



Department of
Education and Training

Media Statement

Attention: Editor/Chief of Staff

21 September 2009

Semi-finalists in the WA Education Awards 2009 announced

Western Australians have responded in droves to the call to nominate their favourite public school teacher or school for the WA Education Awards 2009.

Semi-finalists for the awards, that recognise and reward the State's best educators, have been selected from as far as Christmas Island District High School.

Some of the inventive initiatives that helped schools and educators make the semi-finals include a bio-remediation project, a working farm, and a *Crime Scene Investigation* themed forensic science class.

Department of Education and Training Deputy Director General Schools Margery Evans said the judges had a huge task of choosing this year's semi-finalists because of the quality of nominations.

"We received 169 nominations across the six categories for this year's awards and the field has been narrowed down to 35 semi-finalists," Ms Evans said.

"These awards highlight the outstanding programs and people that encourage students to engage and excel in their learning.

"All of the semi-finalists are to be congratulated for their remarkable achievements."

Semi-finalists now go on to earn a place in the finals from which a winner is selected in each category.

WA Science School of the Year semi-finalist Shenton College was nominated for enriching students' science experiences.

An ambitious bio-remediation project, at Mason's Lake in Nedlands, is currently being conducted by students at the college.

Using scientific processes the students aim to restore the health of the lake that has been affected by pollution.

Another outstanding educator is Western Australian College of Agriculture - Cunderdin's Lindsay McNeill who is a semi-finalist in the Premier's Teacher of the Year category.

The college, which recently won the WA VET in Schools Award at the WA Training Awards, nominated him for his creative approach to teaching students.

Mr McNeill provides practical learning experiences and, when in his class, students can be seen raising chickens, emu farming and processing wool.

Teachers, principals and support staff members nominated in the WA Education Awards are in the running to win \$25,000 in each category. Finalists, to be announced in the coming weeks, will receive \$2,500 each.

Nominated schools are in the running to win \$15,000 in each category and finalists will each receive \$2,500.

Winners of the WA Education Awards will be announced at a presentation breakfast at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre on Monday 7 December.

The WA Education Awards are sponsored by Edith Cowan University, ExxonMobil and Teachers Credit Union.

More information about the WA Education Awards can be found at det.wa.edu.au/educationawards.

(ENDS)

Note: a list of finalists follows

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Semi-finalists for the WA Education Awards 2009 are:

Premier's Teacher of the Year

- Karen Augustson, Little Grove Primary School
- Julie Boston, John Curtin College of The Arts
- Mark Burns, Tranby Primary School
- Glenn Carpenter, Hamilton Senior High School
- Angus Clark, Perth Modern School
- Bernie Claussen, Christmas Island District High School
- Gavin Crosthwaite, Mindarie Senior College
- Auriol Heary, Ardross Primary School
- Lindsay McNeill, WA College of Agriculture - Cunderdin
- Elisa Williamson, Mindarie Senior College

WA Principal of the Year

- Carolyn Cook, Hedland Senior High School
- Armando Giglia, Mirrabooka Senior High School
- Neil Hunt, Churchlands Senior High School
- Kay Kuzich, Kirup Primary School
- Paul Leech, Woodvale Senior High School
- Lee Musumeci, Challis Early Childhood Education Centre

WA School Support Staff Member of the Year

- Sandy Ballintijn, Comet Bay Primary School
- Tania Bennell, Warnbro Community High School
- Shelley Butcher, Eaton Community College
- Caroline Evans, Sawyers Valley Primary School
- Helen Kirk, Manjimup Senior High School
- Jenny Lamb, Yangebup Primary School
- Kira Norcliffe, Beldon Education Support Centre
- Evelyn Pascoe, Scaddan Primary School
- David Ross, Mindarie Senior College
- Geoff Warren, Dwellingup Primary School

WA Literacy School of the Year

- Beachlands Primary School
- Endeavour Schools
- Exmouth District High School
- Kalgoorlie Boulder Community High School
- Pinjarra Senior High School
- Riverside Primary School

WA Numeracy School of the Year

- Beachlands Primary School
- Donnybrook District High School
- Huntingdale Primary School

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WA Science School of the Year

- Applecross Primary School
- Ardross Primary School
- Badgingarra Primary School
- Christmas Island District High School
- Esperance Primary School
- Rostrata Primary School
- Sawyers Valley Primary School
- Shenton College