



Presentation Ceremony

Wednesday 26th March 2025 Members' Dining Room Melbourne Cricket Ground



Order of Proceedings

Ceremony commences

12.00pm

Master of Ceremonies

Laura Hingston

Master of Ceremonies

Welcome Address

Nina Taylor MP

Parliamentary Secretary for Education

Address

Jamie Parsons

Chief Executive Officer, School Sport Victoria

SSV Award Presentations

Coordinator of the Year Awards

Team Vic Awards

School of the Year Awards

Life Membership Awards

Main Course Served

Music performance

Canterbury Girls' Secondary College

Ceremony Continues

Guest Presenters

Stacey Hymer

Taekwondo Athlete and Olympian

Arlo Styant-Browne

2023 Lindsay Gaze Outstanding Sports Leadership Award Recipient

Award Presentations

Sporting Blue Awards: Athletics, Australian Rules Football, Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Bowls, Cricket, Cross Country, Football (Soccer), Golf, Hockey, Netball, Swimming, Tennis, Volleyball

Dessert Served

Music Performance

Canterbury Girls' Secondary College

Ceremony Continues

Award Presentations

Outstanding Teacher Contribution Awards

Outstanding School and Community Partnership Awards

Outstanding Sporting Achievement Awards

Outstanding Student Official Award

Lindsay Gaze Outstanding Sports Leadership Award

Ceremony concludes

2.30pm

Minister's Message

Welcome to the annual Victorian School Sports Awards

Today, we're delighted to be celebrating those who achieved excellence in their sporting pursuits throughout 2024. These awards are the highest sporting honour presented to Victorian government school students, teachers and volunteers – recognising both individual achievement and community contribution.

The Sporting Blue Award in particular has a long and proud history in this state, with many past recipients going on to become Olympians, Commonwealth Games stars, AFL players and other figures on the international sporting stage. I extend my congratulations to all the primary and secondary students who receive this magnificent honour today. Your dedication to training and commitment to fairness and excellence are to be commended.

I also congratulate the teachers, parents and community members who are being recognised today for their contribution to school sport in Victoria. Your efforts to encourage participation in physical activity will have a lasting effect on the health, fitness and social wellbeing of many young people. I thank you for giving so much of your personal time and energy and hope that you, too, have a gained much from the experience.

This year, we're also proud to be including a series of awards from the School Sport Victoria (SSV) program into the Victorian School Sports Awards. These awards – which recognise the contributions of SSV coordinators, officials and volunteers – celebrate all those who go above and beyond for Victorian students in interschool and interstate sport. These people are role models, leaders and exemplar professionals who provide consistent support and facilitate tremendous opportunities for Victorian students. I congratulate all recipients of SSV awards this year, and hope you enjoy being part of our ceremony today.

Once again, my sincere congratulations to all award recipients. I encourage you to continue working hard and striving to achieve your very best in all your sporting endeavours. I have no doubt your outstanding efforts will bring you much success in the future.



Hon Ben Carroll MP
Deputy Premier

Minister for Education
Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC

Overview

The Victorian School Sports Awards are the highest sporting accolades presented in Victoria's government school system.

This annual event, held for the first time in 1994, rewards excellence across all categories of major school sports.

The awards are given to students, teachers, parents and volunteers who have excelled or made an outstanding contribution to school sport. The importance of school and community partnerships in the development of Victorian sports is also recognised.

In addition, the esteemed Lindsay Gaze Outstanding Sports Leadership Award, in honour of the seven-time Olympian and Basketball Hall of Fame legend, is presented to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding dedication to both school and community sport.

At today's presentation ceremony, 26 individual student awards, each known as a Sporting Blue, will be presented across 16 sports categories to young athletes for their outstanding success in 2024.

The term Sporting Blue derives from the history of English sport. In 1936, during a boat race between Oxford and Cambridge Universities, a Cambridge oarsman tied a light blue ribbon to the bow of his boat (the colour of his school, Eton College).

