



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION FINALISTS

The Finalists have been selected for the Aboriginal Education Council Aboriginal Education Award in the 2017 NSW/ACT Young Achiever Awards. The Awards aim to encourage, acknowledge and reward the achievements and valuable contribution young people make in their local communities.

The Aboriginal Education Council Aboriginal Education Award will recognise young Teachers, Assistant Teachers, Support staff, Community Educators and community members who are passionate about providing and improving education for Aboriginal people. The Award will recognise young men and women who have the skill and ability to inspire students of all ages.

The three finalists are;

- Carlie Gemmell, 27 of WAGGA WAGGA
- Renee April Wootton, 23 of RANDWICK
- Maeve Thomson, 24 of LILYFIELD

Carlie Gemmell, 27 of Wagga Wagga has used her studies of the Wiradjuri Language to advocate for students. She worked as Future Moves School Outreach Officer developing and delivering workshops to support the engagement of students in higher education. Carlie has graduated from the Wiradjuri Language Graduate Certificate where she developed a handbook of language and culture activities called "Wiradjuri basics for Teachers and Students". She has recently started as the Indigenous Student Liaison Officer for Charles Stuart University.

Renee April Wootton, 23 of Randwick is a proud Tharawal woman and an enthusiastic Aerospace Engineer. She volunteers with "POE", The Power of Engineering, who provide regional and rural students with workshops, speakers and engineering site visits. Renee was the enabler in partnering up POE with Careertrackers a not for profit organisation providing Indigenous University students with private sector internships. She regularly speaks at high schools to share her vision of improving female representation in the Engineering Field.

Maeve Thomson, 24 of Lilyfield is in her second year of teaching at Alexandria Park Community School. She led the reintroduction of the Higher School Certificate course 'Aboriginal Studies' and created engaging Aboriginal education programs. Maeve coordinated the 'Songlines' collaborative artwork project for NAIDOC and led the inaugural Aboriginal Studies Community Experience Trip. She is an active member of the Aboriginal Studies Association and was praised for her presentation at the 2016 Aboriginal Studies Association Annual Conference.