



THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND BRANCH

THE 25th SILVER ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL SECONDARY
SCHOOLS CITIZENSHIP AWARDS PRESENTATION

2024



Parliament House, Brisbane
The Premiers' Hall

Friday, 13 September 2024

Commemorative plaques presented by

Honourable Paul de Jersey AC CVO KC
(former (26th) Governor of Queensland)

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

Compere -Mr John McCoy OAM: **Music** – Balmoral State High School Flute Ensemble

Awards proudly sponsored by Tim Fairfax AC

Geoff Cowles OAM, Awards Coordinator

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Commemorative Plaque and Certificate of Merit Recipients 2024

*Emma Boyd
Ellen Brieffies
Benjamin Campbell
Lucy Collins
Bernadette Furner
Jacob Hiles
Deepti Kutty
Bridie Marshall
Eliza Portas
David Schofield
Augustus Tan
Heath Walker*

*Pacific Pines State High School
Hillbrook Anglican School
Toolooa State High School
Stuartholme School
Balmoral State High School
St George State High School
Moreton Bay College
Pimlico State High School
Maleny State High School
Ingham State High School
Cairns State High School
Somerset College*



Simply the Best!! – Our Awardees for 2024 with our Guest of Honour

Back row from L-R – Ellen Brieffies (*Hillbrook Anglican School*); Benjamin Campbell (*Toolooa State High School*); Lucy Collins (*Stuartholme School*); Bernadette Furner (*Balmoral State High School*); Hon Paul de Jersey AC CVO KC (*former (26th) Governor of Queensland*); Deepti Kutty (*Moreton Bay College*); Eliza Portas (*Maleny State High School*); and Heath Walker (*Somerset College*). **Front Row from L-R** – Emma Boyd (*Pacific Pines State High School*); Bridie Marshall (*Pimlico State High School*); David Schofield (*Ingham State High School*); and Augustus Tan (*Cairns State High School*).

Absent Jacob Hiles (*St George State High School*) – see Inset

2024 Commemorative Plaque Winners Student Profiles 1 and 2



Emma Boyd

Pacific Pines State High School

The sky is the limit for Emma!

She has excelled in the school's "STEM Program About Space Exploration" team who worked with Gilmore Space and Griffith University to launch a Low-Earth Orbit satellite into space!

This young lady puts others first; is a voice for youth; and plays an integral role in many environmental science related endeavours.

To this end, Emma has developed an enterprise she presented at Southern Cross University called Eco Agents as part of the Young Change Agents – a program that targets Gold Coast schools to educate children through interactive and hands-on learning about the significance of our environment.

This culminated in the development of an education package to be implemented in school communities.

Emma has acted as Concert Master and has represented her school in many music competitions and is an accomplished violinist.

She has represented her school in cross-country and track events.

Congratulations to Emma on receiving

- the Earthwatch Student Challenge scholarship;
- the Youth Without Borders Spark Engineering Camp scholarship; and

one of the twelve Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards today.



Ellen Brieffies

Hillbrook Anglican School

Ellen was awarded the 2024 Young Women in Public Affairs scholarship - a prestigious award recognising her community service and advocacy through her local Zonta Club.

Ellen's social conscience has led to her volunteering in –

- the Share the Dignity project to make and donate baby blankets to an Ipswich domestic violence centre;
- a student sleep out initiative to raise funds and awareness for women's homelessness; and
- Chapel services for the school to raise awareness about the need to work together to end gender-based violence.

As Sports Council leader (Sports Captain), Ellen has participated in volleyball and basketball championships; and works to make stronger connections between students across year levels.

Ellen volunteers with OzHarvest where she works as a Youth Food Rescue volunteer, actively collecting food from supermarkets, and delivering to local charities.

She has also spent time in Cambodia with her family volunteering in a school for disadvantaged families and running a conversational English program with young people.

Ellen's school Principal states "*I have absolutely no hesitation in recommending Ellen...she embodies the qualities and characteristics that this Award.*"

2024 Commemorative Plaque Winners Student Profiles 3 and 4



Benjamin Campbell
Toolooa State High School

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

He has played a pivotal role through the Interact Club; and demonstrated strong leadership by organising successful fundraisers such as the school's Valentine's Day event; volunteering in local park runs; and charity events.

Benjamin is involved in many community programs and received the Best Public Speaker Award at the Lions Youth of the Year competition.

In addition, his dedication to science and education led him to participate in the National Youth Science Forum where he excelled; and he has served as a gym trainer for individuals with disabilities; and volunteers as a math tutor.

As a School Captain, Benjamin exemplifies dedication and leadership at the school and he has immersed himself in the medical field through programs such as the University of Queensland's Taste of Medicine and the Doctor for a Day initiative, gaining valuable insights and experience.

