

**Elisa Nowak**  
**Ingham State School**

A prefect, peer counsellor and leader of the school's Community Involvement Committee, Elisa is proactive in a very wide range of community initiatives, both within the school and in her own time after school. Elisa is a human rights activist and has also raised funds for victims of war and trauma in Russia, Timor and Burma.

Elisa has participated in a number of leadership programs, including the Lions Youth of the Year Quest where she was a Regional finalist, and supports the 2/14<sup>th</sup> Battalion Association. Elisa has walked the Kokoda track. She has been awarded the Long Tan Leadership Award and the Australian Defence Force Leadership Award.



**Elisa Nowak**

**Kate Chambers**  
**Ferny Grove State High School**

Kate is the Girl School Captain and has demonstrated great leadership both in and out of school. Kate is the 2008 Queensland Youth Ambassador with World Vision Australia. After travelling to India Kate designed and ran sessions on India, child labour, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child at the 2008 World Vision Global Leadership Convention. Kate also won the Brisbane North Zonta Club's award for Young Women in Public Affairs.

Apart from a big commitment to fundraising for the 40 Hour Famine, which involves Kate in travelling to address many schools in South East Queensland, she is also Advocacy Campaigns Officer with Vision Generation working to promote awareness of child slavery, sex slavery and child soldiers.

Kate is a peer mediator and also finds time to lead two senior ensembles in the school music program.



**Kate Chambers**

## **Georgia Smith**

### **Trinity Anglican School**

Georgia is a “Trinity Scholar” – an award bestowed upon her in recognition of her outstanding efforts across areas of International Understanding, Democracy, the Environment, Adventure, Leadership and Service. Georgia is an all-round sports person and a member of six different school and community orchestras. She has attained Silver and Bronze in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and is close to attaining her Gold.

Georgia is a member of the Centenary Lakes Christian Youth Group and is an active fundraiser for a number of charitable organisations such as Red Cross and the Leukaemia Foundation. She also works as a volunteer at the Young Animal Protection refuge and the Tropical Wildlife Protection Group.

Georgia was accepted into the CSIRO’s 2007 Student Research Scheme and University of Queensland’s 2008 Australian Student Mineral Venture and South Queensland Engineering Link projects.

Georgia attained a Rotary Youth Exchange to Brazil for 2009 and is presently learning to fly.



**Georgia Smith**

## **Grace Tamba**

### **Yeronga State High School**

Originally from Liberia, Grace came to Australia as a refugee in August 2005. In 2008 Grace was appointed President of Interact at Yeronga State High School. In this capacity she organises many community activities and raises money for charities such as shelter boxes for Burma. She financially supports a child in Kenya. Grace has addressed Rotary meetings and Refugee Day delegates at Parliament House about the problems facing refugees in Australia.

Grace is an active member of the Annerley Baptist Church and is a member of their choir, the Youth Group and the Young Adult Group and assists in cleaning graffiti from her local area.

Grace is a mentor at Harmony Place and the Multicultural Community Mentoring Program assisting newly arrived refugee students to adjust to Australian society and assists the Zig Zag Program (an initiative of Family Planning Australia.)



**Grace Tamba**

### **Raamvi Vivek**

#### **Kirwan State High School**

Raamvi is the Junior Dux top student in every subject for the past three years and uses his skills and ability to mentor year eight students through their transition year. Raamvi leads the school Environmental Club and Science Club and captains the soccer team.

He is a member of Kirwan SHS's Interact and Zonta Clubs and has been involved in activities such as assembling birthing kits for women in Ethiopia, food donations to Ronald McDonald House and sponsoring a child for World Vision. He also volunteers at the Good Shepherd Nursing Home and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service. Raamvi was appointed Science Ambassador at the James Cook University and has been invited to join Young Scientists Australia, the CSIRO Research Scheme and to attend the Biofutures Conference.

Raamvi is Champion for the Rostrum's Voice of Youth and a State finalist in Legacy's Public Speaking Competition. As a member of the Townsville City Youth Council he was guest speaker for the city's reception for His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffrey. Raamvi is also a talented bass player.



**Raamvi Vivek**

### **Michael Yearney**

#### **Yeronga State High School**

Michael is the School Captain and has the honour of being the first School Captain in Queensland of African background. Michael arrived in Australia from Liberia in 2005 after having experienced civil war in his homeland and has overcome significant social, family and economic hurdles. He is heavily involved in numerous school activities and has assisted in organising the school's soccer competition. In 2007 Michael was appointed University of Queensland Science Ambassador and has addressed Education Queensland staff on Harmony Day.

