

**THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION
QUEENSLAND BRANCH**



**THE 18TH ANNUAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS
CITIZENSHIP AWARDS PRESENTATION**

2016

Parliament House, Brisbane

The Old Legislative Council Chamber
(The Red Chamber)

Friday, 16 September 2016

Commemorative plaques presented by
His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC
Governor of Queensland

Certificates of Community Service
presented by
Professor Tony Webber AM, Immediate Past Chairman,
The Order of Australia Association, Queensland Branch

Compered by Bruce Howden OAM

Music by Cannon Hill Anglican College Ebony Ensemble

Proudly sponsored by

Tim Fairfax AC

Commemorative Plaque and Certificate of Merit Recipients 2016

Abhijith Abraham

Kate-Marie Boylan-Ascione

Vanessa Chuah

Katelyn Dickinson

Praveen Gurusinghe

Jessica Honan

Mohammad Javir

Keshav Kumar

Asha Mortel

Olivia Rickert

Tiana Sheehy

Jack Sims

Ignatius Park College

Cairns State High School

Somerset College

Mareeba State High School

Kirwan State High School

Atherton State High School

Woodridge State High School

St Joseph's Nudgee College

Cleveland District State High School

SCOTS PGC College

Sunshine Coast Grammar School

Brisbane Boys' College



Our award winning students with His Excellency – Standing from L to R – Katelyn Dickinson (Mareeba State High School); Kate-Marie Boylan-Ascione (Cairns State High School); His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland; Jack Sims (Brisbane Boys' College); Abhijith Abraham (Ignatius Park College, Townsville); Praveen Gurusinghe (Kirwan State High School, Townsville); Mohammad Javir (Woodridge State High School); **Kneeling from L to R** – Keshav Kumar (St Joseph's Nudgee College); Olivia Rickert (SCOTS PGC College, Warwick); Vanessa Chuah (Somerset College, Mudgeeraba); Tiana Sheehy (Sunshine Coast Grammar School). **Absent:** Jessica Honan (Atherton State High School) – in Japan; and Asha Mortel (Cleveland District State High School) – in Borneo.

2016 Commemorative Plaque Winners

Student Profiles



Abhijith Abraham

Ignatius Park College, Townsville

Over the past six years at Ignatius Park, Abhijith has enthusiastically involved himself in a range of opportunities to serve his school community and the world beyond.

He is founder of the Youth Focus group which seeks to involve young people in finding solutions to issues which impact upon them and their futures. In addition,

Abhijith volunteered to assist at orphanages in India and Nepal. In all aspects of his life and work, his genuinely kind and compassionate nature shines through.

Therefore, it was with total confidence that his college concluded its nomination on his behalf with these words:

'(Abhijith) is a young man of integrity and purpose who, guided by a strong foundation of family and faith, will continue to have a significant impact on those around him well into the future.'



Kate-Marie Boylan-Ascione

Cairns State High School

Social Justice Leader

Kate-Marie's involvement in school life has been rich and diverse.

She has facilitated a variety of activities and programs to foster student welfare, such as her initiatives to raise awareness of the importance of good mental health.

Kate-Marie has also used her talents as a gifted musician to bring joy to others beyond the school, as exemplified by her performances at the Salvation Army's Christmas Day lunches.

Not content that her commitment be to school and local causes, Kate-Marie has extended her reach to travel to East Timor to provide assistance.

This young woman with an incredible level of selflessness combines this marvellous attribute with high personal standards.

Consequently, Kate-Marie has provided an amazing example of citizenship for her fellow students at Cairns State High School to emulate.

2016 Commemorative Plaque Winners

Student Profiles



Vanessa Chuah
Somerset College, Mudgeeraba

Student Leader

Vanessa's high level of social consciousness is reflected in the many and diverse causes that she supports.

On the Gold Coast, she has worked with two charities that seek to assist the homeless. In one case, she took it upon herself to undertake a major fundraiser, selling over 150 books, the profit from which provided a major boost to the organisation.

She has also been an active participant in the Tzi Chi Foundation's food aid project in the Ipswich area. When not busy with these pursuits,

Vanessa gives her time generously to the Mudgee Kid Program where she assists teachers in looking after the younger students at the Mudgeeraba Special School.

We congratulate this remarkable young woman for her dedication to the betterment of others and are delighted that, today, she is a recipient of the Secondary Schools Citizenship Award.



