

Presentation Ceremony

Monday 3 April 2023
Members Dining Room
Melbourne Cricket Ground





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 SSV Play.



Thank you to the following organisations for supporting the Victorian School Sports Awards:



Growing sport together



Minister's Message

Welcome to the 29th annual Victorian School Sports Awards

Each year, these awards recognise students, teachers, parents and carers, and volunteers in Victorian government schools who have excelled at, or have made an outstanding contribution to, school sport.

In 2022, school sport was back bigger and better than ever as school communities enjoyed the return to onsite learning after a challenging 2 years of COVID-19 restrictions.

The achievements of this year's award nominees are extraordinary. I am so impressed by the commitment you have all demonstrated to school sport. Congratulations to each of you and all who have supported you — your families and friends, coaches, teachers and school communities.

Being physically active and taking part in school sport is so important for the physical, mental, and social wellbeing of students. Sport is an essential part of the Victorian school experience and student development.

Importantly, research shows that being physically active and playing sports also contributes to better academic performance.

Over the past year, school sport provided so many wonderful opportunities for Victorian students and school communities to reconnect and create new relationships.

This year, 34 students have been honoured with Sporting Blue awards, plus 7 winners in special achievement categories.

In 2022, it was wonderful to watch the Commonwealth Games with Australian and Victorian athletes doing so well, some of whom were former Victorian School Sports Awards recipients.

I have no doubt many of this year's award nominees and recipients will go on to represent Victoria and Australia in the future — perhaps even as soon as the 2026 Commonwealth Games, which will be held right here throughout regional Victoria.

I congratulate this year's awards recipients who best represent sporting excellence statewide. Your commitment and exceptional achievements are an inspiration to us all.

I wish you all the very best for the future.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Natalie Hutchins".

The Hon. Natalie Hutchins MP
Minister for Education
Minister for Women

Order of Proceedings

Ceremony commences

12.00pm

Master of Ceremonies

Steve Moneghetti AM

Welcome Address

Sheena Watt MP

Member for Northern Metropolitan Region

Main Course Served

Music performance

Canterbury Girls' Secondary College

Ceremony Continues

Address

Hilary Shelton

A/Chief Executive Officer, School Sport Victoria

Guest Presenter

Abbey Caldwell

Bronze medal winner, 1500m
2022 Commonwealth Games

Award Presentations

Sporting Blue Awards: Athletics, Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Cricket, Cross Country, Diving, Football (Soccer), Golf, Hockey, Netball, Rugby League, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Volleyball

Dessert Served

Music Performance

Canterbury Girls' Secondary College

Ceremony Continues

Award Presentations

Outstanding Teacher Contribution Awards

Outstanding Community Contribution Award

Outstanding School and Community Partnership Award

Outstanding Sporting Achievement Awards

Address

Sandro Demaio

Chief Executive Officer, VicHealth

Award Presentation

Lindsay Gaze Outstanding Sports Leadership Award

Ceremony concludes

2.30pm

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, 34 individual student awards, each known as a Sporting Blue, will be presented across 16 categories to young athletes for their outstanding success in 2022.

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.

Master of Ceremonies



Steve Moneghetti AM

Steve Moneghetti is one of the champions of Australian sport who was inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 2021 as a General Member for his contribution to sport through administration.

Steve exemplifies what is to be achieved through training, perseverance, planning, goals and aspirations. From Australian Under 20 Cross Country Champion in 1982, Steve became a world champion distance and marathon runner in a career that spanned six World Championships, four Olympic Games and four Commonwealth Games, including a Commonwealth gold medal performance in 1994.

Steve has competed and won in Marathon and Distance events from Berlin to Tokyo. He trained twice a day, every day of the year, covering approximately 200km per week and totalling over 8500km in a year. Although retiring from international competition after the Sydney 2000 Olympics, he still runs every day and can be seen at many events around Australia and recently ran a World Record for 5km in the 60 years and over age category.

