



# MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Verity Firth MP  
Minister for Education and Training

## MINISTER AWARDS STUDENT EXCELLENCE

Thursday, 17 September 2009

Thirty-nine of NSW's best and brightest public school students have been honoured at today's 2009 Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement.

The students came from across NSW and were chosen for their achievements in academic excellence as well as sporting, cultural, leadership and community contributions.

NSW Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth, congratulated the winners who she said were some of the State's most talented young people.

"These outstanding NSW students are fantastic role models for their peers and ambassadors for their local communities," Ms Firth said.

"They are terrific products of the NSW public education system and we are very proud of their achievements.

"The awards encourage students to pursue a well rounded education and participate in the community.

"The award recognises young people who demonstrate a commitment to the core values taught in NSW public schools, acknowledging integrity, respect and responsibility as well as excellence," she said.

"Many of today's recipients volunteer their free time to worthy causes within their community and in doing so, are learning life-long skills and qualities that are truly valuable in our society.

"Some award winners have also represented their schools in competitions, interstate and international missions.

"These 39 students each have a unique story to tell and they are a testament to their parents, teachers and schools."

Up to 40 awards are presented across the State every year by the Minister for Education and Training, which is open to Year 12 students enrolled in NSW public schools.

Students are nominated on the basis of achievement throughout their high school years, but with particular recognition of excellence in Years 11 and 12.

**Media contact:** Dan Doran 0438 431 941.

**\*\*The full list of award recipients is attached\*\***

## **2009 Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement**

### **List of recommended recipients by region**

#### **HUNTER and CENTRAL COAST**

Annabel Fleming – Lambton High School  
Lucy Munro – Hunter School of the Performing Arts  
Caitlyn Read – Lambton High School  
Leah Serafim – Lambton High School

#### **ILLAWARRA and SOUTH EAST**

Angus Morris – Kiama High School  
Brody Toombs – Kiama High School

#### **NEW ENGLAND**

Mitchell Dahlstrom – Moree Secondary College Albert Street Campus  
Matthew Duff – Tenterfield High School  
Brighdin Walsh – Duval High School

#### **NORTH COAST**

Kieran Dixon – Chatham High School  
Alisha King – Great Lakes College Tuncurry Senior Campus  
Emma McRae – Taree High School  
Tarni Nelson – Chatham High School

#### **NORTHERN SYDNEY**

Graeme McIntyre – Normanhurst Boys High School  
Justin McMahan – North Sydney Boys' High School  
Isla Nakano – Northern Beaches Secondary College Mackellar Girls  
Campus  
Jake Williams – Northern Beaches Secondary College Cromer Campus

#### **RIVERINA**

Jack Carroll – Finley High School  
Mitchell Francis – Corowa High School  
Bernard Lagana – Wagga Wagga High School  
Bryce Leske – Wagga Wagga High School

#### **SOUTH WESTERN SYDNEY**

Debbie Khanh Bui – Beverly Hills Girls High School  
Barbara Iordanidis – Beverly Hills Girls High School  
Abira Sri Ganeshan – Strathfield Girls High School  
Harley Valentine – Moorebank High School  
Crystal Wood – Campbelltown Performing Arts High School

## **SYDNEY**

Keiran Brandt-Sawdy – The Jannali High School  
Eleanor Butcher – Fort Street High School  
Angela Chen – Sydney Girls High School  
Nicola Gollan – St George Girls High School  
Corey Ryan Smith – Rose Bay Secondary College

## **WESTERN NSW**

Daniel Gebert – Coomealla High School  
Corey Munro – Wellington High School  
Jane Perfect – Denison College Bathurst High Campus  
Grace Segal – Mudgee High School

## **WESTERN SYDNEY**

Karen Leung – Girraween High School  
Andrew Pearson – Cumberland High School  
Peter Woodfield – Penrith High School  
Keith Yau – Cumberland High School

# 2009 MINISTER'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

## HUNTER AND CENTRAL COAST REGION

### **Caitlyn Read, Lambton High School**

As school captain of Lambton High School, Caitlyn Read has played significant leadership roles through her work with the Senior Leadership, Water Watch, *Envirothon*, debating and Peer Mediation teams, Student Representative Council, and the 2009 Youth Leaders Conference and Secondary School Leadership Day.

Caitlyn is a highly motivated student achieving exemplary academic results. She has participated in the school's gifted and talented students program and the regional High Achievers Camp. She was a state finalist in the *Rostrum Public Speaking* competition and won the *Newcastle Herald School Newspaper* competition.

