

JUNE 2024

June update



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This year, as always, the value of your ongoing support was in abundance at our Annual Prize Giving Ceremony. The achievements of students were significant, diverse and remarkable and it is important you know the positive impact of your help.

Very recently, we gathered with students and their families at the Australian Museum to recognise their many wonderful achievements. Spanning academics, sports, creative arts, humanitarian efforts and more, we recognised and rewarded kindergarten students, tertiary students and all stages in between.

Each success story underscored the determination and growth of these students. We congratulated Saira for her all-round achievements and progress in kindergarten. We celebrated Peter for the enthusiasm, maturity and positivity he displayed in his final year of primary school. We congratulated Ella for her exceptional HSC results. We recognised the very successful transition Hanna made from Year 12 to the first year of her Bachelor of Exercise Science degree. And we celebrated Kalinda and Artie for their passionate commitment to their local communities. Read more (overleaf) about other remarkable students whose achievements are a consequence of your support.

Amidst the celebrations, there were opportunities for students to connect and bond over shared interests. For older students, it provided a valuable platform to network and open doors to future educational and career opportunities. For parents, it was time to celebrate their child's achievements within a supportive community. It's these moments that further underscore the importance of your assistance.

After the ceremony, students and families had the opportunity to learn even more by exploring the museum. From the Wild Planet exhibition to the minerals and rocks display, there was plenty to see and learn! We also provided tickets to the special Ramses and the Gold of the Pharaohs exhibition. The experience transported students through time, sparking curiosity and perhaps even igniting new passions and career interests in fields such as cultural studies, history and archaeology. Your support also made this possible.



Continued
overleaf... >>

I want to help A Start in Life and invest in the future of young Australian students

How you can make your gift:

- Donate online at www.astartinlife.org.au
- Call us on **(02) 9264 3017**
- Complete and email this form to support@astartinlife.org.au
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OPTION
2

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Donations of \$2 or more may be tax deductible

- ☐ I would like to opt out of receiving future newsletters from A Start in Life.

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As we look ahead to another financial year of helping students achieve, connect and learn, we thank you for playing such an integral role and remind you that donations made to *A Start in Life* are eligible for a tax deduction.

Our students are grateful for your support of *A Start in Life* and we hope you will again assist us to help them, because the fact is, together we truly can create brighter futures!

Yours sincerely,

Neil Robinson

Chief Executive Officer



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Our outstanding students

Read about several of the student's awards below!

Sah — Harry Ctercteko Award for A Year 5 High Achiever and All Rounder

Sah's Year 5 teacher said she is always motivated to learn and is a wonderful asset to her class. She achieved Bs and Cs across all her subjects. She is also involved in her school's Parliament Education and Communication Committee, SRC, senior choir, senior dance group, Newcombe ball team and is a Sports District Representative. Sah is very proud of herself and so are we!

Lex — A Start in Life Award for Significant Achievement

Lex excelled in his first year of high school. He placed third in Technology with a score of 91, achieved a grade of 90 in English, and received the highest Effort rating across all subjects. Lex's teachers said he is conscientious, diligent, focused and enthusiastic. His tutor is extremely pleased with his progress, noting they have even worked above grade in spelling and reading!

NJ — Peter and Edna Wilson Award for Sporting and Academic Excellence

NJ is an athletic young lady with a great ability to balance schoolwork and sport. She has been part of her Year 7 Zone Athletics and Cross Country Carnivals, dance group, volleyball, netball and football. She also achieved an A in Maths and Bs in most other subjects. NJ told us she is excited about pursuing a career in politics or law, and wants to become the Prime Minister of Australia!

Lise — A Start in Life Award for Artistic Excellence

Lise achieved a B in Drama, with her teacher commending her performance and conviction in her Realism piece. Lise also received a special letter from her teacher congratulating her creative and innovative group project, where she and her group designed unique visual campaigns for youth mental health.

Al — Stephen Floyd Award for Most Improved in Mathematics

Al moved from a D to a B in Maths through hard work and dedication. He set himself a goal of placing in the top three in his Year 11 cohort and in fact came second. Al has a huge passion to learn and improve his skills, regularly seeking feedback and asking questions. He is now even planning on studying Chartered Accounting at university!

Simon — H and M Pope Award for Excellence in Engineering or Information Technology

With a High Distinction average, Simon is excelling in his double degree of Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) and Bachelor of Science. He is active in multiple societies at his university, which he joined for networking, leadership and to step outside his comfort zone. Simon believes seeking discomfort leads to growth. He is proud of his achievements.

Kalinda — Beryl Rudd Award

Kalinda, passionate about helping others, completed her Certificate IV in Community Services and is now studying her "dream course" – a Bachelor of Social Work (Honours). Through hard work and determination, she also obtained a job in the industry as a support worker. She believes in supporting as many people as she can, and aims to pursue research, focusing on youth, mental health and disability.

Names changed to protect student privacy.