A dark blue ribbon was then ascribed to Oxford (the colour of Christ Church College). Subsequently, a Sporting Blue became identified around the world as an accolade of sporting excellence by young people and is distinguished by a two-coloured ribbon attached to a traditional bronze medallion.

The Department of Education believes it is fitting to present Sporting Blue awards as a reflection of the high standard of talent and dedication demonstrated by aspiring young athletes in Victorian government schools.

School Sport Victoria Awards

This year's event sees the inclusion of new award categories, which recognise the outstanding achievements of SSV coordinators, schools, teachers and volunteers delivering school sport.

These awards identify valuable personnel who go above and beyond for Victorian students within inter-school and sometimes interstate school sport. They are role models, leaders, exemplar professionals and above all they provide high quality school sport opportunities for Victorian students at the core of their work.

Without these key contributors, SSV would not be able to achieve its purpose: to develop young people through school sport and support schools to maximise opportunities for all students to play sport.

Master of Ceremonies



Laura Hingston

Australian 10m Platform Diver & Journalist

Laura Hingston is a 4x National Champion, 5x International Medallist, and a current member of the Australian National Diving Team. As one of Australia's top 10m platform divers, Laura regularly competes on the world stage, including the World Championships, World Series, and Grand Prix circuit.

Originally a National Team gymnast, Laura transitioned to diving through the Victorian Institute of Sport after career-ending back surgery. Despite the late transition to a new sport at 18, Laura quickly climbed the ranks proving that resilience, determination, and a fearless mindset can redefine success.

Beyond the pool, Laura works in broadcast media at major sporting events and part time with the Australian Sports Commission in the athlete well-being and community engagement team.

"Be limitless and dare to dream"

Guest Presenters



Stacey Hymer

Taekwondo Athlete and Olympian

Stacey Hymer, dual Taekwondo Olympian competed in the -57kg division at both the Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Stacey began Taekwondo at age 4 and decided to turn it into a professional career at 18 years old. At 25 years of age,

Stacey is still competing and training full-time at the National Performance Centre at the Combat Institute of Sport here in Melbourne. Stacey is a member of Australia Taekwondo, Victorian Institute of Sport and her local Taekwondo club Notorious Martial Arts. Outside of her sporting career, Stacey has completed a Bachelor of Science in Food Technology and Nutrition at RMIT University and has established her own food nutrition business. She is also passionate about teaching Taekwondo to her Junior and Senior Sparring classes; designing her own Taekwondo training shorts that are soon to be sold Australia-wide.



Arlo Styant-Browne

2023 Lindsay Gaze Outstanding Sports Leadership Award Recipient

Arlo was the Lindsay Gaze
Outstanding Sports Leadership
Award recipient in 2023.
He was an inspiration to the
community of Brunswick South
West Primary School where he
trained, coached and captained

the school boys basketball team to win the Interschool Sport Basketball District and Division competitions, and place 3rd at the Regional Championships. He also coached the school Aussie Rules Football team all the way to Division Championships. Arlo himself has played numerous seasons for the Brunswick Dragons Football Club and is responsible for recruiting and mentoring many new players.

Since graduating from primary school and moving on to high school, Arlo has been back to Brunswick South West Primary in 2024 to volunteer his time at the school. Arlo's year 7 team won the School Sport Victoria AFL State Championship and Arlo placed third in the Yarra Junior Football League's Division 1 Best and Fairest. As well as footy, he's enjoying his basketball with the Coburg Giants.

School Sport Victoria Awards – Coordinator of the Year



Agron Prior

Award: Secondary Division
Coordinator of the Year
School Sport Victoria Secondary
Division Coordinator Aaron Prior
works at Mt Eliza Secondary College
and has proved himself a tremendous
leader ensuring each school sport
coordinator has the information and

resources to encourage student participation in sports. This includes weekly emails, establishing easy data entry resources to manage teams and results, and recognising students who help support sporting days with certificates of appreciation. He has used his experience and knowledge to guide the Southern Peninsula Division to multiple successes.

