

Strictly embargoed until 12 September 2016, midnight

Imaginative Hamilton educator honoured with national teaching award

A Hamilton primary school teacher who believes in the power of the imagination will receive a national award at the ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards (ASG NEiTA) on September 13 at an official ceremony hosted by Hon Hekia Parata MP, Minister of Education, in Wellington's Parliament Buildings.

Suzanne Ings teaches at Ngutunui Enviro School joins five other outstanding educators from across New Zealand to receive her award. Selected from more than 200 nominations, the six national ASG NEiTA recipients will be honoured for their inspiring and innovative contribution to teaching.

Suzanne's teaching philosophy is centred on the power of self belief and in encouraging and acknowledging student excellence. ASG NEiTA Chairman Allen Blewitt says Suzanne Ings is creating inspirational and lifelong learning opportunities.

In her classroom, imagination and the realms of possibility come alive, and together with her students they created The Room One University. Students who display signs of personal excellence are metaphorically sent straight on the bus to university and strive for this achievement.

"Young children want to be rewarded and recognised for their great behaviours, actions and achievement in class. While Suzanne's students understand the university bus is just a story, the motivational effect it can have is immense. They believe in themselves and know they are capable of great learning, increasing the trust they have in their teacher, who will provide personally achievable goals and opportunities.

Suzanne has also made a real impact by encouraging her students to engage with the community through a pumpkin growing initiative. This hands-on experience has enabled her students to explore their social conscience through the gift of giving to others who are needy, working together, supporting each other and understanding their place in the community," said Mr Blewitt.

Parents, grandparents, secondary student councils, school boards, councils, parent associations, committees of management and community organisations throughout New Zealand nominated these six, inspiring national recipients.

Chief Executive Officer of ASG NEiTA, John Velegrinis says the ASG NEiTA recipients represent quality teachers who through their dedication and passion for education, motivate, encourage and inspire an appetite for lifelong learning in their students.

"I congratulate Suzanne Ings along with the other ASG NEiTA recipients. Parents have high aspirations for their children's educational successes and the six national recipients have a fundamental and collaborative role in helping young people find their true passions, nurturing their strengths and ensuring they enjoy their learning experiences. This is the foundation on which young people will continue to embrace their education into adulthood as they potentially change careers or retrain throughout their lives, adapting to changing markets and demands for specific skills and knowledge.



Media Release

It is in this spirit that we say education is one of the most critical investments that parents, families and communities make and a pillar of nation building. So it is crucial that we recognise and thank our ASG NEiTA recipients who are at the heart of education and help turn dreams and aspirations into a successful and rewarding future. They are education heroes in their own right and the impact they have in supporting children's education has also been felt in their local communities, engaging with parents from all cultural backgrounds, knocking on the doors of charity organisations and community groups and opening their classroom doors through new lenses," said Mr Velegrinis.

ASG NEiTA has been embraced by communities throughout New Zealand for the last 20 years, marking a significant milestone in recognising the achievement and wonderful contribution of early learning educators, centre directors, principals and teachers.

The six national recipients will each receive \$5000 professional development grants. For more information and to view their ASG NEiTA profiles go to: www.asg.co.nz/neita

For more information, images or to arrange interviews please contact:

Sarah Thornton
Account Manager, hPR
sarah.thornton@prcomms.com
021 753744

Editors 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 30,000 teachers have been nominated by the community in the two countries, with more than 1000 teachers receiving almost \$750,000 in professional development grants, prizes and endowments.

For more information visit: www.asg.co.nz