Caitlyn's performance achievements include the regional ANZAC service, *Shakespeare Drama Competition*, *Mental Health Challenge* and the *Schools Spectacular* and choreographed an item for the regional dance festival. Caitlyn is a great ambassador for Lambton High School contributing to her community through *Walk for a Cure* Juvenile Diabetes Charity Day and *Relay for Life*.

### **Lucy Munro, Hunter School of the Performing Arts**

Lucy Munro is a high achiever in the academic, sporting and cultural arenas.

Lucy has achieved outstanding results in both Preliminary and Higher School Certificate courses where she was often placed first and received the *Shining Star Award* in 2008. She has represented the school at zone and regional swimming events and was in the top ten at state swimming competitions on four occasions.

Lucy has been heavily involved in school and community cultural activities, primarily as a cellist in string ensembles and in choirs. She has traveled extensively to perform and is currently studying for the highest Australian Music Examinations Board qualification in cello. She has shown excellent leadership skills as first cellist and as leader of the alto section of *Gondwana Voices* performing at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum, World Youth Day and the Commonwealth Games. Lucy has been a public speaker, debater and in 2008 was team advisor to the senior debating team.

Lucy is very well respected by both staff and students and is an excellent role model in her position as School vice-captain.

### **Leah Serafim, Lambton High School**

Leah Serafim is an outstanding student, having played important roles in environmental issues through *Waterwatch*, the school *ClimateCam* group and Greenday committee and, as part of a gifted and talented student project, established a native garden. She was also a member of the *Envirothon* team which won the Hunter Regional *Envirothon* and was placed second in the

State *Envirothon*.

Leah's academic achievements include distinctions in national competitions and completion of Earth Sciences 1 and Creative Writing 1 at the University of Newcastle as part of the University Acceleration Program while in Year 11. She had a short story published in "*Stories for a Long Summer*" and poetry published in "*Simple Poetry*".

Leah was a student representative on the Youth Council which selected the Newcastle *Australia Day Citizen of the Year* and the *Dave Arkless Memorial Encouragement Award*.

Leah has represented the school at Youth Parliament, debating, *Rostrum Public Speaking*, the *Premier's Reading Challenge*, Open Girls' Tennis, regional athletics, and *Relay for Life*.

### **Annabel Fleming, Lambton High School**

Annabel Fleming's excellent skills and abilities have been developed through her contributions to a variety of activities including the *Water Watch*, peer support and debating teams and representation in sport at zone and regional level in swimming, athletics and cross country. As vice-captain of Lambton High School, her highly motivated approach has led to her successfully coordinate community service events at the school raising over \$8,000 for *World Vision*, the *Bushfire Appeal Concert* and *Save for A Cure*.

In 2008 Annabel attended the Global Leadership Convention and this year is the student representative on the Hunter Region's Service Learning Project, developing and organising the *Time Talent Treasure* day.

Annabel excels in her studies and achieves exemplary outcomes, particularly in the creative and performing arts, completing her Higher School certificate dance courses when in Year 10. She has participated in *Starstruck*, the *Schools Spectacular*, *Hunter Singers*, regional ANZAC ceremony and *Mental Health Challenge* and as a choreographer for the regional dance festival. Annabel is also a tutor, actor, stage manager and director with the *Young Peoples' Theatre*.

## **ILLAWARRA AND SOUTH COAST REGION**

### **Mr Brody Toombs, Kiama High School**

Brody Toombs has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to achieving excellent academic results, attaining the *Gold Level* in Kiama High School's merit system every year. Brody regularly participates in academic competitions and gives his time generously to whole-school transition programs, open nights and presentation nights. While not fitting the "sporty" mould, Brody has always participated in sporting competitions, winning many events as a school and club tennis representative.

It is in music, however, that Brody truly shines. His passion and commitment go beyond the school and he is an integral part of the Kiama High School stage and concert bands touring Queensland and Tasmania. He has won numerous competitions and awards, and uses his talent generously to raise money for charities like *Meals on Wheels*, and entertain local nursing homes.

Brody has won the *School Service Award* in recognition of his willingness to give something back to the school. Brody is, in every way, a true gentleman and thoroughly deserving of recognition.