Away from running, Steve has a Degree in Civil Engineering and a Graduate Diploma in Education. He has a background in teaching; was a personal development consultant with the Department of Education; and Chairperson of the Victorian Review into Physical and Sport Education in Schools. Steve is currently on the Boards of Athletics Australia and Commonwealth Games Australia.

Presenter



Abbey Caldwell

Bronze medal winner, 2022 Commonwealth Games

Abbey Caldwell began running when she was 5 years old at her local Little Athletics Centre. In her teens, she was on national podiums and, in 2018 – the same year she won her second Sporting Blue Award – she embarked on selection for the World Under 20 Championships.

By 2021, Abbey was entering senior rankings; her breakthrough moment coming at the 2021 National Championships in the 1500m when she placed second behind Linden Hall and realised, in her own words, “I was good enough to mix with the best”.

In June 2022, Abbey was named in the 1500m for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, where she won bronze in a world class field and claimed Australia’s second medal in the history of this event.

Going from strength to strength, in January 2023, Abbey won the women’s 2km event in the World Cross Country Australian team trials; securing her place in the 4x2km mixed gender relay for the 2023 World Athletics Cross Country Championships held in Bathurst. In scorching heat, the team claimed a bronze medal with a performance of 23:26.

At just 21 years of age, Abbey seems destined for many more great sporting moments on the world athletics stage.

Sporting Blue Awards



Sporting Blue Awards



Deena Gerges

Award: Athletics
Mill Park Primary School

A Victorian athletics champion, Deena placed 1st in the Girls 12 years shot put, long jump, high jump and combined event at the 2022 School Sport Australia Track and Field Championships. Awarded with the

2022 Outstanding Achievement Award from School Sport Victoria, Deena also qualified for the 2023 National Track and Field Championships. Playing for Team Vic's Under 12 Girls Australian Football team last year, and winning the championship, Deena's skills also shone on the footy field.



Gospel Ropeti

Award: Athletics
Melton Primary School

Gospel is a dual state champion in athletics. Winning both the shot put and discus events in the 2022 Victorian Athletics State Championships, Gospel was recently selected to represent Team Vic at the

National Athletics Championships. When not dominating on the athletics field, he is a keen rugby player and a supportive team mate who skilfully applies his athletics talent to the game. Gospel has been awarded a full sport scholarship to Maribyrnong College in 2023.

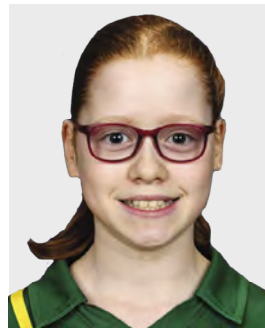


Gillie Lumby

Award: Athletics with a multi-class
Strathmore North Primary School

Gillie is a multi-class athlete excelling at state and national competitions across several sports. In 2022, along with his regional and state championship wins, Gillie won gold at both the National Cross

Country Championships and the National Track and Field Championships. He also won the Boys Junior Doubles tournament at the 2022 Australian Wheelchair Tennis Championships. As Captain of the Victorian Track and Field team, Gillie was awarded the Noreen McMenaman Award for his dedication and service to others.



Zoe Schultz

Award: Athletics with a multi-class
Syndal South Primary School

Zoe is an award-winning, multi-class athlete in athletics, cross country and aerobics. In 2022, she won 5 medals at the School Sport Australia Track and Field Championships, achieving her personal best in long jump and

100m, and national records in the 200m and 800m races. The national athletics champion is also a Victorian cross country champion, recently selected for Team Vic, and a state champion in aerobics, after winning 2 gold medals at the 2022 State Championships.

Sporting Blue Awards



Joshua Djatschenko

Award: Athletics
Maribyrnong College

As a recipient of Maribyrnong College's Coaches Excellence Award, Joshua sprinted his way to success at many athletic events in 2022. He was the Victorian All Schools State Champion in the 100m and 200m,

and he ran a personal best to win silver at the National Track and Field Championships. Joshua's sporting prowess also extends to the football field; playing for the Western Region Football League, and being named 2022 Junior Interleague Best Player in the Under 14 A division.