We congratulate Benjamin for his dedication to the betterment of others and delighted he is the recipient of the Secondary Schools Citizenship Award.



Lucy Collins
Stuartholme School

Above and beyond...Lucy Collins exemplifies this term brilliantly.

Not content to be the Music Captain and a member of several music ensembles; and also recognised for demonstrating generosity through service of the school and wider community, this compassionate and empathetic Year 12 student has also travelled to Far North Queensland on the Red Earth Immersion program to strengthen her understanding and connections to First Nations People.

To add to her busyness, Lucy enthusiastically takes on the role of 13 Battalion Cadet Under Officer in charge of 6 units around Brisbane; and ran a corporal's course at the beginning of the year, and most recently, planned and facilitated a bush exercise.

Lucy maintains a high degree of integrity in all she does in the service of others and in doing so earns the respect of all she meets.

In all senses, Lucy has community spirit in spades and it was only natural Stuartholme School would nominate this valued student who has made a very significant contribution to her school and community.

2024 Commemorative Plaque Winners Student Profiles 5 and 6



Bernadette Furner
Balmoral State High School

Connecting with the community is important for Bernadette.

She connects with the senior leadership team and the school's chaplain where she contributes to both the planning and running of the school social charity events.

She engages with the local community as she completes the Duke of Edinburgh Award, where she volunteers as a representative on the Bulimba Electoral Youth Advisory Panel, with participation in the research and development to the groups' vaping submission to Parliament, and activities with other Brisbane Youth Advisory Panels.

Alongside Bernadette's high academic performance, her involvement in the school's co-curricular has been extensive including her musical studies within the string ensemble, choir, and musical performances including "Wicked".

Bernadette exemplifies servanthood and influence, continuing to explore innovative, personal and proactive ways to address the needs of those around her and inspiring them to greater heights.

It is with total confidence that her school concluded its nomination with the words: *"Bernadette embodies grit, tenacity and perseverance ...her unwavering dedication to community service makes her an outstanding candidate for this prestigious award."*



Deepti Kutty
Moreton Bay College

Deepti 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 service to others, Deepti is a dedicated participant to the College Amnesty group and Hearts and Minds Committee, where she represents her peers, advocating for changes that would positively impact the community and spreading awareness about global issues; and always willing to help those in need.

This can be seen in her volunteer work at Sri Selva Vinayakar Temple where she assists with cooking and serving community meals; and raises funds for rural areas in India and South-East Asia through the Chinmaya Mission.

At school, Deepti has taken on multiple leadership roles; and gives her full attention to sports including cricket, tennis and badminton.

Therefore it is with total confidence that her school concluded its nomination on her behalf with the words: *"Deepti is an authentic and deeply thoughtful student...demonstrates a strong curiosity about the world around her and genuine kindness...and a positive and inspiring role model."*

2024 Commemorative Plaque Winners Student Profiles 7 and 8



Bridie Marshall

Pimlico State High School

Bridie is a fantastic contributor to the wider school community promoting physical fitness and camaraderie among all ages of students at the weekly Together Tuesday events and International Women's Day Breakfast events.

She volunteers her time as technical officer at the Townsville Hockey Association; and is a representative in the North Queensland Hockey team.

Bridie is passionate and engaged with Climate Change Initiatives and represented her school on a global level by attending the annual Climate Change conference held in Dubai, where she represented the voices for youth in the #Decarbonise Program.

Bridie is in the process of becoming a golf community coach, focussing on supporting and encouraging beginner female golfers to help them feel more comfortable when learning a new sport.

Bridie has remained humble and approachable as a leader, and is always aiming to be inclusive and supportive of those around her.

We congratulate Bridie for her commitment to social service, community engagement and leadership and delighted she is the recipient of the Secondary Schools Citizenship Award for 2024.



Eliza Portas

Maleny State High School

As President of the 2024 Student Council, Eliza gives up her time willingly to assist with school fundraising events including Day for Dolly and the Welcome to Maleny Initiative; and raising awareness of bullying and poverty.

Eliza has also been involved on the school Environmental Committee, working on the Clean Up Australia Day; and focusing on endangered frog species within South-East Queensland with the "Find a Frog in February" program.

Outside of the school, Eliza

- is an active member and secretary of the Maleny Blackall Range LEOs Club where she assisted with implementing additional signage and lifesaving equipment at a local waterfall;
- was a District finalist for Youth of the Year;
- is a student teacher at her Dance Academy;
- was a volunteer at a week-long Edmund Rice Camp where she built connections with children and teenagers who have faced hardship and disadvantage; and
- is a volunteer at the Maleny People's Kitchen and helps out at the two day Maleny Show.