Michael is a mentor, assisting newly arrived refugees to acclimatize to the Australian environment. He is a committed role model possessing a strong belief in responsible action, and a demonstrated pride in his school and personal conduct.



**Michael Yearney**

**Hans Rapihana**

**Mareeba State High School**

Hans is the school Community Service Committee President for 2008 and has been the President of Interact at his school since being elected in Year 11. Hans has demonstrated his leadership through the great range of activities carried out through Interact. He is an inter-year leader and Year 8 student mentor.

Hans has been a participant in the YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament, and also at Youth Peace Brisbane 2008; he is a member of the Student Council at school and organised such fund raising and community initiatives as the 40 Hour Famine, Student Council Car Wash and Sausage Sizzle, and The Biggest Morning Tea. Hans was awarded Volunteer of the Year by the Mareeba Gymnastics Club. He is Team Captain for Relay for Life, volunteers three lunch hours a week at the school canteen and has organised visits and BBQs at a Retirement Village.



**Hans Rapihana**

**Breony Dowling**

**Alexandra Hills State High School**

Breony is School Captain and an executive member of the Student Council. She is a member of Youth without Borders and is active in fundraising for international youth projects such as Mobile Libraries for children in Indonesia. She has participated in the 2007 Amnesty International Australia Active Schools Conference and established an Amnesty International Club at Alexandra Hills State High School. Breony has hosted international exchange students and has participated in an exchange to Germany last year.

She has participated in the YMCA Youth Parliament and Lions Youth of the Year Awards, becoming the representative for Capalaba. Breony has coordinated fundraising for the Motor Neurone Disease Foundation, the RSPCA, and Legacy. She has earned School Citizenship Awards for 2006 and 2007.



**Breony Dowling**

**Eleanor Gregory**

**Ferny Grove State High School**

Eleanor has distinguished herself through her mentoring role in local primary schools. Eleanor works with primary school captains developing their leadership and team building skills; she coaches the debating teams.

Eleanor was the school representative in the YMCA Youth Parliament for the past two years as the Youth Member for Ferny Grove and is part of the North Brisbane Region initiative to promote youth. Eleanor is presently fundraising to enable her to travel to Cambodia to visit disadvantaged schools by making and selling bracelets. Eleanor also fundraises for the School Chaplain and delivers toys to the and Easter eggs to children in the Royal Children's Hospital.



**Eleanor Gregory**

**Jack Koci**

**Mareeba State High School**

Jack is the 2008 School Captain and a member of the school Rotary Interact Club and School Council. He is also a member of the Public Speaking Club and received the 2007 School Service Award.

Jack has participated in the Lions Youth of the Year, Toast Masters Public Speaking Competition and the Mareeba Chamber of Commerce Public Speaking Competition. He attended the 2008 Far North Queensland Zone Schools Constitutional Convention and has the honoured role of reading the list of fallen soldiers at the local Anzac Parades for the past five years.

Jack is an active fundraiser for several charities and a qualified League Safe member and Australian National Rugby League referee.



**Angela Toppin accepting on behalf of  
Jack Koci**

**Joshua Preece**

**North Rockhampton State High**

Joshua is a member of the Student Council, a Peer Mentor and a representative for the school's Environment Club, he represents his school at public speaking and quiz competitions such as the Multicultural Day Oration, Lions Youth of the Year, Rostrum's – Voice of Youth, and the local Rotary Quiz.

Joshua is a fine musician who regularly plays keyboard for school musical productions and assists at the Eisteddfod. He also mentors junior and senior debating teams, and is the Youth Member for Rockhampton in the YMCA Youth Parliament.

Joshua is actively involved in the Annual Tree Planting Day and Clean Up Australia. He entertains residents of a local Retirement Village and participates in ANZAC Day parades and NAIDOC celebrations.



**Joshua Preece**

**Paulyn Wame**

**Southport State High School**

Originally from Papua New Guinea, Paulyn experienced difficulty integrating into school in Australia and consequently she now mentors students from other cultures, ensuring they are welcomed into the school community. One initiative in this regard was to promote a group to perform a Cook Island dance at the 2008 Dance Showcase.

Paulyn volunteers for the school's community project – “Angel's Kitchen” and on Sundays provides meals to the homeless and disadvantaged. She is a church youth group leader and with her family collects and delivers unsold bread to needy charities across the Gold Coast.

Paulyn inspires her school peers and community members to work toward their personal goals.



**Paulyn Wame**