Christopher Go

Award: Badminton
Nossal High School

Christopher represented Victoria at the Val Nesbitt Trophy where his team won the Under 15s National Badminton Championships. He also won the state titles as a key member of the Victoria Rebels Under 15s

squad, and again as an Under 15 singles and doubles winner of the All Schools Boys Badminton State Championships. Finishing 3rd at the All Schools Boys Badminton Championships for Nossal High School, Christopher is an inspiring young player.



Sukhnoor Rangi

Award: Athletics
Maribyrnong College

Sukhnoor's great skill and dedication to pole vaulting was rewarded with her being titled Australia's National Pole Vault Champion in 2022. Sukhnoor's athletic strength, speed and precision has seen her dominate the

Victorian All Schools Championships and Victorian Country Championships in Bendigo where she broke her own Under 15, Under 16 and Under 17 pole vault record. In February this year, Sukhnoor represented Simplot Australia at the Simplot Games 2023 – the largest indoor track and field event in the USA; she came home with a 6th position medal.



Jayden Kim

Award: Baseball
Maribyrnong College

Training hard each day, dedicated baseball player Jayden has earned both respect and success in his chosen sport. In 2022, after competing in Baseball Victoria's Under 16 Team at the National Championships in

Queensland, Jayden was selected to represent Australia at the Under 18 World Cup, where Australia played against 12 international teams. Following the World Cup, Jayden was the youngest player invited to compete at the Major League Baseball World Select Team event in the USA.

Sporting Blue Awards



Indy Springett

Award: Basketball
Eastwood Primary School

In 2022, as her primary school's vice-captain and a talented multi-sport athlete, Indy won 2 gold medals with Team Vic. Firstly, as a member of the undefeated and gold-medal winning, 12 Years and Under Girls Australian

Basketball team. Then, as Vice-Captain of the 12 Years and Under Girls Australian Football team, Indy was part of their undefeated gold medal campaign. Indy is currently a much-valued member of the Kilsyth Cobras 14-1 Girls basketball team.



Ethan Bolton

Award: Basketball
Berwick College

Dedicated basketballer Ethan is an exceptional team player, successful in competing at national, state and school levels of the sport. Selected by Basketball Victoria to play Nationals for 4 consecutive years, Ethan has

also represented his state in School Sport Victoria and Victorian College Championships teams; including making finals in the state-wide Champions Cup. In 2022, Ethan's outstanding performances were rewarded by making the final 18 for the Under 17 Australian Crocs and listed in the School Sport Victoria All Australian Under 18 National basketball team.



Zackery Tung

Award: Basketball
Serpell Primary School

Zackery's main focus may be basketball, but his outstanding performances at regional, district and division levels in tennis, netball, softball, cross country, athletics and badminton make him an exceptionally

talented all-rounder. In 2022, Zackery played Under 14 basketball for the Camberwell Dragons, Hawthorn Magic, Titan Junior and Koonung Comets teams. Recognised for his great sporting ability, Zackery was selected for Basketball Victoria's Future Development Program and their Under 13 Talent Identification and Player Development Camp.



Tanielle Knight

Award: Basketball
Western Heights Secondary College

In 2022, Tanielle achieved sporting greatness while completing Year 12 in Western Heights' Specialist Basketball Program. Selected for the Under 20 Australian Gems Squad and representing the Under 20 Victorian Girls

Basketball Team, she was then selected again for the Under 20 Victorian Girls Basketball Team to compete in the 2023 National Championships. Playing at the highest level in Victoria with consistently excellent state and national squad performances, Tanielle was selected for Basketball Australia's Centre of Excellence training program.

