

Media Release

The Hon Ben Carroll MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Education
Minister for Medical Research



Saturday, 18 November 2023

AWARDS RECOGNISE OUTSTANDING SPECIALIST SCHOOLS

The outstanding achievements of those working with children and young people with disability have been celebrated at the Principals' Association of Specialist Schools Awards, held at Marvel Stadium last night.

Minister for Education Ben Carroll congratulated the 10 category winners and 30 nominees for their hard work and dedication supporting the education of students with disability.

Peter Gibson was presented with the Outstanding Volunteer Award for his work at Kangaroo Flat's Bendigo Special Developmental School.

Glenallen School in Glen Waverley was awarded the Outstanding Team Award for implementing the Victorian Pathways Certificate supporting students and their families to make informed decisions after they finish school.

Swan Hill Specialist School's Natalie Goudie-Troy won the Outstanding Teacher Award for developing an art program that uses literacy and Indigenous perspectives to engage students, and implementing a 'Home to School' transition program and playgroup.

Libby Gatgens from Nelson Park School in Bell Park took out the Outstanding Principal Award for her visionary leadership which increased community support and participation in educational initiatives and events, facilitating professional development opportunities for staff, and mentorship to fellow principals.

Awards were also announced in six other categories: Outstanding Education Support Award, Outstanding Graduate Award, Outstanding Specialist Award, Outstanding Allied Health Member Award, Outstanding Middle Leader Award, and Outstanding Assistant Principal Award.

Established in 2012, the PASS Awards celebrate exceptional staff expertise in specialist schools, with finalists nominated by peers and colleagues, and winners each receiving \$500 towards professional development.

The Allan Labor Government is investing nearly \$1.6 billion in Disability Inclusion to better respond to the needs of students with disability, ensuring they can participate and achieve their full potential at school and beyond.

This year, another \$235 million is giving more students with disability the support they deserve, with a focus on students in specialist schools – as well as supporting parents and carers of children with disability with things like out-of-school-hours care and room for specialist medical appointments within special schools.

To find out more about the PASS Awards, visit passvic.org.au

Quotes attributable to Minister for Education Ben Carroll

"Every Victorian child deserves the best education – and we're so proud to support our special schools, who deliver the support and education to make sure each student can achieve their goals."

"I congratulate all the PASS Awards winners and nominees for their outstanding efforts in supporting the education of students with disability. These schools are the backbone of their communities and continue to transform many lives."

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PASS Awards Winners 2023

Outstanding Education Support Award

Azemine Sheremataj, Warringa Park School, Hoppers Crossing

Outstanding Graduate Award

Alex Eastburn, Kalianna School, North Bendigo

Outstanding Volunteer Award

Peter Gibson, Bendigo Special Developmental School, Kangaroo Flat

Outstanding Specialist Award

Jenny Annett, Bendigo Special Developmental School, Kangaroo Flat

Outstanding Allied Health Member Award

Samsam Hersi, Waratah Special Developmental School, Bellfield

Outstanding Team Award

Annmaree Lalor, Chika Hogan, Daniel DeGraaf, Deb Morant, Gill Greenwood, Gillian Bryan, Robyn Miller, Stef Young and Timothy Ruff, Glenallen School, Glen Waverley

Outstanding Teacher Award

Natalie Goudie-Troy, Swan Hill Specialist School

Outstanding Middle Leader Award

Megan Ogle-Mannering, Waratah Special Developmental School

Outstanding Assistant Principal Award

Caitriona Toland, Warringa Park School, Werribee South

Outstanding Principal Award

Libby Gatgens, Nelson Park School, Bell Park