School Sport Victoria Awards – Team Vic



Ben Harris

Award: Team Vic Coach
of the Year

Ben Harris has coached Team Vic 12 Years and Under Girls Australian Football team to three successive gold medals, and in doing so has established himself as one of Victoria's most inspirational mentors

in girls' football. Ben has a unique passion for creating partnerships and has built a relationship with the Northern Territory squad to encourage camaraderie across state lines. His calm and positive approach brings out the very best in everyone he works with.



Aron Lombardi

Award: Team Vic Manager of the Year

Aron Lombardi has been a passionate, energetic and hard-working coach, assistant coach and team manager for School Sport Victoria Team Vic 15 Years and Under 15 Australian Football team for the past 3 years. He is known and loved by players and parents alike.

In an amazing feat of organisation, this year Aron coordinated trials for 600 players spread right across Victoria, managing all communications with parents and ensuring every player had the same opportunity to showcase their talent.



SSV 12 Years and Under Girls Hockey Team

Award: Team Vic Team of the Year

All eyes were on the School Sport Victoria 12 Years and Under Girls Hockey Team last year, when they finished the School Sport Victoria tournament first on the ladder, barely conceding a goal, and earning themselves a place in the history books. The team boasted a dynamite combination of talent, drive and discipline which saw them move through the School

Sport Australia tournament undefeated. As a result, the Victorians won the tournament for the first time in the event's 46-year history.

School Sport Victoria Awards – School of the Year



Trafalgar Primary School

Award: Primary School of the Year

Building on its 2023 Victorian School Sports Award for Outstanding School and Community Partnerships, Trafalgar Primary School reached new heights in 2024, achieving a record-breaking 764 student-participation-events in School Sport Victoria's interschool sport program. Committed to inclusivity, skill development, and lifelong participation, the school forged key partnerships with AFL Victoria, Disability Sport & Recreation, Hockey Victoria, and Trafalgar Victory Soccer Club, expanding opportunities for all students. Highlights included the formation of the school's first-ever AFL Girls teams, the revival of school hockey competitions after 12 years, and outstanding achievements at regional and state level in football, volleyball, tennis, downball, and NFL Flag. Trafalgar Primary continues to set the benchmark for outstanding school sport.



Wangaratta District Specialist School

Award: Multi-class School of the Year

Wangaratta District Specialist School Physical Education staff provided opportunities for students to take

part in School Sport Victoria's swimming and track and field athletics competitions including the SSV State Championships. This included team selection, coaching, travel and event team coordination for students and families. Students and families competed in and attended the Athletics Victoria All School Championships and the Australian All Schools Athletic Championships in Brisbane.



Brentwood Secondary College

Award: Secondary School of the Year

Brentwood Secondary College staff have increased awareness of and enthusiasm and accessibility in

School Sport Victoria interschool sports resulting in the school winning the 2024 Eastern Metropolitan Region Track and Field Championships. The school has implemented quality training sessions across a variety of other sports including baseball, table tennis, netball, softball, diving and swimming. Successes are celebrated at assemblies, in school newsletters, embroidery on sports uniforms and even an event at Victorian Parliament.

School Sport Victoria Awards – Life Membership



Andrew Devisser

Award: Life Membership

Described as the heart and soul of school sport in the Yarra Valley, for the past 40 years Andrew Devisser has helped ensure that every student, regardless of ability or life circumstance, can participate. His role as the School Sport Victoria Yarra

(Primary) Division Coordinator has been pivotal in shaping the area's sporting culture for students and the teachers he has mentored. His strong connections with local sporting clubs create opportunities for students.



Carole Hooper

Award: Life Membership

For four decades, Carole Hooper has worked tirelessly to create sporting opportunities for young people. She was a dedicated Sports Coordinator at regional technical colleges during the 1980s and 1990s before taking on senior sports coordination roles at McKinnon

Secondary College. She held the position of Kingston Division Coordinator for 14 years and provided weekly interschool sport opportunities for eight schools. Her focus was always sport for all. Carole has given much of herself over the years and leaves an inspirational legacy of striving for sporting excellence.



