

DUKE'S

WAYPOINT

SUMMER 2009

NEWSLETTER FOR COORDINATORS
OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD
IN NEW SOUTH WALES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Important update on
Award operations 2

Australian Air Force Cadets 3

Cover story
**Dukes International
Forum 4**

Gold Award ceremony 7

Dukes top achievement for
Australian Army Cadets 9

National Award for Dubbo
Netball Coordinator 9

Hot topics 10

Contact us 11

Our cover

Alice Li with Dr Davidson Hepburn
of The Bahamas



Communities
Sport & Recreation



The Duke of Ed

Important update on Award Operations

Recently, all of our Coordinators were advised the following by Phil Andersen, Director, Commercial Services, Sport and Recreation.

6 Figtree Drive
Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127

Locked Bag 1422
Silverwater NSW 2128

P 13 13 02
F 02 9006 3781
E dukeofed@communities.nsw.gov.au
www.dukeofed.com.au/nsw

Operated in New South Wales
by Sport and Recreation

ABN: 52 273 723 634



I am writing to update you on an important matter relating to the operation of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in NSW and Australia.

The National Award Handbook has recently been reviewed (July 2009) to ensure that all aspects of the Award's operations are clearly explained and outlined. The review process ensures that the ongoing management, quality assurance and operation of the Award is regularly monitored to reflect new policy, legislative and legal changes, and trends in industry directions.

It is important that you take the time to read the new Handbook thoroughly to ensure you are fully aware of, and up-to-date with operational requirements for delivering the Award. You can view/download "The Duke of Ed Handbook" (July 2009 Edition) at www.dukeofed.com.au/Handbook.html.

The NSW Division has prepared a Supplement to the National Award Handbook which highlights all variations in this state. Please refer to the NSW Division Supplement enclosed with this letter. This Supplement is also available at www.dukeofed.com.au/Resources-NSW.html under "Assessor/Coordinator information – All levels".

Also contained in the Supplement are recommendations from the NSW Coroner's inquest into the death of a young person in the Blue Mountains in 2006. You should consider these in your own Award operations.

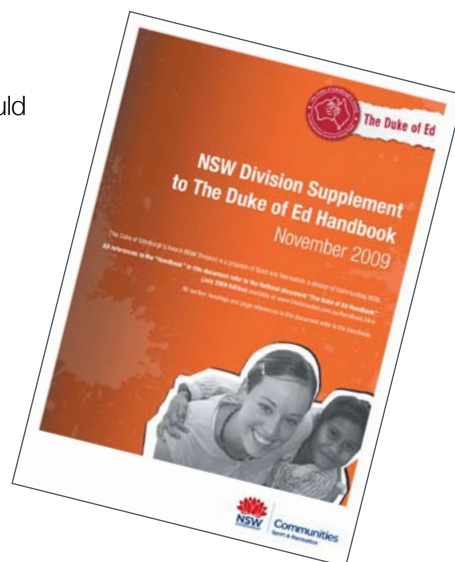
It is very important that all our Coordinators are fully aware of the current Award operating guidelines. We ask that you acknowledge that you have received this letter and have read and understood the revised Handbook and the NSW Division Supplement by emailing dukeofed@communities.nsw.gov.au by 18 December 2009.