We congratulate Eliza on her award today.

2024 Commemorative Plaque Winners Student Profiles 9 and 10



David Schofield
Ingham State High School

David, as School Vice Captain, brings a positivity and can-do attitude to all activities held within the school and wider community.

Sun safety is important to David who, along with student team members, noted the high number of students not wearing hats.

David and the student team wrote proposals and created budgets to engage the school administration and the P&C to design and purchase new school hats for every student in the school.

In Term 2, their idea became a reality when every student received a free school hat.

This demonstrates David's desire for real change, real action and real results.

It is no wonder David was selected to be part of the University of Queensland's Changemakers Program to further ignite community development in a global society; and he was awarded the overall winner at this year's Lion's Youth of the Year speaking competition.

His school states in their nomination *"David is very well liked and respected...he loves to tell 'dad jokes' on assembly and we are very confident we will continue to see the name David Schofield as he continues to be a change-maker and positively impact our world."*



Augustus Tan
Cairns State High School

The only way is up for Augustus!

With an interest in aerospace, and forming the school's Aerospace Club, Augustus and club members are currently designing a model rocket set for launch later this year!

Service to his community is paramount for Augustus.

He is a young man who has been tireless in his work within and outside of the school as a Young Language Ambassador, Senior Prefect, and an incumbent Sergeant in the Australian Air Force Cadets.

His leadership extends to his role as Vice-Chair in a political organisation and Augustus is a founding member and current board member of Student Based Tutoring (SBT), a charity providing access to tutors for disadvantaged students across Australia.

In addition, he regularly teaches aerospace lessons as part of the Cadets, fostering an interest in aviation among young people.

We congratulate Augustus on his award today and in the words of his Principal - *"Augustus is an extraordinary student whose dedication to both his school and the broader community is unparalleled. He believes in the availability of opportunities for everyone and the possibility of creating new ones if they don't exist."*

2024 Commemorative Plaque Winners Student Profiles 11 and 12



Heath Walker Somerset College

Heath, as School Captain, has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership skills with a strong sense of responsibility and a commitment to community spirit.

Heath is a steady all-rounder

- an accomplished trombone player;
- committed member of the Concert and Jazz Bands;
- member of the College's First XI football and cricket teams;
- learning French; and
- passionate about science and mathematics.

Heath's love of mathematics has been contagious - voluntarily tutoring maths to Year 7-9 students in his neighbourhood. What started out as one boy grew into a group of three young indigenous boys who require a culturally responsive and inclusive approach, that takes into account their experiences and learning styles – and all influenced by Heath regularly visiting the indigenous community of Cherbourg where he has worked alongside primary school students at Murgon State School each year.

His school states in their nomination of Heath – *“Heath showcases his exceptional character through leadership, community service, academic excellence, positive influence, respect and empathy. Not only will this award honour his achievements but also inspire other young men to follow in his footsteps.”*



Jacob was unable to attend Parliament House on 13 September 2024 so Geoff Cowles OAM (right) presented Jacob's award at the St George State High School's Awards Presentation on Monday 11 November 2024.

Jacob Hiles St George State High School

Jacob is a fantastic contributor to the wider school community – where he leads and inspires all those around him.

An all-rounder sportsman, Jacob has been involved with –

- the local football club including coaching and assisting with younger teams;
- kicking a ball around with younger students during lunchtimes;
- being a member of the local A grade side; and
- representing the school in rugby league, touch football and athletics events.

Feeling exhausted yet?

As school captain, Jacob has been involved in NAIDOC celebrations; given welcome to country speeches; and represents the school at numerous events including smoking ceremonies.

St George State High School wrote in their nomination about Jacob *“He has a larrikin's attitude that makes everyone smile but is always respectful, polite and courteous; he is a role model and is truly an asset to our school and wider community.”*

We congratulate this remarkable young man for his dedication to the betterment of others and delighted he is a recipient of the Secondary Schools Citizenship Award.

PHOTO GALLERY – EXTRA

Thank You – Tim Fairfax AC



Dr Mick Davis AM ASM, OAAQ Deputy Chairman (right) presents Mr Tim Fairfax AC with a commemorative appreciation plaque recognising his generous sponsorship of the Awards – 2015 – 2024.