Brett Dyson

Award: Life Membership

Anthony "Brett" Dyson has been heavily involved in the School Sport Victoria
Team Vic basketball program for the past 21 years and has built a strong reputation as both a coordinator and team manager. In 2013, he took on the challenging role of selection coordinator

for the state team. Brett has enjoyed a long and proud association with SSV and is well respected for his organisational abilities and sharp eye for talent.



Deena Gerges

Award: Athletics

Greensborough College

Deena is a phenomenal athlete who displays talent in a wide variety of track and field events. Highlighting her multiskilled capabilities, Deena is the Under 15 Girls National Heptathlon Champion. She set a record for

shot put at the School Sport Victoria Track and Field Championships last year, won the 90m hurdles and placed in both high jump and the 100m sprint.



Jordan Gilbert

Award: Athletics

Brentwood Secondary College

Balancing the demands of Year 12 with international sporting commitments is a challenge that Jordan has faced with extraordinary self-discipline and positivity. A world champion sprinter, Jordan represented Australia at the

Under 20 World Championships in Peru where he won gold in the mixed 4x400m relay, and bronze in the men's 4x400m relay. Jordan also won silver and achieved a personal best of 47.08 seconds for the 400m at the Australian Championships.



Lara Pearson

Award: Athletics with a multi-class Wangaratta District Specialist School

Lara hit the ground running in her first year of competition, making an immediate impact in cross country, athletics and swimming. She claimed state championship medals in all

three, a feat that highlights her talent and drive. Known for her leadership, Lara shares her experience with peers and the community. With dreams of becoming both a Paralympian and an AFLW player, her sporting journey is one to watch.



Lucca Grego

Award: Australian Rules Football Maribyrnong College

Lucca is a talented Australian Rules Football midfielder whose competitive style and strong decision-making skills have made him a prolific ballwinner. He was captain of the Western Jets in 2024 and played a vital

defence role for Vic Metro at the National Championships, where he averaged 13 disposals across the 4 matches. Lucca has been drafted to West Coast Eagles and will be an exciting player to watch in 2025.



Sierra GrievesAward: Australian Rules Football
Maribyrnong College

An explosive and fast-moving midfield player, Sierra enjoyed a phenomenal final year at school that saw her named Most Valuable Player for Vic Metro and at the AFL Women's Under 18 Championships. Sierra's

superb talent was also rewarded with her selection for the All-Australian team and named captain this year, most excitingly, she has recently been drafted to the Richmond Football Club in the AFI W



Smrithi Adepu Award: Badminton Maribyrnong College

Talented and hardworking, Smrithi has demonstrated exceptional commitment to badminton. She is the Under 15 National Badminton Champion in both Singles and Mixed Doubles and was selected for Badminton Australia's

Junior Falcons last year. Smrithi is also a dedicated student who excels academically at Maribyrnong College and sets a strong example to her peers. A leader both on and off the court, Smrithi is an inspirational young athlete.



Jamie Zhu

Award: Badminton

Glen Waverley Secondary College

Jamie is Victoria's top-ranked under 15 badminton player. He was Glen Waverley Secondary College's sport captain. He was a key member of the team that won the Victorian Allschools Championship. Jamie holds

state titles for boys' singles, boys' doubles and mixed doubles, and the national title for mixed doubles. Jamie is the youngest member of the Australian National Junior Squad.



Andrew Land
Award: Baseball
Maribyrnong College

Andrew's baseball career is picking up serious speed. After being selected for the Australian Under 18 team in the World Cup qualifier series, he signed with the Melbourne Aces in the Australian Baseball League.

His impressive rise continued with a scholarship to Arizona Western Community College, putting him firmly on track to achieve his Major League Baseball dream.



Alyssa Rodriguez

Award: Basketball

Maribyrnong College

Alyssa is achieving international heights in basketball. She played for the Philippines in the SEABA Qualifiers in Ratchaburi, Thailand and the FIBA Asia Cup in Shenzhen, China where they promoted the Philippines to

Division A. Alyssa represented Keilor Thunder at the National Club Championships in Perth. She was on Maribyrnong College's Under 20 Champions Cup Team and went to Los Angeles with the team to gain exposure to US College Basketball. In January she played for Victoria Navy in the Under 20 National Championships.



