

Victorian School Sports Awards

Victorian School Sports Awards are a highlight in the School Sport Victoria calendar.



This major event connects some of Victoria's sporting legends with the up and coming sporting stars of the future. The Sporting Blues Awards present a rare opportunity to hear from people such as the Hon James Merlino (MP) and sporting legends such as Lindsay Gaze and Nicole Livingstone.

James Merlino said it clearly in his inspirational speech, **"this sporting passion keeps us happy, heathy, involved and connected to each other."**

Those gathered at this special occasion experienced the unity that sport demands.

The atmosphere of the iconic location, the Melbourne Cricket Ground and the presence of so many well-dressed people create the ambiance the awards deserve. It's this kind of unity that inspires young athletes to stay focused and motivated within the sport.



School Sport Victoria endeavors to provide

quality sport for every Victorian Student. Attending the Victorian School Sports Awards serves as a great reminder for the valuable work that SSV performs on a daily basis. Lindsay Gaze was a delight to listen to, his many stories and passion for the sport left few wondering where his priorities lie. Lindsay's vulnerability was what gripped the most, he shared of his regret in not setting his goals high enough, adding, **"Make sure you set your goals, and make sure you aim a little bit higher, regardless of those who tell you, you can't do it, you will do it."** The audience's audible affirmation was clearly heard. It was clear that these wise words from an all-time great, found a home in the hearts of all who attended. There is no doubt that many will be replaying this message when it counts most.

Morgan Mitchell and Ahmed Kelly gave great insight into the life of an elite athlete. Their words of hope provided the much-needed inspiration for the 2016 recipients. It was evident that the Victorian School Sports Awards gave back in a small way, for the sacrifice, determination, time and energy that so many have given.



Nicole Livingstone sincerely thanked the parents, acknowledging the many time and financial sacrifices that have been made for these athletes to make it to the level they have. Charmaine Quah and Benjamin Howell were awarded the Outstanding Sporting Achievement Award. Charmaine in Badminton, and Benjamin in Archery.

Linley Ooi was awarded the Lindsay Gaze Award. The look of surprise on the faces of the winners was priceless. It's this kind of humility that is a window into their character. It was clear that each of the 51 student athletes, and the seven teachers that were awarded the prestigious award were the right



choice. Witnessing the excitement on their faces, watching the proud expression on the faces of the parents, and hearing the accolades from the teachers and principals is what makes this day the amazing day that it is. It's days like this that serve as a powerful picture of the credible work SSV are so actively engaged in on a daily basis. School Sport Victoria have already started the search for the 2017 Victorian School Sports Award nominations, this is an activity that has always involved consultation with state sporting organizations. SSV believe that this is one way to give back in a different currency to these student athletes and their families, for the ongoing sacrifices that have been made.