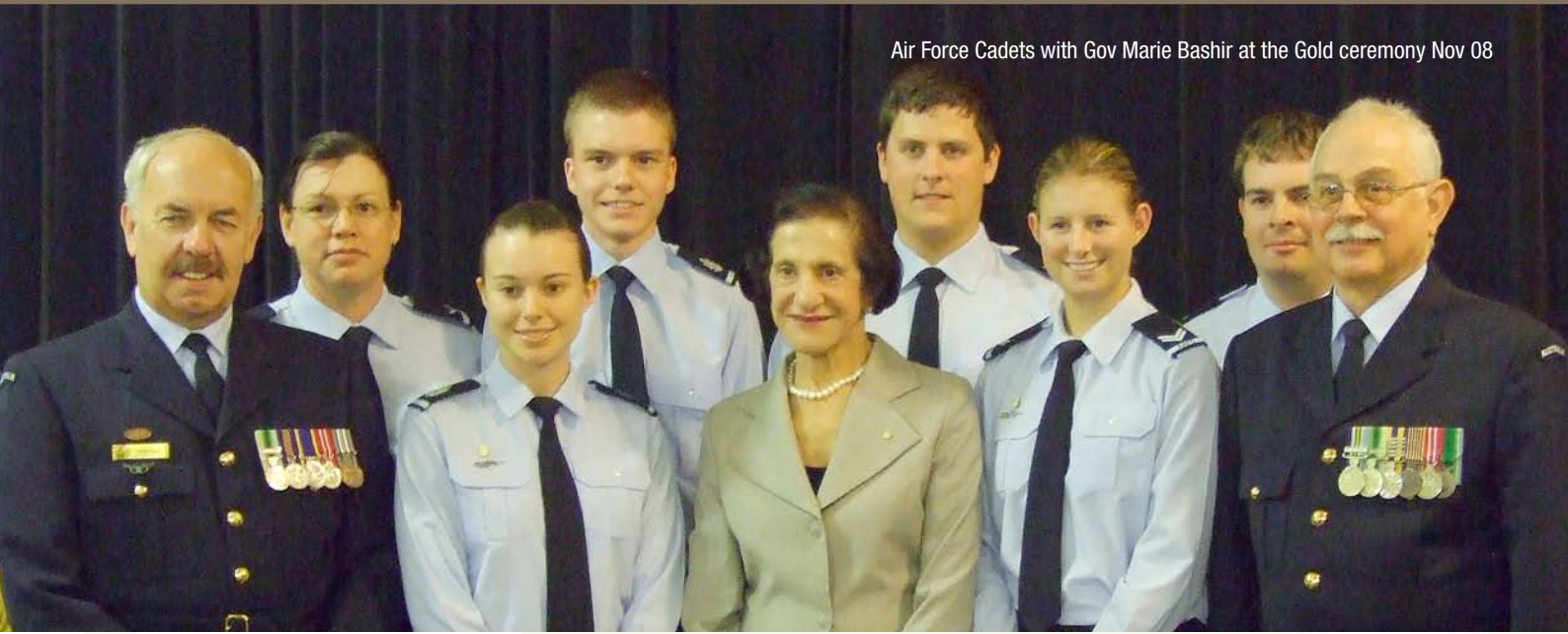
Your response will be logged and you will be contacted if you have not responded by the required time. Therefore your cooperation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding the Handbook or the NSW Division Supplement please contact the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, NSW Division on 13 13 02.

Yours faithfully,

Phil Andersen
Director, Commercial Services
Sport and Recreation, Communities NSW





AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS PURSUE BRONZE, SILVER AND GOLD

In NSW, 2400 Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC) are eligible to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award through their squadrons. The 3 Wing Coordinator for the AAFC Award program, Sharon O'Donnell, says that hundreds of cadets work on their Awards each year. "The cadets get excited about doing the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. They are able to wear their badge on their uniform and they are also recognised for their personal achievements," she said.

Cadets can use AAFC activities toward their Awards. Flying, gliding, instructional technique and even aero-modelling can count toward the Skill Section. Typical cadet activities such as service knowledge can apply to a cadet's Service Section. Drill and Ceremonial can be appropriate for the Physical Recreation Section. AAFC training camps such as promotional and General Service Training camps can fulfil the Residential requirement for the Gold Award.