#### **Mr Angus Morris, Kiama High School**

Angus Morris is an exceptional student in all aspects of his schooling. He is currently, and has repeatedly, placed first or second in every course, was Dux of Years 10 and 11 and he received Band 6 results in every course in the School Certificate. He won the Lions *Youth of the Year* competition in both overall and public speaking, was one of 288 students Australia-wide selected for the *National Youth Science Forum* at the Australian National University and gained distinctions in the *Westpac Mathematics Competition* and *National Chemistry Competition*.

Angus is a key member of the Kiama High School Stage Band, and his talents are regularly demonstrated at events such as the *Blues Festival* and *Jazz Festival*. A keen and able sportsman, Angus represented the school and his community in soccer, tennis and golf. Angus has received many awards – he is at the pinnacle of the school merit system, received the *Defence Force Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award*, and yet finds time to volunteer for the *Disabled Association*. He has earned the pride of Kiama High School.

### **NEW ENGLAND REGION**

#### **Matthew Duff, Tenterfield High School**

Matthew Duff is a superb role model not only for the students of Tenterfield High School but also for all youth. In his role as school captain he demonstrates outstanding leadership, community spirit and a willingness to put himself forward on all occasions for any task.

His unselfish attitude, strong motivation and determination to achieve, reflect his generous nature. Matthew's leadership abilities beyond the school are demonstrated in his roles as a volunteer fire fighter at the *Barney Downs Rural Fire Service*, and for *Red Cross* and the *Salvation Army*.

Matthew is a talented all round student - in academic subjects, on the sporting field giving his all, hosting an assembly, delivering a speech or leading young students and inspiring them to achieve their best.

Matthew is an outstanding person who has contributed enormously to his school and community.

#### **Brighdin Walsh, Duval High School**

Brighdin (Bridie) Walsh excels in all aspects of school life, being organised and motivated academically and consistently achieving brilliant results. She excels in both indoor and outdoor soccer being a vital member of the Duval High School girls' soccer team which became *NSW Combined High School Champions* in 2008.

Bridie plays violin in school and community groups, completing Australian Music Examinations Board 8th Grade exams in 2008. She has successfully competed in debating and public speaking, representing New England at state level and achieving success in Lions *Youth of the Year* and *Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs* competitions.

As vice-captain, Bridie exercises her leadership capabilities and is a role model for younger students. She is highly respected by staff and her peers and epitomises the core values of public education.

### **Mitchell Dahlstrom, Moree Secondary College Albert Street Campus**

Mitchell Dahlstrom is passionate about student leadership and has been actively involved in school, regional and state level leadership activities.

Mitchell is currently chairperson of the New England Region Student Representative Council and has been a member of the state council. He was influential in changing the profile of student leadership at Moree Secondary College including the establishment of a *Junior Aboriginal Education Consultative Group*.

His involvement in student leadership extends into the wider Moree community through his contribution to community events including the *Moree Plain Shire Youth Council*. He is highly respected by all those he comes into contact with and he is an excellent role model, not only for other Aboriginal students, but also for all students at the College. He is a worthy ambassador for Moree Secondary College and public education.

## **NORTH COAST REGION**

### **Tarni Nelson, Chatham High School**

Tarni Nelson is a well regarded and highly valued member of Year 12, of the Chatham High School student body and in the wider community. She is the school captain as well as Student Representative Council leader. Tarni always strives for academic excellence, consistently ranking at the top of her elected subjects. She demonstrated her versatility when she won the *Taree North Rotary Public Speaking Competition* in 2008.

Tarni balances her leadership and academic commitments with her involvement as a shadow player for the Chatham High School open girls' water polo team and as a member of the Hunter Girls' water polo team. Tarni involves herself in the wider community volunteering for surf patrols at Crowdy Head.

Tarni is an outstanding role model for all students achieving excellence in academic, leadership and sporting pursuits.

### **Alisha King, Great Lakes College Tuncurry Senior Campus**

Alisha King is an enthusiastic student whose ideas are readily put into action. She is an exemplary leader readily volunteering for teams, initiating projects and seeing them through to fruition. She is also a high academic achiever and a great young sportsperson.

Alisha manages a demanding academic load, while contributing strongly to the culture of the Senior Campus and to the well-being of others, both within and beyond the College. She was third in the *Hunter Valley Research Foundation Geography* competition in 2008 which was subsequently published across the state. She approaches all she does with complete commitment. Alisha's caring nature was demonstrated through her completion of a TAFE New South Wales Peer Literacy tutoring course and subsequent work with struggling Year 7 students.

