

19 December 2017

Record 4,050 students from country South Australia complete SACE

Students in country South Australia are top of the class after a record 4,050 completed their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE).

This year saw 55 more students complete their SACE in 2017, compared to 3,995 in 2016.

A total of 107 merit certificates were awarded to 91 students in country South Australia.

More Aboriginal students across South Australia than ever have completed their SACE. In 2016, 377 Aboriginal students (58 more than in 2016) achieved their SACE, with 157 coming from country areas (44 more than in 2016).

A total of 707 students completed a Certificate III VET qualification while completing their SACE, while 91 students from country South Australia areas completed the SACE and studied at least one Modified subject.

SACE Board of South Australia Acting Chief Executive Jan Raymond hailed the outstanding academic achievements of South Australia's regional SACE students.

"It's a fantastic accomplishment to have another record breaking year of students from country South Australia completing their SACE," Ms Raymond said.

"Their academic achievements today are a culmination of 13 years hard work throughout their schooling.

"I commend the work of schools, school leaders and teachers in rural and regional South Australia who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to each of their students to help them achieve their goal of completing the SACE."

Three country students were also among the 25 named as Governor of South Australia Commendation recipients.

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

Governor of South Australia Commendation recipients from country SA

Catherine Sloper – Kadina Memorial School

Catherine achieved a Merit for her Research Project, which she completed as a Year 11 student. Since 2006 Catherine has been a member of the Australian Plants Society and is the only junior member of its Northern Yorke Peninsula sub-branch. She has been involved in revegetation programs, workshops and working bees, annual plant sales and planning field trips. Catherine is also a senior member of the local dance group, Karen Lee Dance Academy, and is a vital member of the Kadina Memorial Royal Adelaide Agricultural Show.

Ellie Leopold – Kangaroo Inn Area School

Ellie captains the Under 17s netball team at Kangaroo Inn in the South East of South Australia. With her family, Ellie helped to fundraise for an orphanage in Vietnam, and has represented Kangaroo Inn Area School at the Youth Advisory Council. For her Research Project, Ellie recycled materials into new and beautiful objects, and she continues to create art which she sells at local markets, donating proceeds to charity. Ellie also works at a beach cafe during the summer and weekends.

Sonia Kleinig – Nuriootpa High School

Sonia is a dedicated member of the Nuriootpa Town Band and is involved in numerous performances and pageants, and plays the clarinet for her church. She participates in an extensive range of extra-curricular activities, including the role of secretary of her local church youth group.