

2018 Pierre de Coubertin Award Presentation Information

Pierre de Coubertin was the founder of modern Olympics and was convinced of the importance of sport in the development of the individual. He believed in the qualities of excellence, sportsmanship and respect which embody the values of Olympism.

The Pierre de Coubertin Awards, an initiative of the Australian Olympic Committee, are designed to reward not only the elite sports people but those that display strong character and ideals, representing the school at the highest standard both on and off the field. Previous Western Australian winners of this award include Fergus Kavanagh (Olympian, Hockey), Kim Mickle (Olympian, Athletics), Harry Taylor (Geelong FC) and Daniel Wells (North Melbourne FC).

The Awards are held annually in each state (except NT) and are presented to one Year 10, 11 or 12 student from participating High Schools. In WA in 2018, The Australian Olympic Committee awarded 43 students from among the approximate 16,000 students attending those participating High Schools.

Of the 43 students, 33 students and their families attended the State Presentation Ceremony held in Perth. The students were invited to an Olympic Academy Day held prior to the Presentation Ceremony, which provided students with a once in a lifetime opportunity to learn about leadership, goal setting and resilience from some of WA's Olympic heroes. Olympians Jesse Phillips (Sprint Kayak); Tamsin Cook (Swimming); Danielle Kettlewell (Synchronised Swimming) and Rhys Grant (Rowing) shared with the students their own Olympic journey. The students also learnt about the Olympic movement and toured the Western Australian Institute of Sports high performance facility.

Emcee, Olympian Jesse Phillips who has attended multiple Pierre de Coubertin days, said he is grateful for the opportunity to meet students and foster their spirit for personal excellence. *"The students receive an insight into the whole Olympic Movement. The journey is much bigger than just what you see at the Olympic games every 4 years. It is an ongoing journey with many obstacles, setbacks, hopes and dreams to represent our Country".*

The students were thrilled to meet some of their sporting heroes and among them was Olympian Lauren Mitchell (Gymnastics). Her message was threefold:

1. Discover your Why - What do you want to achieve?
2. Control what you can, such as the preparation not the outcome
3. Change the language –create positive dialogue, set small challenges on the journey to achieve your ultimate goal.

"It was fantastic to speak to the students and their families today, I love sharing my story and the process of how I achieved my goals to hopefully inspire them to achieve their own".

Australian Olympic Committee WA State Manager Lisa Lilleyman acknowledged the great support from schools throughout Western Australia for the Pierre de Coubertin Award, with nominations received from metropolitan and regional schools including Albany, Geraldton and Christmas Island.

"We are thrilled so many wonderful WA Youth could be recognised for displaying the Olympic Values and their commitment to excellence in all areas of their lives. We are pleased so many could join us for the Academy Day and continue to be inspired by our Olympians".

Please contact Lisa Lilleyman (08)6168 9185 should you require any further information