Alisha played representative touch football at the state cup and has been a member of the grand final winning Girls' winter soccer team.

Alisha is a person destined to contribute strongly to everything in which she is involved. She carries her College's highest recommendation.

### **Emma McRae, Taree High School**

Emma MacRae has been an academic achiever and a very articulate and dedicated student. Her awards include the *Science and English Challenge* and the Year Advisor's special award. She has achieved consistently credible results in the Distinction English class.

Emma is school captain and has participated in the Student Representative Council since Year 9. She is the School's public face and has had extensive involvement in school and community activities from organizing blood donor days to serving with enthusiasm and initiative on the District Student Representative Council and Taree City Council Youth Advisory Committee. She also supported Year 7 students as a Peer Support leader.

Emma has been a driving force behind charity fundraising and her leadership qualities effectively in her role as canteen and Parents' and Citizens' Association liaison.

Emma showed her initiative by instigating, *Spirit Day* an activity to boost attendance and foster school spirit. She planned activities and rosters, organised awards and publicity, and was a crucial element in the success of the day.

### **Kieran Dixon, Chatham High School**

Kieran Dixon is a highly valued member of the Chatham High School community. He has consistently been recognised as the academic benchmark of his year, continuing in the tradition established as 2003 Dux, Chatham Primary School.

In his junior school career, he achieved first in English, mathematics, science and human society and its environment a record 38 of 40 possible times, also achieving first in several Year 10 electives. As a result he was Dux Year 10 and his continued efforts in senior school have made him Dux Year 11, and, currently, is highest ranked in all subjects, including extension mathematics and English.

Kieran is a committed, dynamic leader, who has been a representative on the Student Representative Council and at leadership conferences for several years. His mantra of "choose your reality – create your own path" translates into action and deed for causes such as *Shave for a Cure*, *Legacy*, *Beyond Blue*, and *Vampire Shield*. He is dedicated to helping disadvantaged students to succeed and has initiated a handball competition involving younger students and seniors aiming for improved social skills and positive interactions with authoritative leadership figures.

## **NORTHERN SYDNEY REGION**

### **Justin MacMahon, North Sydney Boys High School**

Justin MacMahon is an outstanding example of a student who embodies the

many qualities that are signified by this award. His academic achievements, participation in sport and involvement in cultural activities at North Sydney Boys High School over six years have been exemplary.

Justin is a talented sportsman, a wonderful mentor to junior students and has shone academically in a school with many outstanding students. Justin is a hard worker who is humble, respectful and articulate. He wholeheartedly embraces and participates in opportunities for his school, his peers and younger students. As school captain, Justin has willingly accepted many challenges with courage and humility. He is an able speaker and gifted debater, with outstanding interpersonal skills.

Justin is an exemplary student who represents the very best of the New South Wales public education system.

### **Isla Nakano, Northern Beaches Secondary College Mackellar Girls Campus**

Isla Nakano demonstrates a commitment to excellence in every aspect of her school life. As school captain she consistently displays strong leadership and responsibility, and is always a proactive and productive individual, caring for and respecting others.

Isla aspires to her personal best at all times. In Years 11 and 12, she has led the prefects and school to work together to achieve common goals in charity work for the community, to raise awareness and to demonstrate concern for the well-being of the community.

Isla's integrity and support for others are further evidenced by her varied cultural achievements in the *Duke of Edinburgh Program*, the *School Musical* and *Rock Eisteddfod* as well as numerous Japanese cultural events.

Throughout her Mackellar years, Isla has distinguished herself academically, excelling every year. She demonstrates high standards, a love of learning and the pursuit of excellence leading to credible academic success beyond the school.

Isla's exceptionally high personal standards make her a superb role model.

### **Graeme McIntyre, Normanhurst Boys High School**

Graeme McIntyre has been a splendid student with a great array of personal attributes. He has been an exemplary school captain, a superb role model and has demonstrated an enormous capacity for leadership within the school and in the broader community. He has excelled in the academic domain, shown excellent sportsmanship and has achieved laudable results in public speaking and debating.

### **Jake Williams, Northern Beaches Secondary College Cromer Campus**

Jake Williams is a wonderful student who has shown a commitment to the achievement of excellence in all aspects of his school life. He has undertaken his role of School sports captain with maturity and integrity and has demonstrated a strong sense of responsibility and leadership.

Jake has participated in a range of activities where his cooperation and

excellence as a role model have been clearly demonstrated. He has received the *Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award*, been a crew member on the *Young Endeavour* and consistently excelled in a variety of sporting activities.