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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 Honourable Paul de Jersey AC CVO KC, the former (26th) Governor of Queensland addresses the gathering



Our compere for the Presentation – Mr John McCoy OAM



Students who received their Certificates of Community Service with Mr Tim Fairfax AC (presenter and sponsor)

Back Row – from L to R - Lucas Ng (*Kelvin Grove State College*); Zack McSweeney (*Forest Lake State High School*); Leo Kelly-Correa (*Somerset College*); GianLuca Josey (*St Laurence's College*); Jasmin Dick (*Merrimac State High School*); Tim Fairfax AC (*presenter and awards sponsor*); Ari Bottomer (*Brisbane Boys' College*); Sarah Hiscock (*Lourdes Hill College*); and Emma Suttle (*Palm Beach Currumbin State High School*).

Front Row – from L-R – Adelaide Miller (*Mt St Michael's College*); Rudroipto Roy (*Queensland Academies Creative Industries*); Alysha Gahankari (*Somerset College*); Harriet Gow (*Ferny Grove State High School*); and Jasper Vinen (*Iona College*).



PROGRAMME

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Arrival of Guest of Honour

National Anthem

Opening address

The Honourable Paul de Jersey AC CVO KC
Former (26th) Governor of Queensland

Certificates of Community Service

Presented by Mr Tim Fairfax AC (the Awards Sponsor)

Response on behalf of Queensland Schools

Mr Timothy Baraud, Principal, Balmoral State High School

Musical Interlude

Balmoral State High School Flute Ensemble

Flute Trio in G Major by Johann Stamitz

Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards 2024

Presented by The Honourable Paul de Jersey AC CVO KC
Citations read out by Mrs Dina Browne AO
(member of the Judging Panel)

Vote of Thanks

Dr Mick Davis AM ASM, Deputy Chairman, The Order of Australia Association, Queensland Branch

Special Presentation to Tim Fairfax AC (the awards sponsor)

Closing Comments and Official Photographs

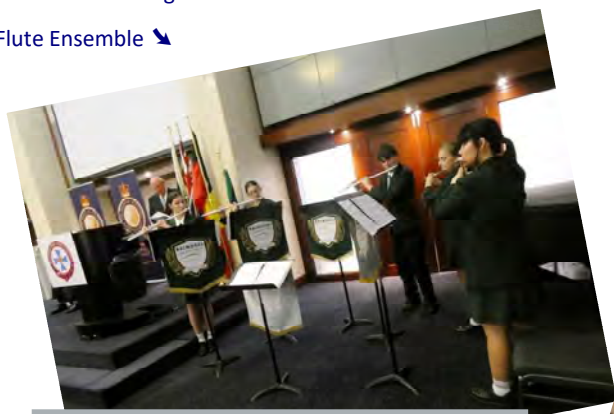
Afternoon Tea in the Speakers' Hall

PHOTO GALLERY – EXTRA 2

Music provided by the
Balmoral State High School

Flute Ensemble 🎷

Citations for Award
students were read out
by Mrs Dina Browne
AO, member of the
judging panel ➡



[Taken at the St George State High School 47th Annual Awards Presentation
– 11 November 2024 at St George, 550 km south –west of Brisbane]

Two winners of the Secondary Schools Citizenship Award from different eras, both representing St George State High School - Mrs Laura North (nee Worboys) [left] who received her award in 2005 and Jacob Hiles [centre] who received his award in 2024. Geoff Cowles OAM, the Awards Coordinator (right) was in attendance to present Jacob with his award.



Mr Tim Baraud, Principal,
Balmoral State High School
delivers the Response speech on
behalf of all Schools

*This highlights package has been
produced by and photos provided
by
Geoff Cowles OAM
Awards and Metro Events
Coordinator –September 2024*

The First 12 winning students in 1999 and the 12 winning students 25 years on in 2024

1999		2024	
Jarrold Bleijie	Caloundra State High School	Emma Boyd	Pacific Pines State High School
Jaclyn Bowen	Rivermount College, Yatala	Ellen Brieffies	Hillbrook Anglican School
Renee Coffey	Cannon Hill Anglican College	Benjamin Campbell	Toolooa State High School
Megan Davis	Fairholme College	Lucy Collins	Stuartholme School
Kylie Fisher	St Margaret's Anglican Girls' School	Bernadette Furner	Balmoral State High School
Emma Gentle	Gympie State High School	Jacob Hiles	St George State High School
Michelle Harris	Wavell State High School	Deepti Kutty	Moreton Bay College
Jacqui Kelly	North Rockhampton State High School	Bridie Marshall	Pimlico State High School
Jeffrey Kho	Aquinas Catholic College, Ashmore	Eliza Portas	Maleny State High School
Haimie-Jane Roberts	Sunshine Coast Christian Outreach College,	David Schofield	Ingham State High School
Areanda Soemardi	Cairns State High School	Augustus Tan	Cairns State High School
Paul Songhurst	Ormiston College	Heath Walker	Somerset College

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