

**Friday 10 March 2017**

## **Community approach to education wins national teaching award**

A teacher who believes that the ideal model of education is based on the old African proverb that 'it takes a village to raise a child' will receive a national award at the ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards (ASG NEiTA) today at a ceremony in Melbourne.

Pamela Lane from Huonville High School is the only Tasmanian recipient and will join 12 other outstanding educators from across Australia in receiving the top awards.

Selected from more than 1350 nominations in 2016, the 13 national award recipients will be honoured for their inspiring and innovative contribution to teaching.

Ms Lane is the assistant principal and was nominated by the school's Parents and Friend's Association for her 'outstanding commitment to education'. She has been described as the face of the school in the local community and will receive an ASG NEiTA Leadership and Development Award.

Ms Lane has actively built connections with local businesses, clubs and organisations linking students with opportunities outside of school walls helping them to achieve success through individual work placements, mentoring programs, school based apprenticeships and collaborative projects.

She says having access to as many resources, environments and skills as possible is essential to providing engaging, meaningful and innovative learning opportunities for all of the students.

"Securing the support of all community stakeholders, including parents, in a child's education is a critical component of my philosophy as an educator.

Given the demand for trained hospitality staff in the local area I worked with local café and restaurant owners to develop the *Coffee for a Cause* program. It is an example of how to work strategically to engage local businesses to support learning and engagement."

The school's flagship program is a fully operational social enterprise where students are taught industry standard barista skills and money from coffee sales is used to support humanitarian projects around the world.

ASG NEiTA Chairman Allen Blewitt says Ms Lane is a wonderful ambassador for the teaching profession who goes the extra mile to support students' broader learning and future career prospects.



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"Ms Lane has been instrumental in developing authentic learning opportunities where students receive hands-on and government recognised vocational training skills. These school-business partnerships have also equipped students with vital communication skills, knowledge of how a service industry operates, meeting deadlines and problem solving. Their confidence grows and their engagement with other curriculum areas often increases. Businesses also reap the rewards on their triple bottom line, recognised as being good corporate citizens who care about their local community."

Parents, grandparents, secondary student councils, school boards, councils, parent associations, committees of management and community organisations throughout Australia nominated these inspirational recipients.

Chief Executive Officer of ASG NEiTA, John Velegrinis says the ASG NEiTA recipients have all been recognised by their local communities for making a genuine difference to education and for supporting the educational aspirations families have for their children.

"I congratulate Ms Lane along with the other ASG NEiTA recipients. These outstanding teachers and educators have earned the respect of their communities through their hard work, building trusting relationships and ensuring their love for education gets passed on to their students, creating a culture of lifelong learning.

Teachers have an enormous responsibility and our ASG NEiTA recipients take on this responsibility with humility, striving to always be accountable for their actions, working beyond what is expected of them and expecting nothing in return. Their joy comes from the challenge of ensuring their students flourish academically and socially, giving students choices and offering holistic solutions. This is why ASG NEiTA has thrived for the last 22 years. As national ASG NEiTA recipients, the Australian community says thank you and applaud you for your contribution to teaching the next generation of young Australians.

The national awards are divided into four categories: leadership and development, innovation, community engagement and introducing, early career teacher. For more information on the 13 national awardees, including profiles go to: <http://www.asg.com.au/neita>

Eleven national award recipients will receive \$5000 professional development grants with one teacher getting the incredible opportunity to go to Space Camp in the U.S. One teacher is also awarded a \$2000 Disability Inclusion Grant.

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**Editor's notes:**

*The Australian Scholarships Group (ASG) is a member owned organisation, helping to create educational opportunities for children. ASG has been helping families and their children for more than 40 years. During this time, more than 530,000 children have been enrolled with ASG and more than \$2.5 billion in education benefits and scholarship payments returned to members.*

*The ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEiTA) started in 1994 in Australia and 1996 in New Zealand. Since inception, more than 34,000 teachers have been nominated by the community in the two countries, with more than 1050 teachers receiving about \$182,000 in professional development grants, prizes and endowments.*

For more information visit: [www.asg.com.au](http://www.asg.com.au)



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