## **RIVERINA REGION**

### **Jack Carroll, Finley High School**

Jack Carroll is a student who never allows his special needs to hinder him in any way from competing against all peers and in open competitions.

Jack was the first student with Down Syndrome to prepare and lead an animal in the "beef carcass ' section at the *Royal Melbourne Show*. In 2007, his team won the very prestigious *Borthwick Trophy*. In 2008 Jack came 3rd in the under 17 handlers' competition and his animal also came third in its class.

Jack was awarded a second degree black belt in *Maui Thai* martial arts and represented Riverina at the Combined High Schools swimming championships. Jack's Year 12 art work was selected to be on public exhibition in Wagga Wagga.

Jack's leadership skills, enthusiasm and confidence were acknowledged when his peers elected him as house vice-captain. Jack is fundamental in fundraising for *Shave for a Cure*, *The Royal Melbourne Children's Hospital*, *Salvation Army*, the Finley High School Parents and Citizens committee, and the Year 12 Graduation committee.

### **Mitchell Francis, Corowa High School**

Mitchell Francis is an outstanding representative of public education both within Corowa High School and within the community. He is a high achiever across a wide range of endeavours.

Mitchell is well respected by staff, peers and the local community for his academic successes, for his sporting achievements which include a *New South Wales Combined High School Australian Rules* title, for his involvement in public speaking and for his thoughtful and dedicated commitment to student leadership.

In 2006 Mitchell completed the *Leadership in Middle Schooling* program and in 2007 completed Peer Mediation training. Mitchell's cheerful, cooperative and responsible manner made him popular with both staff and students and he was subsequently elected as school captain in 2009.

### **Bernard Lagana, Wagga Wagga High School**

Bernard Lagana is an intelligent and articulate student who has consistently demonstrated his exemplary loyalty and devotion to his school, furthering the recognition of the accomplishments, skills and abilities of regional public schools and students.

Bernard has demonstrated leadership through his dedication to the improvement of the arts in the School and the region and has to date represented his school, the state and Australia on two separate occasions: performing with the school's orchestra at the *Beijing Cultural Festival* and more recently as a member of *New South Wales Public Schools Symphonic Wind Ensemble* performing at the prestigious *International Band and*

*Orchestral Conference* in Chicago.

Bernard achieved double honours in the school honour system, and participates in the schools basketball and volleyball teams. In the wider community Bernard has played at the *Bush Bash* to help raise funds for Victorian bushfire victims.

### **Bryce Leske, Wagga Wagga High School**

Bryce Leske is an outstanding student who has continually excelled in a range of fields; achieving multiple awards at the highest levels in music, sport and academic pursuits.

Bryce was the recipient of the Riverina Conservatorium Scholarships and represented his school and Australia at the *Beijing Cultural Festival*. As the Riverina representative in swimming and cycling championships, Bryce has accomplished brilliant results over a number of years.

As school captain in 2009, he has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to his responsibilities, representing his school and peers at all times with integrity and dignity. He has been an active and successful Student Representative Council member from Year 7 to Year 12 and has been an advocate for more effective student leadership and management with a wealth of practical ideas for positive, student-led school change.

## **SOUTH WESTERN SYDNEY REGION**

### **Crystal Wood, Campbelltown Performing Arts High School**

Crystal Wood is a distinguished all-rounder who has achieved excellence in academic, sporting, cultural pursuits and school leadership. Crystal's was awarded Dux for three consecutive years, was a state representative in aerobics, gymnastics and trampolining, and a member of the school's aerial circus ensemble.

Crystal's leadership skills and enthusiasm are evident in her commitment to the Student Representative Council, her role as South Western Sydney public school ambassador, as a tutor for reading and trapeze, and in her selection as school captain.

Crystal has been recognised with the *Pierre De Coubertin Award 2008*, the *Australian Defence Force Long Tan Award for Leadership and Teamwork* in 2007 and 2008, *Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute Science Award 2008* and the *Brock Rowe Geography Fieldwork Award* in 2007 and 2008. She was also a 2008 *Envirothon* State finalist.

Despite her many wonderful achievements Crystal remains endearingly humble and modest.

### **Abira Sri Ganeshan, Strathfield Girls High School**

Abira Sri Ganeshan is an all-round achiever, participating in Peer Support programs, sport carnivals, Harmony and multicultural days and the Student Representative Council. Abira has initiated, coordinated and always participated in fundraising for charities, recently raising money for the *Victorian Bushfire Appeal*, *Red Shield Appeal* and *World's Greatest Shave*.