Katelyn Dickinson
Mareeba State High School

School Captain

Katelyn uses her talents to enrich the lives of fellow students as well as members of the Mareeba community.

For example, Katelyn not only excels at swimming but also volunteers to coach and encourage junior members of her swim club.

Every weekend, in netball season, she offers her services as an umpire of junior matches. As Band Captain at Mareeba High, she has taken the band into the local area to the extent that it is known as the unofficial Mareeba Community Band.

Katelyn is an organised, disciplined and considerate school leader.

She has set the agenda for the social service activities and, at all times, led by example. In the words of her school, 'all of this is achieved by a girl who never seeks glory, but is always quietly competent'.

2016 Commemorative Plaque Winners

Student Profiles



Photo left - Jessica was unable to attend the Presentation as she was overseas taking part in a cultural experience visit to Atherton High's partner school in Kyoto, Japan. Ms Anne Honan, Jessica's mother received the award on Jessica's behalf.

Photo right - Jessica at home in school uniform with her award ⇒



Praveen Gurusinghe

Kirwan State High School

School Vice Captain

In so many ways, Praveen embodies the concept of 'servant leader'.

Through his volunteer work with the St John Ambulance and his ongoing assistance at the Good Shepherd Nursing Home, he has provided the ideal exemplar to fellow students with respect to the value of community engagement. Importantly,

Praveen also demonstrated the capacity to respond positively to challenging and tragic circumstances.

This was evidenced by his leadership of a fund-raising drive for a cure for cancer following the tragic death of his school principal from this disease.

Then, there were also his efforts to raise support for the 21,000 Sri Lankans displaced by a recent landslide in that country.

It is no surprise, therefore, that his school described him as 'an inspirational young Australian'.

Jessica Honan

Atherton State High School

School Captain

One of the hallmarks of Jessica's year as the student leader of her school has been her active membership of school committees that are designed to promote the social and cultural development of the student body.

She has lead a number of fund-raising efforts including the Fiji Cyclone Appeal, the provision of prosthetic limbs for war victims in South East Asia and the making of sleeping mats for the homeless. In the wider community,

Jessica has initiated a project to build a lasting monument to commemorate the sacrifice of veterans from the Atherton Tablelands who served in all wars.

Currently, the regional council is working with Jessica to complete this project.

We congratulate Jessica on receiving one of the twelve Secondary Schools Citizenship Awards for 2016.

2016 Commemorative Plaque Winners

Student Profiles



Mohammad Javir

Woodridge State High School

Here is a young man who has consistently worked hard to gain success.

As a result of his high level of application, Mohammad has matured into a responsible, inspirational senior at Woodridge State High School.

He tutors students at the homework club, coaches football at the local primary school and leads youth camps as a group facilitator.

Mohammad has also become very involved with Multicultural Youth Queensland in order to encourage students to be active citizens in their communities.

At the school's Harmony Day ceremony this year, Mohammed delivered an outstanding keynote address where, in front of special guests such as David Morrison, the 2016 Australian of the Year, he concluded with these remarks:

(In Australia) diversity is our strength and on Harmony Day all the different backgrounds and cultures come together. We celebrate our differences. We celebrate our unity.



Keshav Kumar

St Joseph's Nudgee College

College Prefect

As a migrant, Keshav recognises his capacity as a citizen in shaping tomorrow's society.

Consequently, Keshav has engaged with primary school students from vulnerable backgrounds through sports programs.

On a weekly basis, he also serves food to Brisbane's inner city homeless.

Among the College community, Keshav has become an ambassador for social justice, raising funds for emergency appeals. I

In late 2014, he was selected for the Philippines Social Justice Immersion – a two week experience where he worked in poverty-schools and communities in Manila.

Upon his return Keshav took responsibility for the school's Edmund Rice advocacy and has led its 'Drum Out Poverty' campaign.

The school's submission stated that Keshav is 'an extremely dedicated student; a compassionate and generous citizen; a dedicated and reliable volunteer; a great leader and a thorough gentleman'.

2016 Commemorative Plaque Winners

Student Profiles



Photo above _ Asha Mortel was unable to be at the Presentation to receive her award as she was in Borneo presenting her work at the South East Asia Global Issues Network Conference and then at the Green School in Bali. Mr Paul Bancroft OAM, Principal, Cleveland District State High School, received the award on Asha's behalf.

