in Business.

His leadership has inspired other First Nations students, particularly male students, to consider leadership positions.

Danzel is inspirational in motivating young indigenous students to value the importance of education.

He instigated a project this year where he has written and presented letters to Year 7 to 11 students who have improved their subject results, effort and behaviour.

This year he addressed the student body with a powerful message about the mental health impacts of bullying and domestic violence that has led to more students feeling confident to stand up against bullying and reporting incidents

We congratulate Danzel on receiving one of the twelve Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards for 2023.

2023 Commemorative Plaque Winners Student Profiles 9 and 10



Ellana Magarry

Yeronga State High School

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

As an active member of Yeronga State High School's community, she motivates and encourages fellow student to improve sustainable practices both in education and the community.

She has instigated and conducted online meetings with Taiwanese students to collaborate around sustainable educational practices and is a passionate volunteer for charities.

In addition, she is an active member of the school's arts, sports and sustainability communities.

Her commitment to service is demonstrated through her earning the 2022 Moorooka Lions Diligence Award in 2022.

Her altruism and compassion knows no bounds and she inspires and ignites goodwill everywhere she goes.

Ellana uses her experience to teach and support younger students at primary school performance nights as well as raising funds for the schools at these events.

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



Lakeeta McGrath

Coomabah State High School

Lakeeta gives up her time willingly to assist with school open days and events, including as a member of both

- the Northern Collegiate team that fundraises for charities across the coast; and
- the Performing Arts excellence group in the Hip Hop and Contemporary teams.

She is proudly involved in Deadly Futures programs.

For the past two years, Lakeeta has been a part of the Gold Coast Junior Council; was a successful applicant to the National Youth Science Forum and took part in an Intensive Psychology program at Griffith University.

Lakeeta has a passion for rugby league and was an NRL Youth Ambassador in 2022 and volunteers at the Gold Coast Titans.

This year, the NRL flew her to New Zealand for the Indigenous All Stars game where she was part of a panel speaking on the NRL helping youths.

A great all-rounder, it is no wonder Lakeeta's school wrote this in their nomination that *"Lakeeta is an academic role model and one of the most dedicated all round students to have passed through Coombabah State High School"*.

2023 Commemorative Plaque Winners Student Profiles 11 and 12



Lily Mifsud

Whitsunday Anglican School

Guided by the quote, *“Do all the good you can, and make as little fuss about it as possible”*, Lily embodies the values of kindness, enthusiasm, and service to others through an enormous volume of community, cultural, academic, leadership, music and sporting endeavours.

Lily has immersed herself in not only her school community as School Captain but also in her rural community of Claremont, where she volunteers at numerous events.

She coaches and umpires for the local netball association and is a positive role model in sportsmanship and community engagement to her peers.

Beyond academics and service, Lily excels in sports, cultural activities, and leadership positions and has represented her school in futsal, soccer and athletics

Lily enthusiastically accepted the opportunity to participate in the Bond University High School Model United Nations Conference (2022-2023); and competed in the Mackay Eisteddfod 2022 playing handbells; and also participated in the 2023 Voices Poetry Slam.

In her own words Lily states the value she lives closest by is *“living to serve other people by being kind, willing and selfless.”*



Zachary Stevenson

All Saints Anglican School

Within his school community, Zac has excelled across the full spectrum of academic, leadership, sport and community service.

He is an inspirational School Captain.

All students look up to Zac and are inspired by his work including

- mentoring Year 9 students weekly in his own time; and
- instigating, researching and delivering to the Year 10 male cohort a presentation about the importance of friendships and relationships, and how young men can develop into men of honour

Zac’s volunteer work in the wider community includes charity walks and events.

At his local AFL club he assists in coaching younger teams and umpires games.

At the Burleigh Heads Surf Lifesaving Club he patrols and runs water safety for the younger members every Sunday from September to April.

Although Zac has a demanding schedule, he is always kind and generous with his time and a positive influence amongst his peers.

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

PHOTO GALLERY – EXTRA



Students who received their Certificates of Community Service with Mrs Gina Fairfax AC (presenter) –

Back Row – from L to R - Billy Wearne (*Redeemer Lutheran College*); Delicia Buisson (*Laidley State High School*); Ethan Campbell (*Palm Beach Currumbin State High School*); Mackenzie Douglas (*St Laurence’s College*); Joao Viana (*Aviation State High School*); Mrs Gina Fairfax AC; Zade Wagstaff (*Pacific Pines State High School*); Darcy Mansul (*Stuartholme School*); and Bradley Litchfield (*Elanora State High School*).

Front Row – from L-R - Ashleigh Benson (*Ipswich State High School*); Sarah Board (*Somerville House*); Rosie Albina (*Cannon Hill Anglican College*); Sienna Hume (*Moreton Bay College*); Indiana Tichon (*Brigidine College*); and Emily Smith (*Kenmore State High School*).

Thank You Michelle Mills

for preparing the student profiles on the previous pages.

(Michelle is a work colleague of Chris Lassig, one of the members of the judging panel).



The Cleveland District State High School Chamber Strings performing their musical interlude (top photo) and their players receiving their certificates of participation (bottom photo).

The four oval photos to the left

Clockwise from top left

1. The Honourable Paul de Jersey AC CVO KC, former (26th) Governor of Queensland, our guest of honour, addresses the gathering.
2. Portion of the 150 guests in attendance in the Premiers’ Hall, Parliament House.
3. Mr Leonard McKeown, Principal, Cleveland District State High School delivers the response speech on behalf of all schools.
4. Mrs Ronda Nix OAM, Chairman, The Order of Australia Association, Queensland Branch, moves a vote of thanks to our guest of honour Mr Paul de Jersey AC CVO KC.



This highlights package has been produced by and photos provided by Geoff Cowles OAM Awards and Metro Events Coordinator –September 2023