Abira is committed to the values of human rights and world peace and strives hard to uphold these values in her participation in environmental endeavours such as *Clean Up Strathfield/Australia* and *Earth Hour*.

Abira was the 2008 district and regional schools ambassador and 2009 school captain. She is a caring school mentor to many of the schools younger students. Her sincere and humble manner, together with her charismatic personality, attracts both staff and students to her. Abira has been an outstanding role model for our younger students to emulate.

#### **Debbie Khanh Bui, Beverley Hills Girls High School**

Debbie Khanh Bui strives for excellence and consistency, achieving commendation and excellence awards, and placing first in Extension 1 Preliminary English.

Debbie, as School vice-captain and vice-president of Student Representative Council has initiated and implemented numerous leadership and community projects, including whole school student competitions.

Debbie is a competent public speaker and has been a most enthusiastic participant in various extracurricular activities including Peer Support, Peer Tutoring and Year 7 orientation programs. She has also involved herself in a number of community based activities including the 2009 Australia Day celebrations at Gough Whitlam Park, *2008 Step to the Future Youth Forum*, and *Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs Awards*.

Debbie demonstrates the values of public education on a daily basis. Her integrity and sensitivity when dealing with her team members as individuals and her understanding of their diverse backgrounds and needs are highly commended by students and staff alike.

#### **Harley Valentine, Moorebank High School**

Harley Valentine is currently the school captain at Moorebank High School. He maintains an excellent academic standard, being ranked first in three of his subjects.

Harley has been actively involved in school and community programs, as Secretary of the School Representative Council, a *Legacy* ambassador, canteen volunteer and school Student Representative Council website designer.

Harley has been the recipient of several awards including *Environment Citizens of the Year 2007* and the *Australian Defence Force Award 2008*. His communication skills are excellent and during his time at the school he has been a good role model involving himself in the *Premier's Sporting Challenge* and cross country carnivals.

In his role as school captain Harley has attended many events and on each occasion has represented the school with distinction. He is an outstanding student and member of the school community who meets all the requirements for excellence in student achievement.

#### **Barbara Iordanidis, Beverly Hills Girls High School**

Barbara Iordanidis is a highly motivated student leader who recognises that

learning and leadership are life-long commitments. She demonstrates a genuine love of learning and a fine appreciation of public education.

As an accelerant of two unit Modern Greek Continuers, she successfully completed her Higher School Certificate in this course in 2008, receiving Band 6 and formal public recognition from the Australian Greek community.

In her role as senior Executive officer of the Student Representative Council, Barbara has been instrumental in the implementation of numerous projects including multicultural assembly activities aimed at fostering an appreciation and understanding of our Australian community. Her selection and active involvement in the 2009 Returned and Services League Schools' ANZAC Day ceremony and the school's Year 11 subject selection night earned her the respect and commendation from the public and parent body.

Barbara believes in and is proof that public education is in the forefront of learning.

## **SYDNEY REGION**

### **Nicola Gollan, St George Girls High School**

Nicola has received many awards for academic excellence and her leadership qualities are exceptional in her role as a Peer Support Leader, member of the Student Representative Council and school captain.

Nicola is a keen and successful rower placing first at the Leichhardt Regatta, Sydney Regatta and Taree Regatta in Women's Novice Quad Scull and is ranked fifth in NSW in the Under 17 Women's Quad Scull.

Nicola is an accomplished musician and a polished public speaker. She was highly commended in the *Plain English Speaking* competition and runner-up in the St George Region Debating Eisteddfod and the St George Region Public Speaking Eisteddfod.

Nicola has adopted a leading role in our school *Amnesty International* group and the Environment Club. For the past three years she has volunteered on a weekly basis at the St Joan of Arc Nursing Home where she assists with resident activities and excursions.

### **Corey Ryan Smith, Rose Bay Secondary College**

Corey Ryan Smith in the role of school captain, house captain, sportsman, debater, public speaker and community activist, embodies the values in New South Wales public schools.

Corey participates in soccer, rugby league and cricket and stands out in personal development, health and physical education. Corey has demonstrated considerable initiative, establishing an indoor soccer team at the school.

