Teaching in the Territory Excellence Awards - 31 October 2008

School Principal of the Year
Bryan Hughes, Clyde Fenton School – KATHERINE

Only three years in the NT, Bryan has been a catalyst for transforming student learning outcomes at Clyde Fenton Primary School.

His strong visionary leadership is successfully addressing the school’s outcomes. A difficult process of change and self-reflection began as Bryan reasoned, that if students weren’t achieving with the current practice, then the pedagogy needed to change. He developed the Clyde Fenton School teacher resource of pedagogical practice with video samples, photos and vignettes.

Negotiating resistance to change and developing capacity in the entire staff has led to awe-inspiring learning outcome achievements. Bryan’s openness to exploring the cultural divide, coupled with creative mentoring leadership is constantly addressing the barriers encountered by indigenous students.

Bryan is a key principal in implementing the Rivers Middle Years strategic plan, and he has built student self esteem and confidence through student leadership programs. Under his leadership Clyde Fenton School was also named this week as the NT winner of 2008 Australian Women's Weekly Paradise Foods P&C Awards, celebrating the vital work of Parents and Citizens Associations that help to deliver quality education facilities and resources to students.

Early Career Teacher of the Year Remote
Natasha Pearson, Milingimbi CEC – DARWIN

In her second year of teaching, Natasha is dedicated to providing an engaging curriculum for Indigenous students in Years 4, 5 and 6.

She has worked creatively to develop her skills and knowledge as a teacher.

Natasha makes the curriculum relevant, connecting and growing student experience through excursions, song and arts.

The increased attendance and on-task behaviour is testament to Natasha’s respectful and sensitive approach.

Through her passion for the environment she has taken on a leadership role in improving sustainability and reducing energy loss in Milingimbi CEC. This has
involved submission writing, liaison with DET staff and other teachers to create an environmental plan and policy for the school.
Early Career Teacher of the Year Urban
Bianca Raby, Dripstone Middle School - DARWIN

Bianca is one of those rare naturally-gifted teachers who shines from the beginning of their career.

A Year 7 teacher, she has gained the respect of her students and co-workers alike.

Despite being only a second year teacher herself, this year she mentored a student teacher.

As well as being an asset in the classroom, coordinating accelerated literacy and providing professional learning for the school community, she has thrown herself into the corporate life of the school and taken on additional activities such as coordinating the Yearbook and the school's cross-curriculum Energy Blitz program.

Bianca has an excellent rapport with her students and they acknowledge the benefits of her classes and how they have improved. She provides a very structured and supportive environment and uses a range of teaching strategies to improve student learning.

Support Staff Member of the Year Remote
Dama Stride, Maningrida CEC – DARWIN

Dama has been the registrar at Maningrida CEC for the last 12 months. Her knowledge and ability to support the staff is exceptional.

She works well beyond her required job, and is always willing to help and support any of the work within the school. Her ability to work efficiently and effectively with all the staff at a large school is well above the expectations of a recent recruit.

Dama has provided systematic improvement to aspects of school management that have proven problematic in the past.

Her solutions have enabled administrative and teaching staff to be more efficient in their work.

The exceptional efficiency Dama brings to work coupled with her interpersonal skills means that the workplace is a productive, well-organised and happy environment.
Support Staff Member of the Year Urban
Azeem ‘Johnny’ Khan, Gillen Primary School - ALICE SPRINGS

Azeem ‘Johnny’ Khan is an enthusiastic, energetic, vibrant caring assistant teacher who assumes many roles in the school.

He drives the school bus, coaches a variety of sporting teams, participates in school camps, is a member of the Gillen School Council and is a tutor in the Homework Centre after school.

Johnny actively participates in the learning program of the students in his charge. He tutors them one-on-one, small groups or the whole class. He is fully-trained in the Accelerated Literacy teaching methodology.

‘Uncle Johnny’ as he is known, is a favourite among students. His upbeat personality and positive outlook on life endear him to staff, students and parents alike.

He is a terrific Indigenous role model, is highly respected by parents and others in the school community.

Teaching Team of the Year Remote
Rosemary Raymond, Janie Dixon, Maria Raymond & Rebecca Brown (Newcastle Waters) – TENNANT CREEK.

The Newcastle Waters team consists of an Indigenous principal, two Indigenous assistant teachers and a graduate teacher who recently moved from Canberra.

