

Embargoed: Until 6am Friday 16 March 2018

Putting himself on the line earns Music Director national teaching award

A trumpet playing music teacher who believes in 'practicing what you preach' will receive an ASG National Excellence in Teaching Award (ASG NEiTA) on March 16 at a presentation ceremony in Melbourne.

"I'm inspired when I'm performing with world-class musicians and conductors in the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. I really believe as teachers, it is our job to inspire everyone around us, by doing, by putting ourselves on the line. So for me, it's important that students see me out in the community performing at the highest level. It's about setting high standards and showing students what's possible."

Glenn Schultz, Director of Music and Learning Area Leader for Arts at Taroona High School in Hobart will join 11 other outstanding educators from across Australia in receiving the top awards. Glenn will also receive the inaugural, ASG NEiTA Founders' Award for Leadership.

Selected from around 1450 nominations in 2017, the 12 national award recipients will be honoured for their inspiring and innovative contribution to teaching. Now in its 23rd year, the ASG NEiTA awards have contributed more than \$1 million in professional development grants to outstanding teachers in Australia and New Zealand.

Affectionately known as 'Schultz' by his school community, he was nominated by a parent for his role in developing and maintaining programs that foster musical excellence.

"Music has become a central part of high school life for many students and it's become cool to be extra-ordinary because of Glenn's music programs. He's involved in developing musical skills, leadership, and the pursuit of excellence in hundreds of children. His approach with young people fosters enormous respect from his students, as well as a commitment to music that is quite extraordinary. He is incredibly well liked by students, even when he demands concentration, practise and a commitment to the programs he runs.

"Schultz is a teacher who does not strive for recognition but works by a desire to inspire and encourage a generation of musicians, or simply any student, to achieve their best and engage within school life completely."

Glenn who has been teaching for 21 years says he's constantly looking for innovative ways to enhance students' engagement in music.

More than 750 students at Taroona High School are enrolled in an elective music program, making up 75 percent of the school's population.

"The success of music is publicly exemplified by the consistent success of the school's many bands and ensembles at local Eisteddfods and competitions, the successful tours they participate in interstate and internationally and the invitations our musical ensembles receive to perform.

"Music is the beating heart of the school and is uniting students, parents, teachers and the wider community. This has also resulted in positive learning outcomes, with music developing the whole student, cognitively, emotionally, socially and physically. Many of our students go on to study at conservatoriums and work in the music profession as performers and teachers."

Other initiatives Glenn has established include: introducing an Instrument Hire Program; setting up an independent association, 'The Island Brass Academy' to cater for talented and gifted students; and is the musical director of the Theatre Summer School. The Summer school provides students with extension opportunities to further develop their passion in a real-world environment.

The national recipients are selected by a panel of seven judges comprising Director of Early Learning, Ruyton Grammar School, Sarah Denholm; Director of Collegiate Institute, Julie Rimes; Zig Zag Public School and previous ASG NEiTA national recipient, Tiffany Sirisavath; Principal, Saddleworth Primary School and previous ASG NEiTA national recipient, Sheree Mader; Director of Leadership, The Southport School and 2016 ASG NEiTA national recipient, Keith Fennell; Emmanuel Christian School, previous ASG NEiTA national recipient and Space Camp leader, Drew Roberts and ASG NEiTA Chairman Allen Blewitt.

The selection process is rigorous, including a comprehensive nomination outline, a written paper and video presentation by the nominated teacher.

Parents, grandparents, secondary student councils, school boards, councils, parent associations, committees of management and community organisations throughout Australia nominated the 12 deserving and inspirational recipients.

ASG NEiTA Chairman Allen Blewitt says the national recipients have made their mark in local communities throughout Australia.

"It's so wonderful to see teachers being singled out by members of the community for their personal contribution to education. It's in local townships, villages and indeed larger, city centres where our ASG NEiTA recipients can be the heartbeat of these communities. For every student they teach, they could be impacting multiple lives as they establish relationships with parents, grandparents and connect the home and school life, creating an eco-system of continued and shared learning and support networks.

"The thread that ties our 12 ASG NEiTA recipients and brings communities together are their common values and educational aspirations. Motivating students to push themselves, creating inclusive spaces, identifying specific developmental and communication needs,

and letting students take charge of their learning are the key drivers behind teaching strategies and innovative approaches happening every day in schools.

"I thank our ASG NEiTA recipients for their passion and persistence in teaching today's young people and for the communities who nominated them, in recognising their outstanding and inspirational qualities."

ASG CEO Tim Mitchell-Adams says the ASG NEiTA recipients are passing on one of the most valuable gifts a young person can receive.

"I congratulate the ASG NEiTA recipients for their significant and personal contribution in achieving better education outcomes for Australian school children. Teachers have an enormous responsibility and right from early childhood education, our ASG NEiTA recipients are putting the building blocks together so that young people are equipped to become confident and competent lifelong learners.

"As students navigate their educational and life journey, our ASG NEiTA recipients are going on a journey of their own. A journey of excitement and wonder as they see their students achieve, through taking risks, accepting challenges and breaking down barriers. Some of these teachers have seen students blossom on the world stage and have careers they love. Our ASG NEiTA recipients are a huge part of these success stories, encouraging, mentoring and leading students to map out their future and reach their full potential, regardless of what that looks like. This is why ASG NEiTA has thrived for the last 21 years. The community thanks and applauds you for the countless hours and dedication you put into teaching their children."

The 12 national recipients will each receive \$5000 professional development grants. For more information and to view their ASG NEiTA profiles go to: www.asg.com.au/neita

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

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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 540,000 children have been enrolled with ASG and more than \$2.8 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 35,500 teachers have been nominated by the community in the two countries. More than 1000 teachers have received \$1,000,000 in professional development grants, prizes and endowments.

For more information visit: www.asg.com.au