

MEDIA RELEASE



For distribution (28 November)

Outstanding principals honoured at 2017 John Laing Awards

Thirty-seven Australian school leaders have been awarded the prestigious John Laing Award by Principals Australia Institute at presentations around the country in October and November.

The following principals received the John Laing Award for their commitment to education and consistent demonstration of outstanding school leadership:

WA

Greg Wyss ([St Joseph's Boulder School](#))

Geoff Harris ([Balga Senior High School](#))

Lisa Helenius ([Rapids Landing Primary School](#))

Suzanne Bursey ([St Clare's School, Lathlain](#))

Wayne Revitt ([John Wollaston Anglican School](#))

NT

Julie Perry ([Howard Springs Primary School](#))

Carolyn Edwards ([Henbury School](#))

Tim Morgan ([Karama School](#))

Sue Healy ([Palmerston Senior College](#))

SA

Angela Falkenberg ([Marryatville Primary School](#))

Paul Rijken ([Cardijn College](#) and [Marcellin Technical College](#))

Peter Mader (President, [SA Secondary Principals Association](#))

ACT

Michael Battenally ([Melba Copland Secondary School](#))

QLD

Trudy Moala ([Grace Lutheran Primary School](#))

Brett Webster ([Ormiston College](#))

Eamon Hannan ([Emmaus College](#))

Richard Graham ([Tully State High School](#))

Dr David Turner ([Queensland Association of State School Principals](#))

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VIC

Catherine Misson ([Melbourne Girls Grammar](#))

Cheryl Penberthy ([Presbyterian Ladies College](#))

Elisabeth Lenders ([Kingswood College](#))

Jenny Mackay ([Dandenong North Primary School](#))

John Richmond ([Birchip P-12 School](#))

Kathryn Fogarty ([Assumption College](#))

Evan Wrobel ([Sacred Heart School, Casterton](#)), Joshua McElgunn ([St Joseph's School, Coleraine](#)), and Angela Kealy ([St Malachy's School, Edenhope](#)) – joint nomination

TAS

Brett Youd ([East Devonport Primary School](#))

Kelly Dyer ([New Norfolk Primary School](#))

Mandy Reynolds-Smith ([Montrose Bay High School](#))

Sally Milbourne ([Norwood Primary School](#))

NSW

Christine Del Gallo ([Northern Beaches Secondary College, Mackellar Girls Campus](#))

Jane Donovan ([Good Samaritan Catholic College, Hinchinbrook](#))

Judith Butcher ([Ascham School](#))

Lyn Davis ([Umina Beach Public School](#))

Meredith Tomkins ([Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School, Forestville](#))

Stephen Harris ([Northern Beaches Christian School](#) and [Sydney Centre for Innovation in Learning](#))

Initiated in 2004, the John Laing Award is presented to exceptional school leaders in honour of John Laing, a highly-respected former Tasmanian school principal who was the motivating force behind an initiative in the early 1990s to bring principals together for national professional learning projects and programs to support their role as school leaders. The award is peer-nominated and awarded to principals of primary and secondary schools across all sectors.

Paul Geyer, Chief Executive Officer, Principals Australia Institute said that the John Laing Award is highly respected and sought after, especially as it is peer nominated, and that outstanding school leadership has never been more influential in shaping society.

“We live in a complex, fast-moving world with many pressures and influences on children and it is very important that they receive the appropriate guidance and education to prepare them for their adult lives,” explained Mr Geyer.

“The principals recognised by the John Laing Awards exemplify the high standard of leadership that is required and expected of the contemporary school leader,” added Mr Geyer. “Great school

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leadership equates to a great learning experience and inspires both staff and students to be the best they can be.”

ENDS

Brief bios of each award winner can be found on PAI’s website:

[WA](#)

[NT](#)

[SA](#)

[ACT](#)

[QLD](#)

[VIC](#)

[TAS](#)

[NSW](#)

More information about the Awards:

<https://www.pai.edu.au/content/john-laing-professional-development-awards-2017>

Media contact

Gianna Ferrara

General Manager, Marketing and Brand

E: Gianna.Ferrara@pai.edu.au

P: 08 8394 2177

M: 0438 054 360

About Principals Australia Institute

Principals Australia Institute (PAI) is a national organisation providing quality professional learning, leadership development and principal certification to Australia’s 9,500 school leaders, across all school systems.

Through its relationships and connections across the education sector, it assists school leaders to achieve the best possible outcomes for themselves, their staff and their students, through ongoing professional development and learning.

PAI provides leadership and advocacy to Government in the areas of school leadership, professional development and Australian Principal Certification to help elevate the profession and raise the profile of principals in the community.