Jacob Brighton

Award: Bowls

Echuca College

Jacob excelled on the state and national stage last year after qualifying for the Australian Indoor Bowls Championship and being runner-up in the inaugural Victorian Indoors Bowls Championship. He was part of the Moama Steamers and

won the Bendigo Premier League pennant. Jacob snagged two gold medals at the School Sport Australia Bowls Championship, which opened the door for selection in the All-Australian team.



Charlie Wilson

Award: Basketball

Blackburn High School

Charlie is a role model for younger basketballers. His representative team won both the state and national championships, and he was named Most Valuable Player.

Charlie played for the Under 16
Victorian state team, which won the national championship.
He earned a place in the Australian team and won gold at the Under 15 FIBA Oceania Championships. Charlie also plays for Blackburn High School's state champion netball and basketball teams.



Jacob Cartwright

Award: Bowls

Kyabram P-12 College

The small town of Kyabram is home to a big rising star, champion lawn bowler Jacob.
Jacob was selected last year in Team Vic's Under 18 side for School Sport Australia
Nationals and came home with the Overall
Team Gold Medal. In SSV Bowls Final he

skipped his team to the Year 7-9 Gold medal. Jacob has been playing SSV School bowls since grade 2 in 2018 where they made it to the State Finals then went back-to-back winners in 2021 and 2022.



Harish Salwathura

Award: Cricket

McKinnon Secondary College

Harish has captained his school cricket team at McKinnon Secondary College to 3 successive state finals. He has competed for Australia in the Indoor Junior World Cup. In 2024 Harish was the only Victorian offered

a place on the All-Australian team. Outside school, he plays for Frankston. He is one of the youngest ever Victorian Premier Cricket players.



Ishita Tiwari
Award: Cricket
McKinnon Secondary College

Ishita's dedication and passion for cricket is infectious. She has helped lead the McKinnon Secondary College team into state finals. Ishita opened the batting for the School Sport Victoria Team Vic 15 Years and

Under Girls team that won the School Sport Australia National Championships. At Cricket Australia's National Championships, she opened for Victoria's winning Under 16 team. Ishita will next play with the All-Australian squad.



Teyvia Heath Williams

Award: Cross Country

Apollo Bay P-12 College

Teyvia is the reigning Australian National Cross Country Champion for Under 17/18 Women. She is the SSV Cross Country Regional Champion and state silver medallist. She holds SSV regional records

for the 800m and 1500m and is regional and state champion. Last season, she achieved silver at the Australian Track and Field Championships for the 2000m steeplechase and is currently the All School State champion for this event.



Besian Kutleshi
Award: Football (Soccer)
Maribyrnong College

Besian is one of Australia's brightest young soccer talents, with athleticism and skills far beyond his 15 years. In 2024, he made history as the youngest player to sign a professional contract with Western United Football

Club. He impressed at the ASEAN Cup, scoring a penalty shootout to secure victory for the Joeys, and played for the Under 17 National team in the Asian Cup qualifiers.



Nicolette Papadatos Award: Golf Maribyrnong College

Nicolette showcased her impressive talent on the golf course in numerous tournaments including in the School Sport Victoria 18 Years and Under team, along with a strong performance in the Victorian Girls

Order of Merit. Alongside her athletic achievements, Nicolette's leadership has been recognised with an invitation to the 2025 Maribyrnong Sports Academy culture and citizenship camp, making her a standout off the course as well.



Benjamin Rafferty

Award: Hockey

Armadale Primary School

Ben is a leader of his school community which included being the School Sport Victoria Team Vic 12 Years and Under captain at the School Sport Australia Championships. He was Fairhaven Nippers Club's Under 12 Champion. The Year 6

student also represented his school, Armadale Primary School at district swimming, cross country and athletics competitions. Ben shows leadership by supporting younger students and running school activities such as Footy Colours Day and the Junior School Athletics Carnival.