Sporting Blue Awards



Ruby Gibson

Award: Cricket
Maribyrnong College

Talented cricketer Ruby excelled in 2022, giving outstanding performances for her Essendon Maribyrnong Park club and Cricket Victoria in the 2021/22 season's Youth Premier League for the Under

16 Western Spirit team, where they won the championship. Selected as one of 21 players for Cricket Victoria's 2022/23 Under 16 Female Emerging Players Program and the Vic Metro squad, Ruby made her debut at First XI Premier Cricket with Essendon Maribyrnong Park.



Harkirat Bajwa

Award: Cricket
Nossal High School

Harkirat's exceptional ability as a cricketer and spin bowler is shaping his present and future as an international cricketer. Representing the state in School Sport Victoria and club cricket teams as an Under 19, the

Nossal High School student takes time out to coach younger players. Selected for the 2022 International Cricket Council's Australian Under 19 Cricket team to play in the West Indies, Harkirat will also play for the Australian Under 19's team against England in 2023.



Heidi Kuppler

Award: Cross Country
Greenhills Primary School

Heidi is achieving outstanding results in cross country and athletics at state and national levels. In 2022, Heidi represented Team Vic at the School Sport Australia Championships, finishing 1st in the 2km run for Under 10 Girls. Heidi also

represented Team Vic at the Track and Field School Sport Australia Championships where she won the 1500m and broke the national record. She has also been invited into the National Tennis Development Squad where she hopes to represent Team Vic again in 2023.



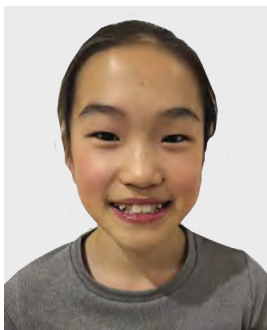
Archie Forsyth

Award: Diving
Great Ryrie Primary School

Archie is a 5-time Australian Elite National Champion diver, aiming to one day represent Australia at the Olympics. A 6-time Victorian State title holder, Archie remains undefeated in any event at elite

level over 2 years of diving. In 2022, at 12 years old, Archie competed in a Victorian Open qualifying event and has set his sights on competing at the Australian Open Nationals, as well as the Australian Elite Junior Nationals, in 2023.

Sporting Blue Awards



Isabella Sun Shangguan

Award: Diving
Serpell Primary School

Isabella is a dedicated diver with a disciplined training focus. Her commitment to diving and to swimming competitively has resulted in her achieving 1st place at the School Sport Victoria State

Championships, held at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre. Isabella also achieved 1st place at the Victorian Elite Junior Championships and 5th place at the Australian Elite Junior Championships. At a school level, Isabella also competes at Division level in Freestyle and Relay.



Olivia Roche

Award: Diving
Blackburn High School

Finding her diving passion as an 8 year old, Olivia has gone on to successfully compete at state, national and international levels. In 2022, Olivia was both Victorian and Australian Springboard Champion.

With her number 1 ranking, she was awarded Australian Female Junior Elite Diver of the Year. Olivia was also selected to represent Australia at the World Junior Diving Championships and came away with a bronze medal in the Girls 3m Synchro event.



Jobe Davies

Award: Football (Soccer)
Fyans Park Primary School

Elected School Captain by his peers and teachers, Jobe has achieved excellent academic progress while representing Victoria and Australia in soccer and futsal, both interstate and overseas. Jobe's leadership and

commitment to the game both on and off the field have been rewarded with a leadership role in Western United's 14 and Under A-League academy team. In 2023, Jobe has joined Western Heights College's Specialist Sports Program with a scholarship.



Alana Cortellino

Award: Football (Soccer)
Maribyrnong College

In 2022, Alana was selected to represent Australia in Indonesia where her team won the Asian Football Federation's Under 18 Championships. Exposure to high performance coaching as a member of the Football

Australia Junior Matilda's team gave Alana the opportunity to experience playing overseas, and an insight into what her future might look like as a professional soccer player. In 2023, Alana is training with Melbourne Victory A-League Women and is also part of their A-League Senior Pathway Program.

