

## 26 students receive Governor of SA Commendation awards

**Tuesday 17 December 2019**

**Community champions, entrepreneurs, and students who have overcome adversity are among the 26 recipients of the 2019 Governor of South Australia Commendation Excellence Awards.**

The Governor of South Australia Commendation recognises excellence in Year 12 SACE subjects, and in the qualities young people need for community life, citizenship, and work.

Among the Commendation recipients are five students from country South Australia, and two Aboriginal students.

The students will receive their awards at an official ceremony at Government House on Tuesday 4 February 2020.

SACE Board Chief Executive Professor Martin Westwell today congratulated each of the commendation recipients.

“The Governor of South Australia Commendation Excellence Awards celebrate academic excellence, and importantly how students have used their personal capabilities to make a big difference to their local communities,” Professor Westwell said.

“The SACE enables students to show the world who they are as individuals and develop the personal capabilities and skills they need to be successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and these awards are a testament to that.”

A panel comprising the Governor, His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, and representatives from the school, vocational education and training, and business sectors determine which students receive the Governor’s Commendation.

Governor of South Australia Commendations include awards to the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander student with the best overall performance in the SACE, and the student with intellectual disabilities who demonstrated outstanding achievement through SACE modified subjects.

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## **Governor of South Australia Commendation 2019 recipients**

### **Lucy Mauviel, 17, of Seymour College**

Lucy achieved six Merits in Biology, Chemistry, English, Mathematical Methods, Specialist Mathematics, and the Research Project.

### **Charlotte Moseley, 17, Pulteney Grammar School**

Charlotte achieved six Merits in Chemistry, English Literary Studies, German (continuers), Music Performance – Ensemble, Modern History, and the Research Project.

### **Charlotte Zhang, 17, of Pembroke School**

Charlotte achieved six Merits in Biology, Chinese (continuers), Solo Performance, Mathematical Methods, Specialist Mathematics, and the Research Project

### **Syme Aftab, 16, of Glenunga International High School**

Syme achieved five Merits in Biology, Chemistry, English, Integrated Learning, and the Research Project.

### **Jake Bastian, 18, of Scotch College**

Jake achieved five Merits in Biology, Chemistry, English, Nutrition, and the Research Project

### **Hannah Brown, 18, of St Peter's Girls' School**

Hannah achieved Merits in Biology, Solo Performance, General Mathematics and Psychology.

Hannah was Deputy Head Prefect who interviewed and conducted a question and answer session with former Governor General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, and Lady Cosgrove, during their visit to the school. She participated in the school's trip to Cambodia, where she worked with children in orphanages. She also fundraised for the Cancer Council, Legacy, and the Smith Family. She has been a long-standing volunteer at the Mary Magdalene Centre.

### **Brodie Eckert, 18, of Westminster School**

Brodie achieved Merits in Mathematical Methods and Outdoor Education.

Brodie was the school captain who led a range of school events and support programs including peer mentoring. He organised a whole of school event to raise awareness of Motor Neurone Disease and to fundraise for research into the area. He balanced his leadership duties with representing the school's soccer, volleyball and running teams.

### **Mackenzie Francis-Brown, 18, of Walford Anglican School for Girls**

Mackenzie has been an outstanding role model throughout her schooling. From 2005 to 2018, Mackenzie has fundraised annually for Cancer Council SA, raising over \$12,000 through its Biggest Morning Tea program and was made a Cancer Council Youth Ambassador. The school's Vice Captain, Mackenzie also led a six week campaign to raise awareness and resources for Kickstart for Kids. This year, Mackenzie was selected for the South Australian Women's Pathway Rowing Team.

### **Chloe Futcher, 18, of Tenison Woods College**

Chloe achieved Merits in Biology, English and Research Project B.

Chloe mentored younger students as part of the Learning Assistance Program by listening to them read and helping them with their homework. For the past two years, Chloe was an after-school tutor for Year 11 students to help them with their mathematics and science subjects. Chloe was the

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school's wellbeing leader and ran school charity events including Harmony Day, and raising awareness of Motor Neurone Disease.

### **Lachlan Gwynne, 18, of St Michael's College**

Lachlan achieved Merits in Mathematical Methods and Physics.

Lachlan overcame a serious car racing accident in April, 2019, after his car rolled during a speedway race in Mildura. The school leader successfully kept up with his school work as he recovered from severe back and ankle injuries. Lachlan was a positive role model to Year 7 students, many who are refugees from Afghanistan and northern Africa.