George Eaves

Award: Hockey

Maribyrnong College

George is an outstanding sportsman who has achieved remarkable success in hockey while setting a positive example to his peers as a Year 12 school leader. George was goalkeeper for Victoria

during the National Championships on the Gold Coast last year and was invited to join Hockey Australia's Futures Squad based on his impressive performance. He has also been offered a scholarship to the Victorian Institute of Sport.



Haleina Suafoa Tanoi Award: Netball Melton Secondary College

Haleina was selected for the Netball Victoria Under 17 State Team and Victorian Netball League Under 23 Western Warriors. She was vice-captain of the School Sport Victoria 15 Years and Under team, securing a bronze

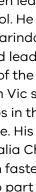
medal in 2024 and gold at the 2023 Under 15 Netball Championships in Perth. Haleina was awarded the Amy Safe (Gillett) Award, Redan Football Under 19 MVP and recognised as a Samoa Under 21 Netball Squad development player.



Harry Kallergis Award: Swimming Clarinda Primary School

Harry has been leading the way at school and in the pool. He was the 2024 School Captain at Clarinda Primary School. He also displayed leadership and athleticism as a captain of the 2024 School Sport Victoria Team Vic swimming team. Harry

won gold at the State Championships in the 50m butterfly and took silver in the 50m backstroke. His strong performance continued at the School Sport Australia Championships in July, where he was ranked as the 6th fastest 12-year-old male swimmer in Australia. Harry was also part of the bronze medal winning medley relay team.





Blake Hughes Award: Swimming Maribyrnong College

Blake is an exceptional swimmer whose skill and dedication have led to remarkable achievements in the pool. Last year, he was a School Sport Victoria Team Vic swim member, winning two bronze medals in

backstroke at the School Sport Australia Championships. Blake won four medals at the Victorian Long Course Championships, proving his potential for continued success in the world of competitive swimming.



Florian Kostov **Award: Tennis** Maribyrnong College

Florian's 2024 season was packed with high-level achievements, reaching the quarter finals at the 2024 18 Years and Under Australian Championships. He also represented Maribyrnong College at the Gallipoli

Youth Cup in Traralgon, where he impressed both as an individual competitor and a valuable team player.



Arabelle Mancini Award: Tennis Maribyrnong College

2024 was a breakout year for Arabelle, with a string of impressive accomplishments. She reached a career-high International Tennis Federation ranking and secured her first 3K women's singles title. Ranked

7th in Victoria for her age, she also represented Maribyrnong College at the Gallipoli Youth Cup, helping the team to secure 2nd place.



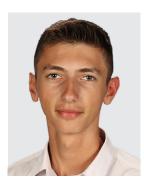
Denise Chan

Award: Volleyball

Maribyrnong College

Denise is a natural whose outstanding talent has resulted in her progressing rapidly to become one of Australia's best young volleyball players. In 2024, she was selected to represent Australia and complete in the Thailand Junior

Volleyball Championship. She also won gold as a member of the School Sport Victoria Team Vic team at the School Sport Australia Championship, in which she was awarded the All-Australian award. Denise was Vice-Captain of the Victorian team at the Australian Youth Volleyball Championship, in which she won the gold medal and was also awarded Most Valuable Player.



Brock Dingley

Award: Volleyball

Maribyrnong College

Brock is a quick thinking and agile volleyball player who was both captain and Most Valuable Player of his state league team last year. He was a member of the Victorian Open gold medal team and the

bronze medal-winning team at the Victorian Schools Cup. Brock has caught the attention of the Australian Institute of Sport and was invited to attend the Volleyball Australia National Performance Program.

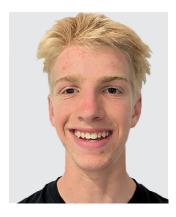
Outstanding Sporting Achievement Awards



Kaya Kandemir Keelonith Primary School

Kaya's persistence and dedication shines through in the classroom as well as on the mat. In 2024, Kaya competed in the Australian Federation of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu circuit. He was diligent in keeping up with his schoolwork away from school.