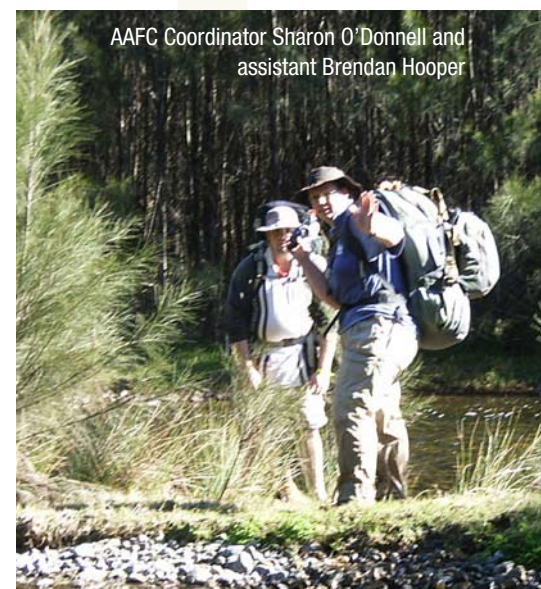
Sharon and her assistant coordinator Brendan Hooper run up to four expeditions per year for the AAFC. Typical journeys include: the glow worm caves at Newnes, the Coast Track at Bundeena, thea Watagans, Six-foot Track, Guy Fawkes National Park and the Hume and Hovell Walking Track. Last year, 17 cadets completed a Gold expedition to the Overland Track in Tasmania. This year, cadets hiked the Great Ocean Walk and a hike in Vietnam is planned for next year.

"The cadets support each other to get through their expeditions," said Sharon, "which enables many to complete their Duke of Edinburgh's Award levels."

Sharon began coordinating the Award when her daughter, Gabrielle, was in the AAFC and starting her Bronze Award. Gabrielle has since completed all three levels and gave the address at the Gold Ceremony at Government House in 2006. Her

son, Jack, completed Bronze this year and is working on his Silver Award through cadets.

There are 35 AAFC squadrons throughout NSW, and Sharon does her best to liaise with each of them. Award Coordinators or Commanding Officers work at a squadron level to monitor the cadet participants as they work on their Awards.



AAFC Coordinator Sharon O'Donnell and assistant Brendan Hooper



Castle Hill High Dukers welcome delegates

INTERNATIONAL FORUM KICKS OFF WITH A COLOURFUL WELCOME

Flags of the nations held by Duke's participants from all over NSW lined the red carpet for HRH Prince Edward and delegates at the opening of the triennial International Forum for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The northern boardwalk of the Sydney Opera House set the stage for The Scots College Pipes and Drums Band, including Kyol Blakeney, an Aboriginal bagpiper who also plays the didgeridoo with the band, to lead the evening's entertainment.

"The experience was exhilarating and a once in a lifetime opportunity," said Kyol, who is just starting his Silver Award. For his Bronze Award, Kyol participated in a 24-hour rogaine and six months in The Scots Glengarry Outdoor Education Program.

Prince Edward spent most of the evening speaking to participants about their Award activities, much to their delight. Ahmet Dalkic, Gold participant from Epping Boys High School, spoke

with the Prince. "He was a nice guy, down to earth, very approachable," said Ahmet. "We talked about what I was doing for my Gold Award and my future."

Ahmet is a Senior Cadet for St John's Ambulance, which he pursued for the Service Section of the Award. Recently, at the City to Surf race, Ahmet was first to reach a heart attack victim. He knew exactly what to do. "It was all second nature, because we get

COVER STORY



Eirlys Stubbs, Allyce Counsell, Benjamin Craig, Bronte Bryant and Luke Dempsey of Arden Anglican pose with HRH Prince Edward



Kyoil Blakeney of The Scots College meets NSW Governor Marie Bashir

trained so well by St John's. I got to help save a life due to my involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

"It's a good stepping stone for me because I am interested in health and medicine for my career," he said. "The Award helps me get closer to my goals – it gives me energy and passion to keep going. Going to the Forum made me realise that so many people around the world support the Award – so many people are supporting me."

Students from as far afield as Shellharbour and Glenwood High Schools seized the chance to show their school colours and mingle with delegates from around the world.