Sporting Blue Awards



Mark Leonard

Award: Football (Soccer)
Albert Park College

Mark has been selected to join the School Sport Australia (SSA) All Australian Soccer Squad, following an outstanding performance at the 2022 SSA National Football Championships as an Under 16, where he represented

School Sport Victoria in Team Vic. Mark was awarded Player of the Tournament in the 2022 SSA Championships and, in addition, was the recipient of the Most Valuable Player award for the Victorian team.



Arena Tran

Award: Golf
Glen Waverley Primary School

Arena has always strived to be the best golfer that she can be, competing at school, state, national and international events since she was 5 years of age. In 2022, Arena competed in over 35 state

tournaments, 3 national competitions and the international Vietnam Women's Open Amateur and Junior Open Amateur championships, all while excelling as a student. Ranking in 6th position out of 355 women players across Victoria, Arena is a rising champion.



Seabil Leong

Award: Golf
Maribyrnong College

Champion golfer Seabil achieved great success in 2022 as the School Sport Victoria State Junior Golf Champion and the Winner of the Victorian Junior Amateur Championship. After strong

performances at several state and national tournaments, including winning the National Junior Golf Classic at Long Island Golf Club, she placed 3rd in the Under 18 Golf Australia Order of Merit that recognises golfers and their performances at both state and national level.



Ellie Jarratt

Award: Hockey
Maribyrnong College

In 2022, Ellie represented Victoria at the Under 18 National Hockey Championships while successfully completing her Year 12 studies. From her exemplary performance at the championships, Ellie was

then selected to join the new Hockey Club Melbourne Development Squad, enabling her to further develop her outstanding ability as a hockey player, with the support of a local and elite training environment.

Sporting Blue Awards



Charlotte Morey

Award: Netball
Maribyrnong College

A dynamic netball player, Charlotte entered Maribyrnong Sports Academy in Year 7. A consistently exceptional competitor at state level since then, in 2022, Charlotte was rewarded for her outstanding performances. Following

the Netball Australia National Championships, she was selected into Netball Australia's Under 17 Team. Charlotte was then chosen as one of 13 members of the 2023 Victorian Institute of Sport's Vixens Academy, providing her with an elite training opportunity.



Achilles Putaura

Award: Rugby League
Deer Park North Primary School

Achilles loves Rugby League and has played since age 5. In 2022, at the age of 11 he represented School Sport Victoria at the National Under 12 Rugby League competition, captained the Under 12 Altona

Roosters Rugby League Club and participated in the Iron Armour Academy's mentor program. Proud to represent Victoria and Deer Park North Primary School, Achilles is an exceptional team mate and peer both on the field and off, always leading with encouragement.



Aston Wilson

Award: Swimming
Balwyn Primary School

Aston is well-respected as a talented all-round athlete. But it was in the pool in 2022 that his swimming prowess was on show. Aston achieved gold, silver and bronze medals in

multiple events including the School Sport Victoria State Swimming Championships, the Victorian Metro All Junior Competition and the School Sport Australia Swimming Championships. Aston's exceptional athletic ability have also seen him recently qualify for the 2023 Victorian State Athletics Championships.



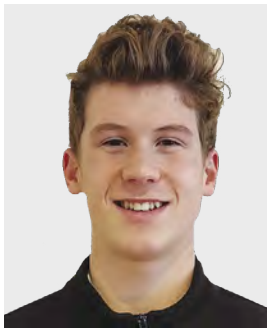
Charlize Buna

Award: Swimming
Maribyrnong College

Charlize is a leading swimmer at Maribyrnong College whose talent and dedication were recognised as a 2022 recipient of the Coaches Endeavour Award. She is respected by coaching staff, peers and younger

students for her athletic ability and capacity to lead with encouragement. In 2022, Charlize competed at the Australian Swimming Championships where she placed in the top 10 for her age group in all 3 events. Her stellar performances at the 2022 Victoria Age Long and Short Course Championships were also rewarded with multiple medals at both events.