He balanced his training demands with being an enthusiastic class member. Kaya also participated in community soccer. When he had to sit out a tournament because of his jiu-jitsu training regime, he wasn't deterred. He remained a passionate team member, supporting his peers from the sidelines in the game. His drive to succeed paid off. Kaya won all 7 state jiu-jitsu titles and the National Championship. Kaya went on to win the Pan Pacific Championship and the Oceania Championship. He capped off the year in Abu Dhabi where he won gold at the World Youth Jiu-Jitsu Championship.



Lachlan StewartBright P-12 College

Lachlan is an outstanding young athlete. He is recognised by AusCycling Pathways as one of Australia's top riders in the Under 17 Male category. In 2024, he earned state and national titles across road, track, MTB and gravel racing. His achievements

include National Gravel Champion, National Track Madison Champion and National Road Time Trial Champion. Lachlan balances a demanding training and competition schedule with academic achievement. He is part of the Victorian High-Ability Program for English. He participated in STEM Tech School programs. Lachlan is an active leader at Bright P-12 College. He shows leadership in athletics, cross country and swimming events.

Outside school, he is member of the Alpine Cycling Club. In 2024, he volunteered at Victoria's biggest state level road race - The Tour of Bright. Lachlan also mentors younger riders.

Outstanding Teacher Contribution Awards



Jon McCormick

Bass Valley Primary School

Jon McCormick's contribution to sport at Bass Valley Primary School has been extraordinary. A tireless coach and organiser, he dedicates his time to helping students succeed both on and off the field. Jon's commitment to sport is

evident in his work with five-time state tee-ball champions, athletics representatives, and state champions in cricket, AFL, and softball. However, his impact extends well beyond competitive sports, leading initiatives such as surf competitions, partnering with Softball Victoria for training days, and introducing bike education in collaboration with local groups. These innovative programs have helped students build their skills, confidence, and community connections. Known for his inclusive approach, Jon's passion for sport and commitment to student growth has fostered a culture where every student feels valued to step out of their comfort zone to try something new.



Kim NashBrentwood Secondary College

Kim Nash has transformed sports at Brentwood Secondary College with her infectious enthusiasm and dedication.
As Director of Sport, she has enriched the school's program by coaching multiple teams, including the girls' table tennis

team, which claimed gold at the 2024 School Sport Victoria State Championships. Kim's coaching goes beyond technical skills, instilling confidence, resilience, and teamwork in her players. She ensures all students, not just competitive athletes, have access to physical activity through initiatives such as 3x3 basketball tournaments and non-competitive events. Her commitment extends to the community, where she's fostered connections with local sporting organisations, from lawn bowls to pickleball, creating opportunities for students to engage beyond school. Kim's unwavering passion for sport and ability to connect with others make her a true inspiration, ensuring sport is inclusive and fun for all.

Outstanding School and Community Partnership Awards



Bairnsdale West Primary School

Bairnsdale West Primary School has joined forces with its neighbouring secondary college to boost participation in sport. The school works

collaboratively with its partners to deliver Aus Kick and NetSetGo programs, with a focus on encouraging girls to participate in sport by supporting secondary students to mentor primary school students. The programs have engaged around 200 primary school students each year. This creates opportunities for students who otherwise may miss out. As part of the program, Bairnsdale West Primary School works closely with AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria to upskill participants from the 'Girls at the Centre' program to be able to coach and umpire, achieving recognised accreditations along the way.



Grovedale College

For the past 8 years, Grovedale College Year 9, 10 and 11 students have helped create and run sports activities for disability, aged care and employment services provider

GenU's annual Big Day Out. The event is for GenU clients, support workers and corporate volunteers. Grovedale College students help deliver engaging activities for participants including dancing, soccer, netball, dodgeball and giant 10-pin bowling. Students are involved in every aspect of organising the day, including a group warm up for more than 100 corporate volunteers, organising all the equipment, setting up activities and engaging with GenU clients and volunteers. This has helped students develop an awareness of inclusivity and to learn to see the person before the disability while developing their own self-confidence. The experience also exposes students to the wide range of corporate organisations who support GenU.

