

PRESS RELEASE

Under embargo until 10am Friday 23 June, 2017

Australian Olympic Committee Presents the Pierre de Coubertin Award to Victorian Schools and State Sporting Associations

MELBOURNE, JUNE 23 - On International Olympic Day, 188 Victorian Senior Secondary School students and State Sport Association athletes will be acknowledged with the prestigious Pierre de Coubertin award.

The annual Awards Ceremony returns to the Melbourne Cricket Ground, a fitting venue with much Olympic history as the home of the Melbourne 1956 Olympic Games. The awards are funded by the Department of Education & Training and delivered by the Victorian Olympic Council.

Named after the founder of the Modern Olympic Games, the Pierre de Coubertin Award recognises students who demonstrate academic excellence and sporting prowess whilst exemplifying the Olympic values. Each award recipient must participate in sport and display the Olympic values, in particular, good sportsmanship.

In addition to the awards ceremony an Olympic Academy will be held for the students, and an Olympic Forum for Teachers and Sport Administrator's. Further details follow.

Pierre de Coubertin Awards Ceremony

Melbourne's own Nicole Livingstone OAM will Emcee the awards ceremony. Rio Gold Medallist Catherine Skinner OAM will be on hand to present students with their awards.

We are also delighted to have representing the Minister for Sport, **Judith Graley MP**, Member for Narre Warren South and Parliamentary Secretary for Education present.

As part of the nomination each student must submit a literary, artistic or digital piece to this year's theme: "Which Rio 2016 Olympic Games moment has had the biggest impact on you?"

The 'Most Outstanding Digital Media Piece' is presented to James Harry from Gleneagles Secondary College, the Most Outstanding Literary piece to Lukas Egger from The Hamilton and Alexandra College, and the Most Outstanding Artistic Piece to Sierra Danon from Glen Eira College.

Glen Eira College Physical Education and Humanities teacher, Adam Golding notes **Sierra** as *“displaying terrific leadership qualities since her time at the College. She is willing to give up her own time to help coach interschool sports team's during lunch time and after school. Sierra show's amazing sportsmanship that every student at our school should look up to; encouraging and supporting her opposition, giving her very best when she is pitching in the State Softball Competition or smashing an overhead volley in regional badminton. She epitomises true qualities that the de Coubertin award represents.”*

Victorian Olympic Council Executive Director Warwick Waters said *“The Pierre de Coubertin awards are a highlight of our annual calendar and it is an honour to present this outstanding award to so many deserving recipient's, each clearly demonstrating the Olympic values.”*

Student Olympic Academy

A further 110 School and Sport leaders will participate in an Olympic Academy preceding the awards ceremony where students will interact with Olympians, learn about the a.s.p.i.r.e Olympic values, discuss current sport and health topics, as well as visit the National Sports Museum.

OLYMPIANS IN ATTENDANCE:

- **Linley Frame** Barcelona 1992 Swimming
- **Belinda Hocking** Beijing 2008, London 2012, Rio 2016 Swimming
- **Nicole Livingstone OAM** Seoul 1988, Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996 Swimming
Silver and Dual Bronze Medallist
- **Jeff Riseley** Beijing 2008, London 2012, Rio 2016 Athletics
- **Pam Ryan AM MBE** Tokyo 1964, Mexico 1968, Munich 1972 Athletics
SILVER and BRONZE Medallist
- **Catherine Skinner OAM** Rio 2016 Shooting GOLD Medallist
- **Trevor Vincent OAM** Tokyo 1964 Athletics
- **Erin Walklate** Beijing 2008 Badminton (VOC Education Commission
Member and former Pierre de Coubertin Award Recipient)

Teacher and Sport Administrator's Olympic Forum

For the first time in 2017, we have offered the opportunity for Teachers and State Sporting Association Administrators to attend a FREE Olympic Forum which will run concurrently with the Student's Academy at the MCG. The Forum will be an opportunity to meet with like-minded educators and sport administrators and network with stakeholders from:

- ACHPER
- the MCG and National Sports Museum
- Red Dust
- School Sport Victoria
- VicHealth
- the Victorian Institute of Sport
- and Olympic legend, Steve Moneghetti AM.

For further details please contact:

Warwick Waters - Executive Director, Victorian Olympic Council

M: 0421 381 160

E: warwick.waters@olympics.com.au