



Media release

From the Minister for Education Hon Bronwyn Pike and the
Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development Hon
Maxine Morand

May, 2009

EDUCATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

Teachers, school staff and school leaders will be acknowledged for their outstanding contribution to student learning at the Victorian Education Excellence Awards on Friday 15 May.

Education Minister Bronwyn Pike and Children and Early Childhood Development Minister Maxine Morand said the awards recognise the committed and passionate people who have made a lasting difference to young Victorians.

"We have great teachers, volunteers and support staff in Victorian schools and children's services who are helping provide our young people with every opportunity to succeed and this is a great way of acknowledging their contribution to the state," Ms Pike said.

"Their role is vital in creating and supporting an ever-changing education system where every young Victorian is given the best possible educational opportunities," Ms Morand said.

As part of this year's celebrations, 11 major awards totalling \$230,000 will be presented with two new awards being introduced: Partnership with Parents and Communities Award and a Pathways and Transitions Award.

Long-serving school teachers and staff who have dedicated 40, 45 and 50 years of service will be honoured at the Victorian Education Service Awards. Retiring school councillors, community members and outstanding parents will also be recognised.

The finalists in each of the excellence award categories are:

LINDSAY THOMPSON FELLOWSHIP (an overseas travelling study fellowship valued at \$50,000)

- Jennifer Blake - Seaford Primary School
- Louise Duncan - Shepparton High School
- Birsin Reynolds - Monbulk College

OUTSTANDING SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AWARD (a research study valued at \$50,000)

- Michael Phillips - Ringwood Secondary College
- Colin Simpson - Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School
- Kerriane Souter - St Georges Road Primary School, Shepparton

OUTSTANDING SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM AWARD (a professional development program valued at \$20,000)

- Bellaire Primary School
- Greythorn Primary School
- Wallan Primary School

CURRICULUM INNOVATION AWARD (valued at \$20,000 to undertake a curriculum innovation project)

- Bellaire Primary School
- Courtenay Gardens Primary School
- Hawkesdale P12 College

VICTORIA TEACHERS CREDIT UNION OUTSTANDING PRIMARY TEACHER AWARD (for a professional development program valued at \$10,000)

- Jenine Threlfall - Maldon Primary School
- Huong Thi Tran - Lalor West Primary School
- Christine Perera - Spring Valley Primary School

mecu OUTSTANDING SECONDARY TEACHER AWARD (for a professional development program valued at \$10,000)

- Nathan Binks - Ouyen Secondary College
- Nola Cefai - Hawthorn Secondary College
- Brendan Murray – The Pavilion, Banksia Latrobe Secondary College

OUTSTANDING EDUCATION SUPPORT TEAM AWARD (for a professional development program valued at \$10,000)

- Bendigo Senior Secondary College
- Gowrie Street Primary School, Shepparton
- Langwarrin Primary School

mecu OUTSTANDING BUSINESS MANAGER AWARD (valued at \$10,000 to develop business management skills and contribute to the professional development of business managers in Victorian schools)

- Emily Hordern - Castlemaine Secondary College
- Corliss McBain - Mildura Secondary College
- Tracey Smith - Maryborough Education Centre

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND COMMUNITIES AWARD (valued at \$20,000)

- Buninyong Primary School
- Winters Flat Primary School, Castlemaine

PATHWAYS AND TRANSITION AWARD (valued at \$20,000)

- Ballarat Secondary College
- Bendigo Senior Secondary College

VICTORIA TEACHERS CREDIT UNION OUTSTANDING EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER AWARD (for a professional development program valued at \$10,000)

- Sofi Galanis - Wattle Hill Kindergarten
- Maree O'Mahony - Knoxfield Preschool
- Catherine Russo - Coolaroo South Kindergarten