"The event was all a bit of a daze of photos and string quartets and flashy foods," said Ahmet. "I enjoyed the international flavour and atmosphere and the variety of cultures and perspectives of the delegates.

"My friends did a double-take when I said I met Prince Edward last night," recalled Ahmet. "I said, 'Welcome your majesty', something I've never said in my life before and never will most likely say again."

The International Forum is held every third year and was hosted for the first time in Australia this year. HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex and trustee of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award met with Award delegates, young people and Australian leaders for a week in October. On the agenda were a gala at Luna Park, a youth concert at the Convention Centre, workshops, planning sessions, a special Gold Ceremony and the launch of the Online Record Book.



Gold Award participant Ahmet Dalkic



Glenwood High students Andrea Reyes, Brandon Darmanin and Abdullah Hashimi converse with HRH Prince Edward



Phillippa Specker and Tamara Jones of PLC meet HRH Prince Edward

Online record book demo at St Mary's Cathedral School

Participants from schools trialling the Online Record Book met at St Mary's Cathedral College in the city during the International Forum. HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex met with the students as they demonstrated the new program.

Tamara Jones, a Year 9 student at Presbyterian Ladies College said, "The online record book is useful, very handy, easy to use and navigate around. It is particularly applicable to this day and age and our current generation.

"Meeting with the Prince was a fantastic experience and it was an

honour to represent the school," said Tamara.

Other schools represented included Hawkesbury High School and Barker College.



Oscard Fragiaco of St Mary's demonstrates the Online Record Book for HRH Prince Edward



Kirsty Klein, Trent Wearne and Paul Aquilina of Hawkesbury High spend a moment with HRH Prince Edward

Gold Awards at Admiralty House

A special Gold Award reception held at Admiralty House was a highlight of the International Forum. HRH Prince Edward and The Governor-General Ms Quentin Bryce AC were on hand to greet the 20 awardees from across Australia on 27 October.

Representing New South Wales were:

- Matthew Davis of Hawkesbury High School
- Jennifer Hvalica of Smith Hill High School
- Jamie McDougall of The Forest High School
- Meredith McReynolds of Galston High School
- Kate Stone of Elderslie High School
- Brendan Phillip Tripp of Australian Air Force Cadets – 3 Wing NSW and ACT.

“Receiving my Gold Award from the Governor-General and HRH Prince Edward was quite surreal and a great privilege,” said Kate Stone. “They were both surprisingly candid, and after extending his congratulations, Prince Edward asked, ‘I hope you’ve had



Gold Awardee Kate Stone, with her parents Julie and Ian Stone, meet Governor-General Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC

fun doing this?’ I was relieved to be able to answer without hesitation, ‘yes, absolutely’”.

Kate completed her Service as a volunteer in Surf Life Saving and at the Olympic News Service in Beijing. She recently accepted a postgraduate scholarship to study her Masters of International Relations at Central China University next year.

“The Award impressed on me the value of challenging myself, and I am much more willing to embrace opportunities for new adventures where I may find myself outside my comfort zone – even if they are daunting!” she said. “The challenges are what make the Award a rewarding and worthwhile experience – and they are usually the most memorable parts of the Award.”

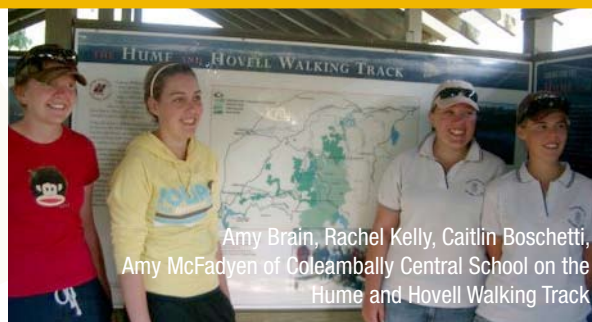


HRH Prince Edward congratulates Matthew Davis of Hawkesbury High School



Kate Stone at Admiralty House

Coleambally Central School – Gold x 4!



