

12 February 2013

Greatest number of subject merits ever awarded at SACE Merit Ceremony

The greatest number of subject merits ever achieved in the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) will be awarded at the SACE Merit Ceremony today.

The event, which marks its 25th year at Government House today, will see 770 students awarded with 1013 subject merits for outstanding achievement in SACE Stage 2 subjects.

In addition, the 25 students with the highest overall achievement will be presented with the Governor of South Australia Commendation, by Governor Kevin Scarce.

His Excellency will also present the Governor of South Australia Commendation – Aboriginal Student SACE Award to the highest overall Aboriginal achiever.

SACE Board Chief Executive Dr Paul Kilvert has congratulated all students receiving Merit Certificates and awards.

“Students have worked hard throughout their SACE to achieve these outstanding results, and they, along with their families and teachers, deserve to be recognised for their achievements,” he said.

The Minister for Education and Child Development, Jennifer Rankine, will present the Tennyson Medal for English Studies.

The award dates back to 1901 when the former Governor of South Australia, Lord Tennyson, established the Tennyson Medal to encourage the study of English literature.

This year the medal is being awarded to two students who tied for the top mark in English Studies last year: Joanna Brookman of Royston Park and Rachael McCullough of Alice Springs.

Joanna will receive her award today as well as subject merits in English Studies, Legal Studies and Modern History; Rachael received her award at a ceremony in the Northern Territory.

In the English Studies subject, Joanna studied works by Henrik Ibsen (*A Doll's House*), Zhang Yimou who directed *Raise the Red Lantern*, and Tennessee Williams (*The Glass Menagerie*).

As well as enjoying English literature, Joanna loves the theatre; for her individual study, she examined two absurdist plays - Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, and Harold Pinter's *The Dumb Waiter*.

Joanna is also interested in humanitarian issues; she investigated the rights of asylum seekers for her SACE Research Project.

Joanna intends to study for a double degree in Law and the Arts at the University of Adelaide.

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Please note:

Tennyson Medal

When Lord Tennyson established the Tennyson Medal in 1901 the Northern Territory was part of the Colony of South Australia. It is accepted he intended to benefit eligible students within the Colony of South Australia. Therefore, Northern Territory students studying senior secondary certificates based on the SACE are eligible for the Tennyson Medal.

SACE subject merits

The SACE Board awards a subject merit to students who gain an overall grade of A+ for that subject and are determined to have demonstrated exceptional achievement in the subject. Typically fewer than two per cent of students enrolled in each subject will receive a merit.

Governor of South Australia Commendation

Twenty-five students a year are awarded a Governor of South Australia Commendation for Outstanding Achievement in the SACE.

This award recognises overall excellence in achieving the SACE. The students who receive this special commendation have demonstrated the most outstanding academic and personal achievements in the SACE and also the qualities young people need for community life, citizenship, and work.

Students receive the award either by achieving an A+ with Merit in five Year 12 subjects, including the Research Project, or by demonstrating both excellence in their SACE studies and in the SACE capabilities of communication, learning, personal development, citizenship, and work.

A panel, comprising His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce, the Governor of South Australia, and leaders from the school sectors, vocational education and training, and business, selects the award recipients from amongst the most outstanding students who completed the SACE in 2012.