The student enrolment is 25 with an attendance rate averaging above 80 per cent.

The Newcastle Waters team shares a goal for their students to develop into contributing members of their community. With three staff being community members they share a passion to get the most out of their students.

The school is run very professionally by dedicated Marlinja Community leaders. Students are always well presented, respectful and polite, which is directly attributed to the school’s dedicated staff.
Teaching Team of the Year Urban
Ali Hood & Jackie Mullins, Ross Park Primary School – ALICE SPRINGS

Jackie and Ali have been a teaching team with the Year 5-6 class for the past two and a half years.

This team, working with two indigenous assistants, builds strong relationships with students, involves families and is an excellent model for other teachers, both at this school and in the wider educational community.

Pastoral care underpins the academic achievements of the students, resulting in a community of learners who do their personal best, are treated fairly and know that their teachers have their best interest at heart.

One teacher is a Teacher of Exemplary Practice with many years experience; the other is a mature age graduate. These teachers complement each other perfectly, contributing very equitably to the relationship. Their respect for each other is very apparent. As a result, Ross Park Primary’s senior students have finished their primary years with a strong sense of worth, very high quality teaching and a lot of fun.

Jackie and Ali are an exceptional teaching team.

School of the Year - Excellence in Indigenous Student Achievement
Taminmin High School - DARWIN

Over the last three years Taminmin High School has gone ahead in leaps and bounds.

Students are entering more academic programs with increasingly high success rates. VET study is growing fast and more courses at higher levels are being offered. The school is also a Registered Training Organisation, and its pilot program with Schools North in delivering VET to six remote schools has seen students complete Certificates I & II in Hospitality and Certificate I in Engineering.

The school also offers the Work Ready program, school-based apprenticeships and Australian Technical College offerings.

The creation of an all-boys accelerated literacy class has proved very successful, with data indicating an increase in attendance and a reduction in negative behaviour.

The school’s enrolment has significantly increased since 2006. The school has become a ‘school of choice’ and significantly improving its market share from the private sector in the Darwin rural area.
School of the Year - Remote
Docker River School - ALICE SPRINGS

Docker River School has strengthened its focus on the three fundamental areas of education; that is English, mathematics and health. The school runs a Healthy Kids program, which focuses on exercises and ear health. A school garden is being developed as an essential focus to good health practices.

There are 41 students enrolled at the school 720km south-west of Alice Springs (10km from the WA border).

Edwyn Graham (Principal) and Gloreme Graham (Teacher) are a husband and wife teaching team who have attained a high attendance rate at Docker River School for several years.

They have developed a highly effective literacy program and the Year 3 students did well in the national assessment program this year.

The mobile pre school is working really well and Docker River School benefits from very strong community support.

School of the Year – Urban
Jingili Primary School - DARWIN

Jingili School is committed to the notion of ‘putting the child first’ and is focused on proactively supporting its students through each of their transitions.

The school community provides a seamless educational service that is second to none.

From an outstanding Kindergarten service through to a partnership with Nightcliff Middle School supporting the transitional needs of Year 6 students into middle years, the whole school community consistently works towards ensuring it provides the best educational pathway possible for its students.

Jingili School Community is a unique community of learners. It is a small school in which the staff know the students well, and has been described as 'Darwin's best kept secret'. It is a very friendly supportive school. The staff motto is, 'We may not be the biggest, but we can be the best'.

The school is committed to the social, educational and developmental needs of children from infants through to early teens.

Jingili School offers a range of extra programs that help to cater for the educational needs of its students.
**Teacher of the Year**

Glynis Winslade, Bees Creek Primary School - DARWIN

Glynis is an outstanding Year 2 teacher who finds immense enjoyment in her career. A founding teacher at Bees Creek Primary, she was also recognised for her long service to the department on World Teachers’ Day.

Glynis was nominated for this award by parents from the school community who have observed her work over the years, highlighting her wonderful sense of humour and attention to the smallest of details whilst working towards the bigger educational outcome needs of each child.

She is open to discussion with parents and prepared to deliver curriculum to her students in a method that best suits their needs.

Her considerable experience and successes with autistic children saw a family sponsor her to attend the 2007 National Conference on Autism in Brisbane, and she has shared her knowledge with other staff.

Glynis is always alert to any opportunity that presents itself to engage children in learning and will plan unity of work in her teaching team thoroughly. On other occasions she will take a chance opportunity and make it into a learning experience.