

# The P.R.E.S.S.

The official newsletter of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Victoria

Issue two May 2009

## New Gold Awardees

Congratulations to the following participants who have recently completed their Gold Awards:

Melissa Bird  
Jessica Caitlin Brien  
Libby May Brockman  
Kate Maree Chatfield  
Jessica Dodkins  
Michele Durman  
Gemma Gray  
Daphne Machado  
Emma Sharman  
Kate Sleeth  
Donna Zablocki

## Welcome Aboard

### The Duke of Edinburgh's Award:

Ballarat and District Aboriginal Cooperative  
Brimbank District Scouts  
Cobram Special School  
Fawkner Secondary College  
Genazzano FCJ College  
Gilson College  
Holmesglen Institute of TAFE - Holmesglen  
ICA Casey College  
Mount Clear Secondary College  
St Mary of The Angels  
The Oaktree Foundation

### The Compass Award:

Robinvale Consolidated School  
St Augustine's College

Congratulations on becoming part of The Award. You join over 300 other Licenced Operators, and will be part of over 7,000 new Participants of The Award and its associated programs in Victoria.



## Award Partners and Supporters

- The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
- Department of Planning & Community Development  
Sport and Recreation Victoria
- Douglas Workplace and Litigation Lawyers
- Friends of The Award
- Newsboys Foundation
- Rays Outdoors
- Roy Morgan Research
- Snowgum
- GAP Activity Projects Australia



## From our Chief Executive Officer... Graeme Kent

### Integration or Competition?

Each day in our State Award office we try to demonstrate that The Award programs fit, overlay and enrich existing activities, rather than compete with them.

Some feedback from coordinators and organisation suggests that 'they cannot add another program' or that 'Award programs require a lot of administration' or 'they just do not have time'

These issues and concerns are very real and acknowledged. However, we encourage Coordinators, parents, Principals and governing bodies to recognise the value of the programs and endeavour to overcome these barriers so that every young person in your care has the opportunity to achieve an Award.

The Award office has introduced initiatives such as **Youth Award Leaders** to ease the load on coordinators.

We also have a pool of volunteers through our links with Universities and the community who can help with aspects of your Award program, as well as ideas to help overcome financial and resource constraints.

Another misconceived barrier is that students are already too busy with extra-curricular activities. If you question what those activities are, they more than likely fit into one or more Award Sections – why not have this recognised!

The Award is a program that recognises and values young people for their participation and achievements.

Our programs overlay and support educational outcomes as outlined in VELS, VET, VCAL, ADVANCE, VCE, and easily support student development from middle years through to tertiary or workplace environments. The established structure of Award programs allows easy insertion into classroom programming.

We encourage everyone to examine the connection with Award programs and to see that the partnership between Coordinators, young people and The Award, is one that embraces, supports, develops and celebrates the achievements of all young people.

**We would again like to acknowledge Roy Morgan for donating the cost of printing this publication.**

### Networking & Training Day

Fun and informative workshops were held last month for Coordinators and Youth Award Leaders. The days included training on The Award philosophy and sections, as well as how to overcome challenges in order to grow The Award at school or in an organisation.



Genazzano FCJ College Award Coordinator and Youth Award Leaders

### Youth Award Leaders

Youth Award Leaders developed an understanding of what constitutes successful leadership, of which they will continue to develop and put into practice throughout the year.

The Youth Award Leaders are very excited about their fundraising events for Dukes Week. There were many great ideas, one of which was a dodge ball competition between students and teachers!

#### What Youth Award Leaders said about the day:

"It was a great day. I learnt heaps. It is going to be useful to take back to school with me. Thanks heaps"

"GOOD FUN! Very fun day, would recommend it to the next year's [Leaders]"

"It was really useful, helpful and excited us about the future of The Award at school. It was also informative and cleared up loose ends."

If you didn't attend this workshop and want to find out more about what you missed, email: [poppy.e@dukeofed.org.au](mailto:poppy.e@dukeofed.org.au)

#### Register your Youth Award Leaders for 2009

The Youth Award Leader position is an annual position, if you have not registered your Youth Award Leaders for 2009, please contact The Award Office for a registration form.

## Some bits to read, digest and share

A snippet of some important information.