Corey furthered his own and his school's reputation through his promotion of the *World's Greatest Shave*, raising \$1,500 for the *Leukaemia Foundation*. In 2008 Corey was selected in the Sydney Region Gifted and Talented Aboriginal Program and participated in a debate at Parliament House. He was also awarded the *Mary Foley Memorial Award* and the *Lion's Youth of the*

*Year Award.*

Corey strives for high ideals, aims to achieve high personal standards and has set high career aspirations. He is quietly and justly proud of his Aboriginal heritage and puts his principles into practice.

**Keiran Brandt-Sawdy, The Jannali High School**

Keiren Brandt-Sawdy is an outstanding academic student being awarded Dux Year 11 in 2008. In all of his school activities, Keiren strives for excellence. He is an unassuming but highly effective leader who inspires others through his level of participation in school life and his personal example of commitment to quality in all the projects he undertakes.

Keiren is heavily involved in the creative arts program of the school. He is a member of the school band, jazz ensemble and a cappella vocal ensemble, performing with these groups at numerous school and community events. He is an outstanding musician and was the musical director for the school's 2008 musical production.

Keiren has made an enormous contribution to The Jannali High School, not only as an outstanding student academically, but also as an enthusiastic participant in school life and a cooperative, caring and inherently decent member of the school community.

**Eleanor Butcher, Fort Street High School**

Eleanor Butcher has demonstrated dedication and excellence in her academic, leadership, volunteer and sporting pursuits, not only within the school but also the greater Australian community.

Eleanor was one of 100 Australian Youth delegates at the 2020 Summit, a member of the New South Wales Young Peoples' Advisory Committee 2009 and the Student Representative Council. She has volunteered as a member of the Cronulla Surf Club, the Peer Support program and the Leichhardt Youth Council for the past three years.

Eleanor has represented the school at zone and regional levels in swimming and cross country, consistently gaining age champion titles in these fields since Year 7.

Academically she has achieved numerous speech day awards, the *Australian Defence Force Long Tan Preliminary Course Award*, and the *Sydney Region Award for Most Outstanding Student* in Year 11 and 12. Eleanor is a well-rounded student leader, participating in debating, *Mock Trial* and beyond.

**Angela Chen, Sydney Girls High School**

Angela Chen is an exceptional student who has been an inspiration to her peers and younger students.

Academically Angela is a high achiever, earning Distinctions across a range of subjects in national competitions and receiving many academic awards within the school. As a gifted musician Angela has played cello in the New South Wales Schools Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Orchestra. In the service of the broader community, she has led the school's fundraising efforts for many charity organizations.

A highly accomplished debater, Angela was captain for the school debating team that was placed second in the state-wide *Hume Barbour Premier's Debating Competition*. She has been the voice of students in many regional, state and national forums including the *National Schools Constitutional Convention* in Canberra.

Angela is a young person of considerable gifts and presence. She has been an exemplary school captain, a role that is the culmination of her growth as a person, a scholar and a leader.

## **WESTERN NSW REGION**

### **Jane Perfect, Denison College Bathurst High Campus**

Jane Perfect has been an outstanding member of Bathurst High Campus for six years, mentoring younger students through the Peer Support program, organising school functions such as Presentation Nights and displaying ongoing commitment to the Student Representative Council. Jane's high level of personal integrity is evident in her management of charity events, including fundraising for the *2009 Victorian Bushfire Appeal*, *Jeans for Genes* and the *Red Cross*.

Jane has represented her school at regional and state level in golf and in 2008 she was the sole New South Wales recipient of the *Australian Women's Golf Association Gatehouse Award*.

Jane has a broad range of talents and abilities exemplified by her many awards for excellence and consistent top three rankings in her senior academic courses. She is an outstanding individual who works with quiet grace and humility for the benefit of the entire school and community.

### **Corey Munro, Wellington High School**

Corey Munro is the school captain of Wellington High School and within this role, and over the past six years he has exemplified the values of New South Wales public education. Academically he has shown commitment and integrity. He has demonstrated excellence, fairness and integrity in sport and also a willingness to participate in whatever opportunities he has been offered. Corey has demonstrated these qualities since Year 7 but his leadership and people skills have reached new heights in the senior school.

### **Grace Segal, Mudgee High School**

Grace Segal has proven to be an exceptional student in all facets of her education. Grace has been in the top six of her year for the last two years receiving academic awards in all subject areas. As school captain she led the Mudgee Community ANZAC Day march as well as speaking at the ceremony.

