

MEDIA RELEASE

Celebrating outstanding achievements in environmental education across NSW - NSW Environmental Education Awards Announced

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The winners of the 2024 NSW Environmental Education Awards were celebrated today (22 November), honouring outstanding achievements in environmental education across New South Wales.

Presented by Environmental Education NSW, these awards recognise individuals, businesses and schools that are leading the charge and creating positive change in their communities. With six award categories, the 2024 honourees represent a diverse range of inspiring contributions, from innovative school sustainability programs to impactful biodiversity conservation initiatives. This year's recipients exemplify the power of education to inspire action to create a more sustainable future.

The winners reflect a shared vision for environmental stewardship and education excellence.

Excellence in Environmental Education Awards

- NSW Environmental Educator of the Year Award
 - Winner: Abbie Mitchell, Jane Goodall Institute Australia
 - Highly Commended: Beth Riolo, Catholic Education Diocese of Wollongong
- NSW Emerging Leader in Environmental Education Award
 - Winner: Yasmin Andrews, Reverse Garbage
 - Highly Commended: Amy Naicker, Sydney Zoo

Program Excellence Award

- Return and Earn Program Leader Award
 - Winner: David Bateman, Dapto High School
 - Highly Commended: Loretta Rapa, Catholic Schools Broken Bay
- Sustainable Schools NSW School of the Year
 - Winner: Mumbulla School for Rudolf Steiner Education
 - Highly Commended: Ascham School and Fisher Road School
- Sustainable Schools NSW Teacher of the Year Award
 - Winner: Shane Roberts, Belltrees Public School
 - Highly Commended: Rebecca Daniell, Cudgegong Valley Public School

Business Excellence Award

- Sustainability Connect Business of the Year Award
 - Winner: Sydney Zoo
 - Highly Commended: Jane Goodall Institute Australia

Each of these awardees has demonstrated remarkable leadership and dedication to fostering sustainable practices and environmental awareness

Sue Burton, President of Environmental Education NSW commends the award winners:

“Environmental education has never been more critical than it is today. These awards celebrate passionate sustainability professionals, who are inspiring communities and empowering young people to create a sustainable future.”

“Their work shows us that education is one of our most powerful tools for positive change.”

About Environmental Education NSW

Environmental Education NSW (EENSW) is a not-for-profit professional association supporting environmental educators to create transformative change. We are the NSW Chapter of the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE), the peak national professional association for environmental educators.

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<https://aaeensw.org.au/nsw-environmental-education-awards/>

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