

Media Release

Tuesday 31 October, 2017

Hands-on Hawke's Bay educator receives award

One outstanding teacher from Hawke's Bay who has connected with her school community has been honoured with an ASG National Excellence in Teaching Award (ASG NEiTA).

Karen Barkle from Ongaonga School is one of 18 regional recipients to be awarded, selected from almost 200 community nominations throughout New Zealand.

Now in its 21st year, ASG NEiTA gives parents, grandparents, school boards and councils and committees of management the opportunity to formally thank and recognise outstanding and dedicated teachers, who are passionate about driving a world class education system and encouraging students to reach their full potential.

Ms Barkle is the deputy principal and is involved in all aspects of Ongaonga School, including being a classroom teacher. She came to teaching after spending many years in the corporate environment and discovered that she enjoyed connecting and building relationships with children. She also has a leadership role in IT and has been instrumental in up-skilling staff and students to ensure they keep up with digital technologies.

ASG NEiTA Chief Executive Officer, John Velegrinis says educators like Ms Barkle recognise that 'it takes a village to raise a child,' which is testament to their dedication and the impact they have on the lives of those they serve in local communities.

"In many respects, teaching is about giving, not only to children and students but to their families and the community networks around them. Some of the ASG NEiTA recipients come from very small towns and do represent the heartbeat of these communities.

"These teachers have an enormous responsibility in shaping and guiding these young people as well as supporting the educational aspirations families have for their children. Their teaching stretches beyond the core curriculum and standardised testing, and they also help children develop the social skills they need to develop into successful adults. Ensuring children have a well-rounded education is something our ASG NEiTA recipients are absolutely passionate about. This passion is welcomed by families as they want teachers to play a greater role in developing their children's life skills, which was one of the key findings in the latest [ASG Parents Report Card](#)."

The awards are classed into early childhood, primary and secondary categories.



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ASG NEiTA chairman, Allen Blewitt says the awards highlight a long history of positive relationships being built between teachers and their communities.

“These teachers are also mentors and the influence they have on young people is remarkable as they learn to appreciate the value of lifelong learning as they navigate their life journeys. So, ASG NEiTA is one of the only channels where the community gets to express their sincere gratitude through nominating an inspirational teacher, educator, principal or centre director.”

Auckland had seven ASG NEiTA recipients, followed by five in Christchurch and one each for Hawkes Bay, Palmerston North, Rotorua, Timaru and Maungaturoto.

Hawke's Bay			
Teacher	School	Postcode	Category
Karen Barkle	Ongaonga school	4278	Primary

After further assessment, six national NEiTA recipients will be selected from the 18 regional recipients. The national award recipients will be announced in February 2018.

ENDS.

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Editor's notes:

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 (ASG 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.

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