Sporting Blue Awards

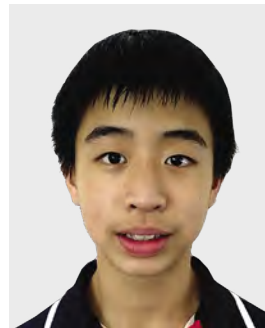


Jake Ridley

Award: Swimming
Mordialloc College

As a state and school swimming champion, Jake had a record-breaking year in 2022. As the captain of the Mordialloc College swimming team, Jake set 5 new records for the Kingston Division. Also winning

5 individual School Sport Victoria State swimming titles, Jake then competed at the Australian National Age Championships. Over 6 days of competing, Jake raced in 16 heats across 8 events, with 4 finals and a top 5 place – an outstanding performance for a national championship.



Lucas Lum

Award: Table Tennis
Glen Waverley Secondary College

Lucas has been a member of the Australian National Table Tennis High Performance Squad since 2020. In 2022, his outstanding performances won him many state, national and international titles. A sports

ambassador for Table Tennis Australia, Lucas is ranked 5th nationally and 2nd in Victoria as an Under 15. Last year, Lucas won 4 medals at the International Table Tennis Federation's Oceania Championships, another 11 medals in national competition, and another 5 at state level.



Pauline Ma

Award: Tennis
Glen Waverley South Primary School

Outstanding tennis player Pauline is currently ranked number 1 in Victoria for 12 and Under girls. In 2022, she won the School Sport Victoria State Tennis Primary Championships and

the Victorian Junior Claycourt State Championships, in both 12 and Under singles and doubles. Also selected for the 12 and Under Team Vic at the Australian Team Championships, Pauline was seeded as number 1 in her team, and was key to the team securing second place in the national competition.



Charlotte Vanstone McGrath

Award: Tennis
Maribyrnong College

Charlotte's determination to be better every day makes her a standout in the tennis program at Maribyrnong Sports Academy. Her diligent training focus and professional attitude have been rewarded with national success.

In 2022, Charlotte was the winner of the Victorian State Claycourt Championships, and qualified for the 18 and Under Australian Championships where she is one of the youngest of 16 players. Ranked number 9 for tennis in Australia, Charlotte's star is on the rise!

Sporting Blue Awards



Luella Greer

Award: Volleyball
Maribyrnong College

Luella gave consistently outstanding volleyball performances at state, national and international levels in 2022. A valued member of Volleyball Victoria's Under 18 team and Volleyball Victoria's Youth Beach

team, Luella won the coveted Blue and White Jacket Award for Beach Volleyball State teams. After selection in the Australian Youth Women's team in the Australian Volleyball Confederation's Under 18 Women's Asian Championships, Luella was invited to the Australian Volleyball Academy for training, based at the Australian Institute of Sport.



James Kay

Award: Volleyball
McKinnon Secondary College

James's contribution to the sport of volleyball is exceptional. He has competed in both beach and indoor volleyball competitions at the highest level, has captained his teams and coaches younger students,

ensuring they aspire to reach his level of success. He has been awarded Most Valuable Player Award for multiple Victorian State Teams for both beach and indoor volleyball. James successfully represented Australia in an Under 18 Volleyball Series against New Zealand in 2022.

Outstanding Achievement, Contribution, Leadership and Partnership Awards



Outstanding Sporting Achievement Awards



Shih-Yuan Lim
Serpell Primary School

An exceptional and all-round sportsperson, Shih-Yuan was the Sports Captain of Serpell Primary School in 2022, leading his peers to compete with distinction in multiple sports and School Sport Victoria events in the Eastern Metro Region.

It is in badminton however, that Shih-Yuan really shines. As the captain and top player of the school's Division 1 Badminton Team, he has helped win the All Schools Championships (Primary) multiple times.

In 2022, Shih-Yuan was selected into the Under 13 Badminton State squad and Performance Program. Shih-Yuan competed in the Under 15 National Championship in Adelaide with the Victoria Demons. A national gold medallist, he was the youngest boy to play for the team. Shih-Yuan won Gold at the Under 13 National Challenge in Doubles followed by Singles and Mixed at the Under 13 Championship and Gold at the Victorian Team Events.