Outstanding Student Official Award



Finn Hynes-Carnegie Western Heights College

Western Heights College student Finn Hynes-Carnegie has already made his mark as a skilled umpire. At the Under 12 School Sport Australia football carnival in Geelong, he showcased his talent across all 3 disciplines, officiating multiple games daily. Finn's commitment to delivering a high standard of umpiring, despite a demanding schedule, demonstrates a maturity beyond his years, and his professionalism, consistency, and dedication have earned him widespread praise. Passionate about grassroots sports, his ability to excel under pressure highlights his potential for future success in sports officiating. Finn embodies the values of teamwork, fairness, and respect. His enthusiasm and determination are inspiring and prove that with dedication and a love for the game, you can achieve remarkable results.

Lindsay Gaze Outstanding Sports Leadership Award



Stephanie Whatley
Western Heights College

Stephanie is a dedicated young coach balancing work, coaching, along with her studies. In 2024, she became the Development Coach for the Under 18 Victoria Country State Basketball Team and now serves as Assistant Coach for the Under 16 Victoria Country State Team while continuing her role with the Geelong United NBL1 Women's team.

She's also in her second year as head coach of Geelong United's Under 12 Division 1 team. Stephanie has impacted clinics for All Abilities and Future Stars, coached at Western Heights College, and works with the Western Heights Specialist Basketball Program. She credits her success to mentor Kaleb Sclater and inspires young athletes to pursue their dreams in a male-dominated field.

Sponsor Message – VicHealth

VicHealth is proud to support the annual Lindsay Gaze Outstanding Sports Leadership Award, which recognises outstanding leadership in the promotion of community and school sport.

Lindsay Gaze OAM, a distinguished Olympian, represented Australia in three Olympic Games before turning his attention to coaching, where he became one of basketball's premier mentors. Inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 1989 and the Australian Basketball Hall of Fame in 2004, he has dedicated himself to sharing his extensive knowledge and is widely recognised as one of the nation's most influential sporting figures.

In addition to his athletic achievements, Lindsay played a pivotal role with VicHealth. He served as a board member for more than a decade and helped steer VicHealth's vision of improved health and wellbeing for all Victorians.

School and community sports clubs have the power to provide safe spaces for young people, offering them a platform to build relationships across cultures, celebrate diversity, and foster inclusion, all while promoting personal growth and teamwork.

We're thrilled to continue our work with School Sport Victoria and recognise Lindsay, as we work towards a healthier, fairer Victoria where all Victorians benefit from good health and have the opportunity to thrive.



Kris Cooney
Acting CEO, VicHealth



Talking to your teen about vaping

A conversation guide for parents











Recognise a Sports Star!

Nominations for the 2025 Victorian School Sports Awards.

If you know a student, a teacher, a community volunteer or a school achieving great things in government school sports, give them the recognition they deserve by nominating them for an award.

The Victorian School Sports Awards recognise exceptional dedication and achievement in the following award categories:

- Sporting Blue Award
- Outstanding Sporting Achievement Award
- Outstanding Teacher Contribution Award
- Outstanding Community Contribution Award
- Outstanding School and Community Partnership Award
- Outstanding Student Official Award

- Lindsay Gaze Outstanding Sports Leadership Award
- Coordinator of the Year Award
- Team Vic Award
- School of the Year Award
- Life Membership Award

For further information about award category criteria and how to nominate someone, visit the School Sport Victoria website: ssv.vic.edu.au/Pages/VictorianSchoolSportsAwards.aspx

Victorian School Sports Awards Honour Roll

Since 1994, the Victorian School Sports Awards have recognised more than 1500 government school students, as well as teachers and school communities, for their achievements and contributions to school sport. Many have gone on to become some of our nation's most successful elite athletes.

An Honour Roll of Victorian School Sports Awards winners since the program's inception can be viewed on the School Sport Victoria website at: ssv.vic.edu.au/Pages/VictorianSchoolSportsAwards.aspx



School Sport Victoria, as part of the Department of Education, provides an extensive school sport program including interschool sport, the Team Vic state representative program, and the Victorian Teachers' Games.







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