Photo below – Geoff Cowles OAM, Secretary, OAA Queensland re-presented the award to Asha personally at the Cleveland District State High School's Presentation Night held on 25 October 2016



Asha Mortel

Cleveland District State High School

School Captain

When reading the nomination for Asha, certain words stand out.

They are – caring, passionate and empowering.

Asha's passion is evident by her untiring efforts with the school's Deforest Action Committee – a group dedicated to supporting environmental problems facing the people and wildlife of Borneo.

In this field, she has not only led fund-raising efforts, she has travelled to that country to work in the field.

As a result of the endeavours of the group that she has led, ground will be broken this month for a new high school in Tembak village, Borneo.

It has been her enthusiasm and commitment that has led to the empowerment of fellow students. They have joined in her passion to care for other people and their environments. A remarkable example of a global citizen, Asha Mortel.

Olivia Rickert

SCOTS PGC College, qARWICK

College Prefect and Clan Captain

There is a generosity of spirit to Olivia.

She goes out of her way to enrich the lives of others whether this is giving up free time to play with the little children at lunchtimes, umpire netball each weekend or happily offering to be the accompanist for the school's many vocal activities.

Beyond the school, she has led a number of community-based activities including the Community Disaster Relief Van – a program she initiated to assist drought-stricken farmers across Queensland.

In less than two weeks, she had raised not only substantial funds but also 50 boxes of non-perishable goods – foodstuffs which reached desperate farming families just in time for Christmas.

US President Barack Obama has said, 'If you go out and make good things happen, you fill the world with hope'.

Olivia Rickert is the living proof of this!

2016 Commemorative Plaque Winners

Student Profiles



Tiana Sheehy
Sunshine Coast Grammar School

Senior Prefect

For the past five years, Tiana has been a member of Grammar Helping Hands – a group whose role it is to support those in need, including families dealing with cancer.

Much of her spare time is taken up with such charitable works.

For example, she regularly bakes for the ‘tea and raffle afternoons’ at a local retirement village.

At Christmas time, she makes Gingerbread houses for the Soup Kitchen children and she is a regular helper at the Soup Kitchen.

As the School’s Interact Chair, Tiana has encouraged her peers to engage in a number of fund-raising efforts.

In this regard, her leadership in gathering support of the victims of the Bundaberg floods was outstanding.

All of this is achieved because Tiana possesses a strong moral compass, a passionate nature and an ease in extending help to others.



Jack Sims
Brisbane Boys’ College
College Prefect

Through his tireless efforts and his example, Jack has worked with his peers in an array of ventures to assist the needy. T

his included coordinating the efforts for Enterprise Charity and raising sufficient funds to sponsor the construction of five water wells and pumps in Malawian villages.

Jack has also taken it upon himself to volunteer for service overseas.

To enable this to occur, he has self-funded his involvement by working during his summer vacations.

The result has been that he has participated in a house construction program for the very poor in Cambodia as well as working with children in the slum areas of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

At Brisbane Boys’ College, Jack is widely acknowledged for his generosity towards others and his willingness to go the second mile.

Jack Sims is truly a ‘Gentleman of Honour’.

PHOTO GALLERY – EXTRA



The eleven students selected to receive their Certificates of Community Service at the Presentation from Professor Tony Webber AM, Immediate Past Chairman, OAA Qld – **Top row - from L to R** – Jessie McRae (*All Saints Anglican School*); Professor Tony Webber AM; Lauren McCarthy (*All Saints Anglican School*); Jack Hill (*Ferny Grove State High School*); **Middle row – L-R** Sanha Ramsing (*St Peters Lutheran College*); Samantha Mauinatu (*Glenala State High School*); Ailish Hallinan (*Cannon Hill Anglican College*); Nicole Carter (*Mount Gravatt State High School*); Kate Brown (*Caboolture State High School*); Zuberi Salim (*Sunnybank State High School*); **Front Row – kneeling L-R** – Bailey Vickery (*Hills International College*); Jade Wilson (*Centenary State High School*) .



The members of the Cannon Hill Anglican College's Ebony Ensemble providing musical accompaniment at the Presentation

*This highlights package has been produced by
Geoff Cowles OAM
Queensland Branch Secretary and Awards
Coordinator -September 2016*



Jack Sims (*Brisbane Boys' College*) at an "encore" presentation of his Award by Geoff Cowles OAM, Secretary, OAAQ, at the College's Farewell Assembly on 19 October 2016 in front of his fellow students and teachers