Nicholas Lum
Virtual School Victoria

Nicholas earned a career-high world ranking for his age group in table tennis in 2022, placing number 1 in the Under 17 World rankings – the first time an Australian able-bodied athlete has held a global number 1 ranking across any age group.

Nicholas also became the youngest ever Oceania men's singles table tennis champion at just 17, completing a clean sweep of the Open events to win every event.

At the 2022 Australian National Championships, Nicholas brought home 11 medals and won the Best Player Award in the Open and Under 21 Men's, as well as the Under 17 Boy's events. Nicholas also represented Australia – twice as a semi-finalist – in the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. Topping off his fantastic year, Nicholas was named the Australian Junior Player of the Year 2022, for the 3rd consecutive year.

Outstanding Teacher Contribution Awards



Mark Cunningham

Springside Primary School

Physical education teacher Mark began working at Springside Primary School in 2020 during a challenging period of remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, Mark was determined to engage his students in the benefits

of physical activity by enlivening the teaching of physical education at Springside.

For Mark, this meant creating enjoyable and inclusive lessons with explicit learning intentions and achievable success criteria. Completing tasks alongside his students, Mark's positivity and encouragement through physical education extends to extra training sessions and initiating sporting events including a Colour Fun Run and House Colours Day. Mark also organises the school's athletic and swimming carnivals and attends many district events, held on weekends and evenings, in support of his students' community engagement in sport.

Mark's positive and inclusive extra-curricular sporting activities have been central to bringing students and families together and supporting the whole school community's wellbeing and engagement.



Kane Armistead

Nossal High School

Humanities teacher and Head of House leader at Nossal High School, Kane is as comfortable in the classroom as he is in a sports hall. Having played badminton and table tennis as a junior, Kane's enthusiasm for both sports have seen

him organise and coach Nossal students to play at division, region and state level, actively encouraging all students to try out for the teams in 2022.

Throughout the year, Kane volunteered his time to host inclusive team trials, training sessions and lunchtime coaching sessions for badminton and table tennis. He coached Intermediate and Senior Girls and Boys/Mixed teams to four state final appearances. Following three 3rd place finishes, Nossal High School's Intermediate Boys/Mixed Table Tennis team won Nossal's first-ever State Final in any age group or sport.

Kane also established a social badminton club at Nossal High School that has over 120 members, and he initiated and ran the inaugural Nossal Parents and Friends Association Father's Day Badminton Tournament, engaging with the school community in a positive and inclusive sporting event for students and their families.

Outstanding Community Contribution Award



Michelle Desaulniers

Nossal High School

For 14 years, Michelle was a well-loved maths teacher at Nossal High School, whose background as a former national softball player for Canada and a Softball Victoria state coach has led to her continuing to coach the school's successful softball teams after her retirement.

Michelle now volunteers to coach both the Senior and Intermediate softball teams at Nossal High School, while also giving up her time and expertise to volunteer in the school's library. In 2022, Michelle coached the Senior Softball team to achieve Runners Up at Softball Victoria's Open State Finals. Devoting lunchtimes out on the field with the students, Michelle's generosity and passion for her teams, and for softball, are having a positive impact on the school and its students. Other retired teachers, inspired by her initiative, are also choosing to stay involved with the school community.

Outstanding School and Community Partnership Award

Congratulations to all this year's awards recipients who best represent sporting excellence statewide. It's a special moment to be recognised for your hard work and dedication.

Rebel is pleased to support today's Sporting Blue Awards, the Outstanding Sporting Achievement Awards and the Outstanding School and Community Partnership Award which recognises the important role of sport in connecting schools with their local communities.

At rebel, we are committed to supporting young people participating in sport. Not only do sports give young people an opportunity to pursue their passion and represent their school, but they are also great for developing essential life skills such as teamwork, resilience and discipline.

