

NEiTA presents

The 2008  
ASG National  
Teaching Awards



Supported by the  
Australian Scholarships Group

*Awards Program*

*Awards Program*



## *NEiTA presents*

The 2008 ASG National Teaching Awards

Keynote speaker: Professor Collette Tayler, Chair of Early Childhood Education and Care at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne

## *About NEiTA*

The NEiTA (National Excellence In Teaching Awards) Foundation was formed in 1994 with support from the Australian Scholarships Group (ASG) to help honour exemplary teaching throughout Australia and New Zealand.

The awards program is now in its 16th year. Since its inception, over 19,000 nominations have been received in Australia and more than half a million dollars distributed in grants for professional development.

Moving forward, NEiTA and ASG aim to continue their support for the teaching profession by acknowledging the valuable role inspirational teaching professionals play in the development of our nations' youth.



**THE HON JULIA GILLARD MP**  
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

While other commitments prevent me from attending the presentation, I wish to convey my support for the event. I congratulate the participating teachers on their achievements and I welcome the celebration of teachers of excellence.

The awardees in this event are an inspiration to their students, colleagues and school communities.

To each and every award winner, my heartfelt congratulations and sincere appreciation for the work you do.

To NEiTA, my thanks for having such an important event.



The Hon Julia Gillard MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education.



Julia Gillard  
Minister for Education



**NEiTA Patron, Sir Gustav Nossal AC, CBE, FAA, FRS**

Great teachers do not merely impart their knowledge to students; they empower them to continue the quest for learning and understanding so that one day the pupil may surpass the teacher. This is how our nation grows.



**Mr Terry O'Connell, Chairman, NEiTA Foundation**

NEiTA helps profile the diversity and strength within Australia's education system. The role of teachers has always been important, but never so much as it is today. Teachers are expected to impart information, help our children's discovery of themselves and the world around them, and also tend to their social and emotional needs. Teachers certainly need to take a holistic view of the children entrusted to their care.

Today's NEiTA award recipients represent the many thousands of excellent teaching professionals whose dedication makes a real difference to their students, parents, and communities.



**Dr Gordon Young, Chairman Australian Scholarships Group**

Through ASG's support of NEiTA during the past 15 years, ASG has assisted the recognition of teaching excellence throughout Australia. Teachers help each nation's most valuable assets, their children, learn far more than just information and skills.

Inspirational teachers stimulate their students' appetites for life-long learning. They engender a critical appreciation of human cultures, the physical world and universe, and the world of ideas and thought. Inspirational teachers help to create the attributes that lead to positive participation in society and responsible citizenship.

*Messengers*



## *NEiTA 2008 ASG National Teaching Award Recipients*

### *Early Childhood*



**Emma Cullen**

Abbotsford Long Day Care Centre, NSW  
Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood)  
Honours Class 1

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Emma uses an Emergent Curriculum style of programming in her classes, which allows children to guide the direction of investigations. By exploring the community with her students, Emma helps children learn about their place within that community. Emma's national award is for Developing Student Resiliency.



**Tonya Wood**

Sawyers Valley Primary School, WA  
Diploma of Education, Bachelor of Education, Post  
Graduate Diploma in Early Childhood Education

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Tonya works to facilitate the early detection of speech and literacy difficulties among her students. Through her inspirational work in speech therapy, Tonya has achieved a positive increase in phonemic awareness and literacy learning in her classes. Tonya's national award is for Community Engagement.

## *NEiTA 2008 ASG National Teaching Award Recipients*

### *Primary*



**Helen Armstrong**

Bakewell Primary School, NT  
Diploma of Teaching

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Helen works to create an inspiring library environment, where her students participate in programs that are designed to create a lifelong love of reading and learning. Helen has also played a key leadership role in the school's First Steps Reading and Writing program—which addresses professional development for teachers, program writing, and community involvement. Helen's National Award is for Innovation.



**Phillip Hall**

Yarralumla Primary School, ACT  
Bachelor of Arts, Post Graduate Diploma  
(Special Education), Master of Education,  
Master of Inclusive Education

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Phillip recognises the special needs of students with autism and has developed systems to ensure that his students can achieve their very best. Using techniques such as Individualised Sensory Diets for each student, Phillip helps to reduce the anxiety and sensory issues faced by children with autism. Phillip's national award is for Innovation.



## *NEiTA 2008 ASG National Teaching Award Recipients*

### *Primary continued*



#### **Brian McCallum**

Central Coast Grammar School, NSW  
Bachelor of Education, Graduate Diploma of  
Education, Diploma of Teaching  
(now at Holy Cross Primary School,  
Kincumber, NSW)

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Brian works hard to continually engage his students and their parents in the learning process by implementing learning partnerships within his school. Brian also encourages his students to take an active role in their learning. His involvement with student productions has helped students win the Gosford Mayoral Award for Excellence in Performing Arts, and the National Wakakirri Storytelling Competition. Brian's national award is for Developing Student Resiliency.



#### **Petrina Prain**

Miles State School, QLD  
Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood)

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Encouragement to strive and succeed plays a large role in Petrina's classroom, with many of her students inspired to take part in public speaking and writing competitions. Petrina also initiated the Miles School Curriculum Framework Renewal process and the school's GOTCHA program, which encourages girls to utilise Information and Communication Technology. Petrina's national award is for Community Engagement.

## *NEiTA 2008 ASG National Teaching Award Recipients*

### *Secondary*



#### **Jackie Bell-Warren**

Sacred Heart College, Geelong, VIC  
Bachelor of Applied Science (Physical Education)

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Jackie has a passion for developing learning programs that empower all students to succeed. She provides lessons with assessment tasks to suit the learning styles and capabilities of all students. Her thoroughly developed units ensure that all pupils are given a course that stimulates, challenges and offers opportunities for students' success. Jackie's national award is for Innovation.



#### **Yvonne McDonnell**

Palmerston High School, NT  
Diploma of Teaching Secondary (Home Economics),  
Bachelor of Education

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Yvonne has created and implemented several successful programs at Palmerston. The Flexible Pathways program promotes informed decision-making about education and training and has led to a positive impact on student retention rates in years 11 and 12. Yvonne also initiated the school's Work Ready program, which is regarded as one of the best models available in the Northern Territory. Yvonne's national award is for Community Engagement.

## *With Thanks*

NEiTA wishes to thank the Australian Scholarships Group, Marcom Projects and You Can Do It! Education for their continuing support and commitment to the nation's youth and its teaching profession.

NEiTA would also like to express heartfelt thanks to Dr Gordon Young, Leigh Hay, Professor Collette Tayler, Matthew Dodd, and the students and staff of Balwyn High School, for their participation in the NEiTA 2008 ASG National Teaching Awards presentation function.