Amy Brain, Rachel Kelly, Caitlin Boschetti, Amy McFadyen of Coleambally Central School on the Hume and Hovell Walking Track

From the flat, brown plains of the Riverina, four young women arrived last weekend in Sydney to accept their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards from Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, AV CVO, Governor of NSW at Government House. Amy Brain, Caitlin Boschetti, Rachel Kelly, and Amy McFadyen have accomplished Coleambally Central School's first Gold Awards.

"They were the first ones that formed a group and really stuck together and saw it through," said Award Coordinator Jane Strachan as she set off for Sydney for the ceremony. "These four girls formed a great friendship together and they are an inspiring bunch."

Principal John McFadyen, who also flew in to witness his students get their Gold Awards, appreciates the benefits of the program for kids in regional areas. "In 2009, 21 of our students participated in the Award program," he said. "It gives them the opportunity to get out of Coleambally and see something a little different. They learn to appreciate the beauty of the bush, and they also get to push themselves," he said.

"For some kids it's the first time that they have to actually fend for themselves" said Mr McFadyen. "All the kids now have a better understanding of what is involved in a trip – you can't just turn up and expect it to happen. Things have

to be organised and the kids now take on that organisation.

"Over the years we've had 85 students participate in the program. I think a lot of the kids get involved because of the challenge. Kids have a sense of pride in what they have done and develop empathy for others. In many cases, kids share experiences with others with whom they normally would not interact... and develop connections the younger and older members of our community."

"It's a really enriching program that teaches kids to be self-motivated and independent," said Jane Strachan. "I feel lucky to have worked with these four young ladies."

GOLD RECIPIENTS – NOVEMBER 2009

Andrew Alice
Timothy Allman
Hiruni Alwishewa
Louise Baistow
Jarryd Barton
Robert Bird
Caitlin Boschetti
Angelique Bosman
Emily Bowler
Jessica Boyd
Amy Brain
Thi Minh Bui
Iona Cameron
Jessica Chambers
Frances Christodoulou
Alexander Clothier
Natasha Collins
Blair Conde
Eric Coombs
Elena Cox
Matthew Davis
Philippa Dossator
Alicia Edwards
Jacqueline Edwards
Sallyanne Facer

Nida Faruqui
Paolo Field
Kyle Freeman
Samuel Giltrap
Sophia Goodwin
Michelle Gorzanelli
Callum Graham
Louise Granger
Hannah Greethead
Natasha Gupta
Amelia Habijanec
Jonathan Hauber
Benjamin Heard
Isabel Hedberg
Sarah Hedberg
Rachel Hellyer
Rachael Helmore
Tommy Henry
Elliot Hislop
Monica Hu
Jennifer Hvalica
Lauren Jennens
Alice Karsen
Rachel Kelly
Sarah Kimmorley

Varahini Kumar
Amarine Lambert
Zacchary Larkin
Catherine Leahy
Nathan Maginnis
William Maxwell
Louisa McCaughan
Olivia McConnell
Amy McFadyen
Naomi McGregor
Meredith McReynolds
Rebecca Meyer
Kate Milson
Amira Nathan
Emily Nathan
Rebecca Naylor
Catherine Neal
Robbie Oppenheimer
Rebecca Passlow
Fraser Perry
Kimberly Phillips
Emily Potter
Jessica Quarmby
Timothy Rae
Charlotte Reynolds

Alice Robinson
Olivia Rolleston
Genevieve Ryan
Alisha Samarasinghe
Hanri Schreuder
Penelope Sinden
Saumiyar Sivaji
Shaambavi Sivasubramanian
Lauren Stephens
Kate Stone
Samantha Stott
Andrew Thomas
Megan Todd
Austin Uebel
Christopher Wallace
Ashley Watson
Elizabeth Wellard
Lauren Whelan
Rebecca Wilkes
Catherine Williams
Carly Wright
Rosslyn Wythes
Ranee Zhou

Duke's a top achievement for Australian Army Cadets



HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex inspects the Royal Guard at Victoria Barracks Paddington during the International Forum

Joining the Award as a state-wide operator, the NSW Australian Army Cadets Brigade (AAC) now offers the Award to 7000 cadets in 60 units throughout NSW.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is considered by the Australian Army Cadets to be a top achievement award, and one of only two awards

that cadets can earn and wear on their uniforms.