Participation in sport is also incredibly important for wellbeing. The role it plays in physical health and wellbeing is well known, but there is also more and more research to show that sport is equally important for our mental wellbeing too.

We look forward to seeing many of this year's award nominees and recipients representing Victoria and Australia in the future — perhaps at the 2026 Commonwealth Games, which will be held in Victoria.

We hope that these awards will encourage more young people to get involved in sport and strive for excellence in their chosen field. Your commitment to sport and exceptional achievements are an inspiration.

From all of us at rebel, we wish you the very best for the future.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'G. Williams'.

Gary Williams
Managing Director, rebel

Outstanding School and Community Partnership Award



Coatesville Primary School recognises the important connection between a healthy body and a healthy mind as a vital part of living a happy life.

The school is committed to providing opportunities for its students to participate in a diverse range of physical activities through its strong connections to local sporting groups.

Coatesville has partnered with Mackie Cricket Club to run clinics for students of all ages, including a 'come and try' program aimed at girls which involves sessions run by the club's players alongside Cricket Victoria.

Tennis and lawn bowl clinics are also offered to grade 5 students through a partnership between the school and Coatesville tennis and lawn bowls clubs.

The school's involvement in interschool sport is also supported by Chadstone Lacrosse Club which runs clinics for Grade 4 and 5 students.

AFL football is another focus with Coatesville currently in discussions with a local club to foster student interest and participation in the sport.

Physical activity and wellbeing is a key focus of the school's culture, and this is apparent in the extensive effort spent creating opportunities for every student to engage in sport whatever their interest or ability.

Lindsay Gaze Outstanding Sports Leadership Award

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 is a distinguished Olympian. He represented Australia in three Olympic Games before turning to coaching, establishing himself as one of the best basketball mentors. Inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame (1989) and the Australian Basketball Hall of Fame (2004), he has worked tirelessly to share his remarkable knowledge and is widely regarded as one of the country's most influential sporting figures.

Lindsay also made a significant contribution to VicHealth. A board member for more than 10 years, he helped guide the direction of VicHealth so the benefits of better health and wellbeing can be enjoyed by everyone in Victoria.

For over 35 years, VicHealth has been working to improve the health and wellbeing of Victorians and currently through our Future Healthy initiative, we are working with young people who face the greatest barriers to good health.

Future Healthy is about empowering and listening to young people tell us exactly what needs to be done to create healthier and active communities. We know physical activity is an important part of a healthy life and we'll continue to work with people and organisations across Victoria to support students of all ages to be active.



A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink.

Sandro Demaio
CEO, VicHealth

Lindsay Gaze Outstanding Sports Leadership Award

The Lindsay Gaze Award is presented to a student, player, coach or administrator who demonstrates outstanding contribution to sport at both a school and community level.



Jack Howell

Kambrya College

A multi-talented para-athlete, Jack excels at national and international levels in several sports. A national champion in swimming and triathlon, as well as a state level cross country and athletics competitor, Jack has been selected for Team Vic swimming every year since age 12 and triathlon since age 14.

Competing in both para and mainstream categories, Jack inspires those around him to not set limits on their abilities, but to adapt and enjoy sport at all levels.

Jack holds the National Championship title in Para Triathlon (PTS5) and is now the (able body) National Champion in 15-19 years.

Jack debuted in International Para Triathlon during the 2022 season, winning a World Cup Bronze and coming 7th at the World Para Triathlon Championships. The youngest Para Triathlon international competitor, Jack is already on the longlist for the Paralympic Games in Paris 2024.

Jack's dedication to sport also extends to being a role model and passionate advocate for inclusion. He leads by example and inspires other young people through his many ambassador, volunteer and speaking roles; including with the Variety children's charity and regular school talks.

Recognise a Sports Star!

Nominations for the 2023 Victorian School Sports Awards – to be presented at next year’s award ceremony – are now open.

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
- Lindsay Gaze Outstanding Sports Leadership Award

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



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