### **Ben Heard, 18, of King's Baptist Grammar School**

Ben achieved Merits in Mathematical Methods and Specialist Mathematics

Ben played a lead fundraising role for the Year 12 charity ball in aid of United Way SA, coordinating a range of events including a 24 hour ping-pong-athon and a social media campaign that raised \$1100. An excellent mathematician, Ben prepared for his Stage 2 Mathematics exams in Year 11 by collecting over 100 past exams from Western Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, and many schools in South Australia. He also created textbook-like topic summaries that his Mathematics teachers use as resources to supplement revision programs for current students.

### **Emily Jamieson, 18, of Seymour College**

Emily achieved Merits in Biology and English Literary Studies.

Emily was the Head Girl who has been a force for positive empowerment of young women through her addresses both at school and in the community. A keen debator, Emily has enjoyed success at the highest level of the South Australian Debating Association's school competition, and also finished fourth in the national RACI Titration Competition, which is aimed at students who enjoy Chemistry.

### **Jack Kelton, 18, of Sacred Heart College**

Jack was Junior Captain of the Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club who mentored younger members and gained a host of qualifications. Jack excelled in mathematics and helped other students at the college. Jack and two of his friends set up a profitable small business, designing and manufacturing products on his 3D printer. He plays AFL and also represented South Australia in American Football. He volunteers with his grandparents at Vinnies.

### **Huy Le Tran, 18, of Salisbury High School**

Huy achieved a Merit in Research Project B.

Huy is a talented mathematician who represented his school at the UniSA Math Experience Program and was part of the school's winning Math Olympic team. Huy has proactively undertaken work placement opportunities to help him with his career goal of becoming a General Practitioner. This included work in the biology labs at the University of Adelaide, and the Playford Trust STEM Internship at the Basil Hetzel institute, led by Dr Kristin Carson.

### **Dante McDonald, 18, of Eynesbury Senior College**

Dante achieved Merits in English Literary Studies and Australian and International Politics.

A confident public speaker, Dante has been a member of the YMCA's SA Youth Parliament, where he worked with 16-25 year-olds to develop a bill related to accessibility in education. He also participated in a high-level parliamentary debate on a wide range of bills covering areas such as sex education, to national parks and drug safety. Dante has volunteered for The Line, a primary prevention behaviour

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change campaign for young people aged 12 to 20 years that encourages young people to develop healthy and equal relationships, and to reject violence.

### **Riya Menon, 17, of Norwood Morialta High School**

Riya achieved Merits in Business and Enterprise, English, and Research Project B.

Riya is an adept public speaker who has taken part in mock trials, addressing school assemblies, governing council meetings, Year 12 induction programs and sports day presentations. She also tutored two Year 8 students who live interstate via an online weekly classroom. The School Captain, Riya was an active leader and contributor to the success of Sports Days, Wear It Purple Days, R-U-O-K days, Culture Days and International assemblies. She is an active member of the Australian Air Force Cadets, and volunteers at the RSPCA.

### **Sophie Meynell, 18, of Cardijn College**

Sophie was College Captain who has the ability to communicate, inspire, and engage with her peers. She took part in a range of voluntary initiatives, which included being a member of the Young Christian Students Group, which aims to help the poor and needy within her local community. Sophie was the only female member in her F1 in Schools team, which won state and national titles, and she is a passionate advocate for STEM. She led the local soup kitchen, as well as supporting Fred's Van. Outside of school, Sophie is a member of Surf Life Saving at the Moana SLSC, and a member of Hackham Scouts.

### **Victoria Moularadellis, 17, of Wilderness School**

Victoria achieved Merits in Economics, Legal Studies, and Physical Education.

Victoria is an entrepreneur who has developed two businesses – a handmade jewellery and fashion business in Year 10, and the Mo Sister Wine Label in 2019, which could be exported to 21 states in the USA in 2020. She was the winner of the Australian Olympic Change Maker award, which recognises students who demonstrate the Olympic spirit through leadership and driving positive change in their communities.

### **Maya Murali, 18, of St Aloysius College**

Maya achieved Merits in Biology and English.

Maya instigated a sponsorship process across the 2019 Year 12 cohort to sponsor a child's education at the School of St Jude in Tanzania. She shared information about schooling in Australia and our culture via regular videos of school life as well as sending gifts of Australian goods. Maya was the school's SRC President and an invaluable leader to the school's SHE Leads High Program, which encourages female leadership among the SRC. Maya also had a lead role in this year's whole school musical.

### **Archer Newton, 18, of Rostrevor College**

Archer achieved Merits in English, Psychology, Physics and Research Project B.