The Australian Defence Force Cadets "strongly encourages all cadets to participate in the Award program" as it provides excellent recognition of achievements and encompasses a broad range of activities and skills.

In their advice to cadets, the AAC says cadets are able to complete their Awards entirely through their involvement in the AAC, or through a mixture of activities done both within the organisation and outside. First Aid training, navigation, bivouacs, field engineering, physical training and annual camps are examples of cadet activities that can fulfil Award requirements.

"This is a great opportunity for cadets to participate in an international youth development program and further develop the skills as cadets and future leaders of tomorrow," says LT (AAC) Michael Borg, Award Coordinator for the NSW Australian Army Cadets Brigade.

We welcome the NSW Australian Army Cadets Brigade to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

National award for Dubbo Netball Coordinator

Katrina Hausia, Coordinator for Dubbo Netball, has won the 5-Star Community Coach Award, a national award for outstanding achievements in coaching children for the Australian Sports Commission's Active After-school Communities (AASC) program.

Katrina's Bronze participants undertook training to become coaches at local primary schools, delivering

Traditional Indigenous Games, circus skills and other sports to younger people in their communities.

In addition to volunteering with AASC, Katrina's participants are now also employed in the program as coaches. As part of their training, two of her students, Tierra Hausia and Natasha Robinson, received the Foundation Coaching certificate from Netball

Australia and are assistant coaches on Dubbo state-age representative netball teams.

"It's great to see the kids achieve and grow through AASC and Duke's. I am so proud of all my Duke's kids and I love the work I do with them in all of our programs."

Each year around 9000 community coaches vie for the Community Coach Award and Katrina was overjoyed at coming out on top.

"Winning this award is a great honour for me," she said.

Dukes form new partnership with Regional Sports Committee

The Barwon Darling Sports Committee, formed to bring together community and youth development organisations with sports and recreation groups, has included the Award as a key partner.

Also joining the committee are Murdi Paaki Young Leaders Project, Sport and Recreation, Dubbo Netball, Indigenous Coordination Centre and Country Rugby League.

This regional governance committee has a common plan of bringing together sports and youth groups to overcome barriers to participation in the Barwon Darling regional communities of Lightning Ridge, Brewarrina, Bourke, Goodooga, Walgett, Warren, Coonamble, Gulargumbone and Collarenebri.

One aim of the committee is to increase the levels of competitor and volunteer participation in regional sports, a common goal of the Award. Murdi Paaki Young Leaders and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants will be involved in activities such as first aid and governance training, coaching development and increasing adult and youth volunteerism throughout the region.



Break Thru People Solutions joins Duke's

Our newest licensed operator in Dubbo, Break Thru People Solutions, is using the Award to support young people with disabilities and other challenges as they establish careers. Participants in pursuit of their Bronze Awards are volunteering at the RSPCA and State Forests.

"The Duke of Ed goes hand-in-hand with our work experience," said Coordinator Ronald Shoko. "Our clients volunteer at Meals on Wheels and at the RSPCA to gain the skills they need for their future."

We welcome Break Thru to our Duke's community.