### Events Calendar 2009

#### Adventurous Journey Opportunities

Go on an Adventurous Journey with our Independent Expedition Officer Ray Connor

September 23-26

Contact: raycon@vic.australis.com.au

#### Kinglake Ranges Wilderness Camp

every school holiday

- Dates to be advised (due to uncertainty from the bush fires)

#### Gold Award Ceremonies

##### July Ceremony

- Thursday 2nd July, Parliament House

##### December Ceremony

- record books due end of September

#### Nordic Walking Instructor Course

May 30th & 31st

Contact Patrick at Nordic Academy Australia

email: patrick@nordicacademy.com.au

#### Dukes Week

August 10-14 fundraising week for FLARE Fund

#### Publications

Send The Award Office your stories, photos, questions & ideas for publication. Stories published in our online newsletter, E-Dukes will receive two complimentary movie ticket passes.

### Adventurous Journey News

#### From 1 February 2009, 121.5 MHz distress beacons are no longer detected by satellite

You must switch to a 406 MHz distress beacon as soon as possible. Do not risk your life by using a 121.5 MHz distress beacon.

From 1 February 2009, 121.5 MHz distress beacons are no longer be detected by the Cospas-Sarsat satellite system. The 121.5 MHz signal will only be detected by chance over flight by aircraft that listen on this frequency. There is no guarantee that the signal will be detected - and it may never be heard. Do not risk your life on a 121.5 MHz beacon.

AMSA advises boat users not to go beyond 2 nautical miles from shore without a 406 MHz distress beacon or we may not be able to locate you if you find yourself in a distress situation. Please ensure you register your 406 MHz distress beacon with AMSA.

### Adventurous Journey News cont.

#### Adventurous Journey leader training weekend

OzQuest Adventures, the expedition support program for Awards in Victoria, is conducting a Leaders Training Weekend for those involved in supporting young people on Adventurous Journeys, both in Australia and Overseas.

It will be an information packed two days, with a variety of workshop presenters, practical activities and useful skill development.

**Where:** Chum Creek (to be confirmed)

**When:** Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th July 09

**How Much?** \$50.00 per person - food and accommodation

**Who for?** Anyone seeking to increase their knowledge and skills in being an effective leader associated to the Award activities

For further information contact Graeme Kent at the Award Office 03 8412 9333

email: graeme.k@dukeofed.org.au



“Do not risk your life on a 121.5 MHz beacon”.

Roy Morgan  
— Research —

## Service Opportunity

The Centre is a neighborhood house and community centre based in North Melbourne. They run a variety of social action programs, including a volunteer produced local paper and homework club for local children (many of whom are from a refugee or migrant background)

### Homework Program

The homework club is an exciting and diverse program for children in grades 4 to year 10. Around 60 children come along each week. This is a great opportunity for children from a variety of backgrounds to meet other children from different age groups and schools as well as to build relationships with adults who have diverse skills and experiences. The aim of the program is to teach children life long learning and problem solving skills, build meaningful relationships to increase confidence and self reliance and complete more homework.

### The NEWS

The North and West Melbourne News is a local paper tackling local issues and those that do not get coverage by mainstream media. The Centre are looking for volunteers to help deliver the paper, write stories, help with editing and proof reading and with layout.

Volunteering hours vary depending on position. If you are interested in volunteering at The Centre please contact Linden Smith via email: [lindens@centre.org.au](mailto:lindens@centre.org.au)

## Receive a 5% discount at Rebel Sport

Rebel Sport's Member Value Program (MVP) rewards all Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants with a 5% Discount\* on full price merchandise every time you shop in-store. Quote #34271 to get your card.

## Tertiary News

Many of you know that The Award has been offered at the University of Melbourne since Semester 1, 2008.

In 2009, The Award is launching at two more universities, Australian Catholic University (St Patrick's Campus) and Deakin University (Burwood, Geelong and Warrnambool Campuses).

This is great news for The Award as well as independent participants who might already be undertaking the program whilst studying at these institutions. For participants who are currently at school but moving on to these universities, this is a fantastic opportunity to continue The Award and use it as an avenue to get even more out of their uni experience.

Please contact us if you'd like to know more or if you're an independent participant at one of these



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**Horse Riding**  
at  
*Graeme Padgett's*

**Murray River  
Horse Trails**

*Top Quality Trail Rides  
in the Barmah Forest*

Photo courtesy of Greg Scallin