Entrepreneur Archer set-up three concurrent online businesses connected with the children's game Minecraft, which generated sufficient income to pay for school and buy IT equipment worth \$6000. He works with the intellectually disabled as a volunteer at Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre, and as a young adult mentor at Rotary Morialta. An outstanding musician, Archer was the lead guitarist in the school senior rock band and senior ensemble, and played at licensed premises from year 8 to 12 outside of school.

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### **Elijah Smith, 18, of Kapunda High School**

Elijah achieved a Merit in Society and Culture.

Elijah was an outstanding student who won numerous academic awards, including the Minister for Education's Children's Week Award for his outstanding contribution across the South Australian community. Elijah balanced his studies with helping to care for his father, who suffered a stroke in Year 9, and working in retail to supplement the family income. Elijah has aspirations to be involved in politics and has been a member of the Youth Parliament, state coordinator at the SA Schools Constitutional Convention, and marshalled at the Global Strike for Climate.

### **Caitlin Stallan, 18, of Westminster School**

Caitlin achieved a Merit in Workplace Practices.

Caitlin was elected as a school leader by both staff and students, and provided leadership and mentoring to younger students through Year 9 and 10 camps. She has represented the school in athletics events where she has considerable success, has been a member of the Ediken Relay Team and been fully involved in school athletics and swimming carnivals. Caitlin was accepted into the Karnkanthi Aboriginal Education Program at the University of Adelaide and will be a part of the Wilto Yurlo Program when she begins her university studies.

### **Caitlin Stockman, 17, of Burra Community School**

Caitlin has played an active leadership role in her school and wider community. She is an accomplished Netball umpire and a coach for 5-8 year-olds, has volunteered at local events such as the Burra Show, and been a judge and convenor of the community's photography competition. For her Research Project, Caitlin investigated claims about how learning a second language can greatly benefit many aspects of people's lives, particularly in cognition and employment.

### **Ella Thorne, 18, of Xavier College**

Ella achieved Merits in Psychology and Research Project B.

Ella is an accomplished sportswoman with a passion for physical activity and positive health outcomes. Outside of school she has played netball for the community of Mallala for 10 years, winning best and fairest, and volunteering in the roles of scoring, timing, umpiring and fundraising. Her research project focused on nutrition and in particular, contributing factors to childhood obesity.

### **Hillary Thursby, 18, of St Mary's College**

Hillary achieved Merits in Research Project B and Ancient Studies.

Hillary was the College's Justice Captain who demonstrated true care for others. She created over 200 Shoe Boxes of Love after visiting every class in her school and encouraging students to donate essential toiletries and age appropriate Christmas gifts. She led her school community to action for a coordinated winter appeal for Vinnies, organising a soup lunch, Live Below the Line, and 40 Hour Sacrifice events. She organised a winter sleep-out event for her peers and also brought in a guest speaker from Vinnies to help students understand the complexities and pressures impacting on homelessness. Today is also Hillary's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **Georgia Williams, 17, of Loreto College**

Georgia has dedicated herself to helping others, both within school and the wider community. She has fundraised for the Little Heroes Foundation, and Still Aware, an organisation that raises awareness and research regarding stillbirths, through a series of events, including a regular market stall at Stirling, weekly raffle tickets and selling baked goods, and holding a bonfire night. She also hosted a crazy hair

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day where she had her head shaved in front of a large audience, and donated her hair for making wigs for children with cancer.

### **Governor of South Australia Commendation – Aboriginal Student SACE Excellence Award**

#### **Mitchell Odegaard, 18, from Salisbury High School**

Mitchell achieved a Merit in the Research Project.

Mitchell is an inspiring Aboriginal student leader who is passionate about STEM. Mitchell received a standing ovation for his presentation on 'powerful learning' at the 2018 Aboriginal Education Conference, where he highlighted that Aboriginal students should be brave and take any opportunity that comes their way. For his Research Project, Mitchell examined whether STEM was influencing positive change in the classroom and closing the gap. He chose to undertake more challenging SACE subjects to help him achieve his long-term career goal of becoming a Civil Engineer. Mitchell won the overall Year 11 award for the SAASTA AFL academy, and he will be Master of Ceremonies at the state's upcoming SAASTA awards.

### **Governor of South Australia Commendation – Excellence in Modified SACE Award**

#### **Jennifer Pritchard, 18, of Glossop High School**

Jennifer has played an active role in her school and wider community. She has volunteered over the last five years at Riverland Crossfit, assisting coaches to help clients improve physical, mental, and personal health outcomes. She also volunteered at Berri Primary School, working with students at Year 1 with their interactive play, literacy and numeracy tasks. She also gave up her time at St Catherine's Aged Care facility, where she served patients' food and talked with them, which had a positive impact on their mental health. She also played for the school in basketball, swimming carnivals, and cross country tournaments.

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