Bronze Awards for Dubbo Netball and Gordon Centre Youth

Nine Bronze Awards will be presented in December to participants from the Dubbo Netball Association and the Gordon Centre. Bronze awardees Melissa Derrick, Thomas Derrick, Caitlin Frail, Tierra Hausia, David Hoyt, Sonya Mestrom-Jones, Natasha Robinson, Cassandra Slade-Potts and Chloe Wighton

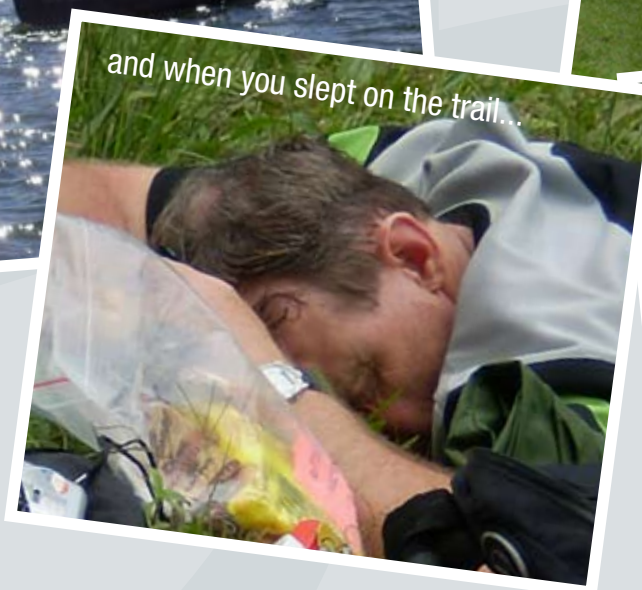
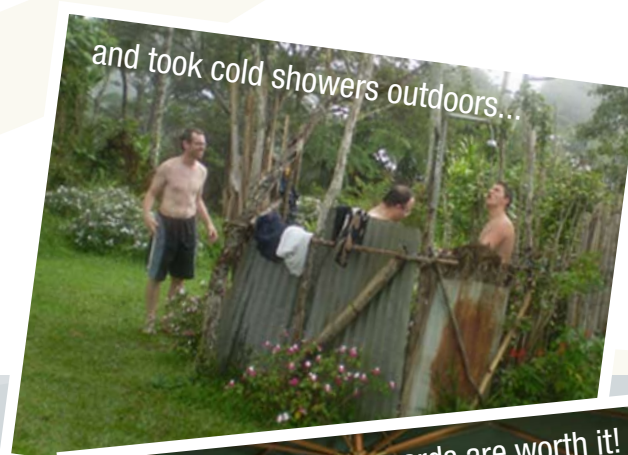
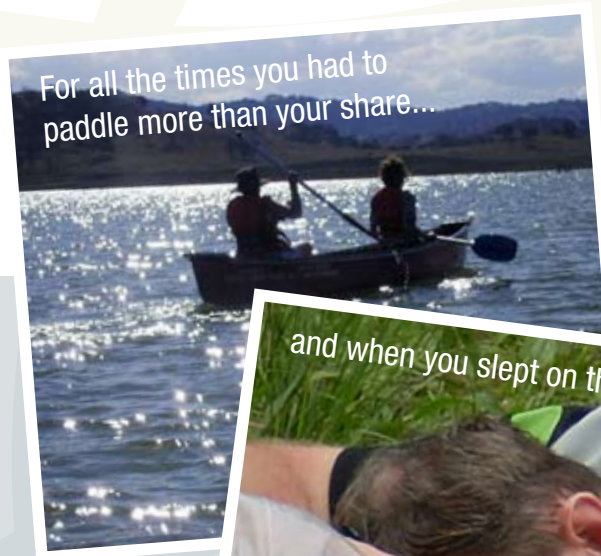
completed expeditions at Lake Burrendong Sport and Recreation Centre, volunteered with Active After-school Communities, ran discos and netball carnivals and taught Traditional Indigenous Games to primary students.

Congratulations to these hard-working, inspiring young people.



