

Southern Highland News

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Darcy lends voice

AGRICULTURE Bowral

A HIGHLANDS student has been lauded for his leadership and the awareness he has raised about the effects of drought.

Chevalier College's Darcy Howard has been awarded with the Order of Australia Association (NSW) youth community service award.

The award is for outstanding service or engagement with the community and is presented by Governor of NSW the Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC.

Darcy was one of 25 students to receive a trophy and certificate of commendation, which was presented by the NSW Governor at Government House recently.

Conducted by the Order of Australia Association (NSW) Branch, students from across NSW were nominated by their school principals for being exemplary role models.

Nominees were assessed

by a selection panel to determine the final award recipients.

Darcy is a vice-captain at Chevalier College and is a leader in the school's agricultural education.

He also wrote a poem for a school assessment in 2018 called *Little Buster*, which touched on drought awareness and mental health.

The poem was subsequently widely-acclaimed on ABC national TV and radio, and in the *Southern Highland News* and *Highlands Post*.

Darcy recited this at a Bowral Country Women's Association (CWA) drought fundraiser, and later at the Hay Runners Drought Relief Ball in the ACT to standing ovations.

The poem has since been widely used by schools to promote R U OK? Day and in agriculture programs.

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RECOGNITION: Chevalier College student Darcy Howard with Governor of NSW the Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC at Government House. **Photo: Supplied**



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Darcy was also involved in school cattle competitions at agricultural shows including Canberra and Sydney Royal Shows. This led to him receiving the prestigious Norman Lethbridge Award for Contributions to Agriculture.

He has also contributed to his community through the Harbison Care Aged Care 'Come to the Table' program. This involved a six-week interview and interaction program in 2017 and 2018.

He has also participated in Dream Cricket - a skills day for children with disabilities, which is supported by Rotary, the Bradman Foundation and Movement Disorder Foundation.

The Order of Australia Association (NSW) Chairman, Peter Falk OAM, congratulated Darcy and said the award was the highest recognition available to NSW high school



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students. "Darcy is one of 25 high school students who have generously volunteered their time to a wide range of community organisations while preparing for their HSC examination," Mr Falk said.

"I have the highest admiration for their ability to manage their studies while

contributing to a range of special community causes.

"It demonstrates they are exceptional community role models and very worthy recipients of The Order of Australia Association (NSW) Youth Community Service Award. Darcy did not seek recognition for his actions,

but today we honour him for his selfless work. We are fortunate to have such impressive role models active within our communities."

The award was initiated by the late Dr John Lincoln AM in 1992, and was convened by him until his death in 2011.