In the sporting arena Grace has represented her school in touch football, cross country, netball, softball and athletics. She has represented Western Region in touch football, athletics and cross country. Grace reached the highest level in touch football when she was selected for the state Combined High Schools competition.

Grace has been a member of the Student Representative Council since Year 7, and the Year 12 fundraising committee raising money to support the community's aged care facilities. She organised groups of students to visit

these facilities demonstrating her community spirit and high level of social conscience.

### **Daniel Gebert, Coomealla High School**

Daniel Gebert is an outstanding student who has made a significant contribution to the school and the community. Daniel has a strong academic record being well placed in all subjects studied.

Daniel is a very accomplished lawn bowler, with impressive achievements at the school and community level, taking out a number of championships. He also plays baseball.

Daniel has an extensive history of participation in musical and theatre productions, including *The Gang Show*, *Electric Light Theatre*, *Sunraysia Youth Performing Arts Company* and the Red Cliffs Musical Society.

Daniel is currently the school vice-captain and has been a member of the Student Representative Council from 2007 to 2009 holding the presidency in 2008. He also has an extensive involvement in scouting.

Daniel is a model student with an outstanding work ethic and is a most worthy recipient of the *Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement*.

## **WESTERN SYDNEY REGION**

### **Peter Woodfield, Penrith High School**

Peter Woodfield is an outstanding student achieving a High Distinction in the Australian Geography Competition, Distinctions in the University of New South Wales Science and Mathematics Competitions, as well as being chosen to represent Australia in the 2009 National Youth Science Forum in New Zealand.

Peter has demonstrated tremendous loyalty to the school through active involvement in the sister school program with Japan; fundraising for schools in Cambodia and the bush fire appeal; and the School Summit. He has been mathematics peer tutor; student leader for the mathematics, science and social sciences faculties as well as the debating teams, geography and history *Mastermind* teams, and the choir. Peter has been a highly visible presence at every annual school open night and information evening. As a student leader on these occasions, he has engaged and enthralled parents, students and visitors with his enthusiasm and creativity.

### **Andrew Pearson, Cumberland High School**

Andrew Pearson has represented the school at grade, interschool, zone, regional and state levels in athletics, cross country, soccer, touch football, rugby league, cricket and indoor soccer. He has received both the junior and senior *Sportsman of the Year Awards* and has captained his school on many occasions.

Andrew is also a brilliant academic performer. He was placed first in personal development, health and physical education and in the top three places in five other subjects. He was awarded the *Medal of Excellence* in 2008. This award is the culmination of years of high level achievement and a progression through the school merit system.

As school vice-captain Andrew highlights his commitment and leadership through participation in concerts, band tours, sound and lighting crew, ANZAC Day and Harmony Day ceremonies, Values Forums, Peer Support programs, Positive Behaviour and Code of Conduct workshops.

### **Keith Yau, Cumberland High School**

Keith Yau is an excellent academic achiever placing in the top three students in most of his subjects with first place in personal development, health and physical education. These results along with his exceptional dedication to his studies have twice earned him the school's *Medal of Excellence*.

As school captain he has shown true leadership skills which he has developed over recent years in his roles in Peer Support, Values workshops, Positive Behaviour for Learning and Code of Conduct forums, Multicultural and Harmony Days. Particularly noteworthy is Keith's leadership of a team managing the schools hall.

In 2008 he was a student representative on the Baulkham Hills Shire Council Youth Forum and received a highly commended citation in that council's *Excellence in Youth Awards*. In 2009 he was a finalist in the zone Lions *Youth of the Year* contest.

Beyond school Keith is qualified in Senior First Aid with the *Surf Life Saving Association*, a soccer referee in the Granville District and has worked for charity organisations such as the *Salvation Army* with their *Red Shield Appeal*.

### **Karen Leung, Girraween High School**

Karen Leung always produces excellent academic results. She successfully completed the Higher School Certificate chemistry course while still in Year 11 as an accelerated student and received a score of 96 percent.

As an athlete she has broken numerous records over the years in both swimming and athletics. She is currently house leader and has collected for charities in this role. Karen applies herself wholly to all activities including swimming training, rising at 4.00am before school five days a week.

Karen has involved herself in *World Vision 40 Hour Famine*, the 2008 *National Young Leaders' Day* and is a *Red Cross* blood donor. In recognition of her dedication, unselfish service to the community and personal achievement Karen was awarded with a *Faces of Holroyd/Young Ambassador Award*.

Karen is a cheerful student who is always willing to assist her peers.