Natasha Robinson, Coordinator Katrina Hausia and Tierra Hausia of Dubbo volunteer at Active After-school Communities

International Volunteer Day is December 5



Here are some NSW stats that impress us about you:

- Our longest-serving volunteer is Jean Vincent of the Lower Hunter Regional Support Group who has been a Duke's volunteer since 1955!
- Our youngest volunteer, Zoe McMurdo of UNSW New College is 19 years old!
- Our 441 registered operators in NSW have more than 600 volunteers running the Award – and that's not including Assessors
- This year you have assisted 7948 young people in joining the Award
- Over 40 of our current volunteers have achieved their own Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Nothing beats first hand experience!
- Proving that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree, Julie Anne Chesworth of Alstonville High School and Stacey Chesworth of Illawarra Grammar School are mother-daughter Awardees that are now Award Coordinators.

Our farthest-flung operators face unique challenges in operating the Award:

- Lumen Christi Catholic College in Pambula is our southernmost operator
- Brian Trenter coordinates the Award for Kingscliff High School, in the far north
- Colleambally, the furthest southwest, has two Operators: Colleambally Central School, led by Jane Strachan, and Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre under the guidance of Colleen Murray.

Thank you all for the work you do on behalf of our young Dukes! If you have an interesting statistic to share, email dukeofed@communities.nsw.gov.au

DUKE'S CONTACTS

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Bob Cresswell	bob.cresswell@communities.nsw.gov.au
Keith McReynolds	keith.mcreynolds@communities.nsw.gov.au
Mark Roach	mark.roach@communities.nsw.gov.au
Glenn Byrne	glen.byrne@communities.nsw.gov.au
Nicole Shires	nicole.shires@communities.nsw.gov.au
Mylisa Smith	mylisa.smith@communities.nsw.gov.au
Lauren Fox	lauren.fox@communities.nsw.gov.au
Rachel Taylor	rachel.taylor@communities.nsw.gov.au

CONTACT THE EDITOR

Duke's Waypoint is produced by Sport and Recreation for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in NSW.

We welcome your feedback call (02) 9006 3863 or fax (02) 9006 3888.

POSTAL ADDRESS

Locked Bag 1422, Silverwater NSW 2128

STREET ADDRESS

Sport and Recreation
6 Figtree Drive, Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127
Phone: 13 13 02
Fax: (02) 9006 3781
mail@dukeofednsw.au.com
www.dukeofednsw.au.com

SPORT AND RECREATION

Our role is to encourage people in NSW to make physical activity a regular part of their life. We want more people, more active, more often. We do this by working in partnerships to create opportunities for people to get active. Specifically, we work with:

- Industry to develop sustainable infrastructure
- Communities to identify local solutions to physical inactivity
- Government to provide integrated solutions to community needs.

For more information visit www.dsr.nsw.gov.au or call 13 13 02

Resources, contacts and information provided in Waypoint are only representative of the many services, providers and organisations that may be helpful to Coordinators or participants of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Inclusion in Waypoint does not imply recommendation or endorsement, nor is the information provided comprehensive or complete. We recommend that you do your own research to find the most suitable services, training, products, organisations or other resources for your program or participants.

A Big Welcome to our new Registered Operators

- Condobolin High School, Condobolin
- Gorokan High School, Gorokan
- Great Lakes College, Forster Campus
- JJ Cahill Memorial High School, Mascot
- Nambucca Heads High School, Nambucca Heads
- NSW Australian Army Cadets Brigade, Moorebank
- Realising Every Dream (R.E.D. Inc.), Lismore
- Response Services, West Gosford
- Trinity Catholic College, Auburn
- Wellington High School, Wellington.

National Summary Statistics Financial Year 08 – 09

State	Participants	%	State	Awards gained	%
ACT	256	1.4	ACT	32	0.3
NSW	8059	44.9	NSW	6211	65.7
VIC	4973	27.7	VIC	1956	20.7
QLD	1404	7.8	QLD	433	4.6
SA	1719	9.6	SA	525	5.6
NT	381	2.1	NT	51	0.5
WA	1028	5.7	WA	204	2.2
TAS	137	0.8	TAS	40	0.4
TOTAL	17957	100	TOTAL	9452	100



Communities
Sport & Recreation



The Duke of Ed