

Transcript from NASCA Youth Awards

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Misty Kelly and I'm a proud Dunghutti Gumbaynggirr woman. I'm the current team leader at Kempsey High School. Today I have the honour of introducing one of the NASCA Integrity Award winners for 2023, Laveda Jarrett.

I have worked with Laveda over the past four years in the Young Women's programmes and have had the privilege of supporting and mentoring Laveda through this time, Laveda has faced many challenges during school life and in her personal life. Seeing Laveda grow through all of these challenges and work through past traumas shows her maturity and strength, which has turned her into the strong young woman she is today.

Laveda is incredibly deserving of the NASCA Youth Award for Integrity with unwavering honesty, high moral principles, and a clear sense of social justice. Laveda exemplifies the true essence of integrity. Laveda is fiercely loyal, always stands up for what she cares about, and passionately advocates for what she believes is right. Her strong sense of integrity is evident in the way she treats others with respect, kindness, and fairness.

Laveda's, unwavering commitment to doing the right thing inspires and influences those around her. Her reliability, honesty and passion make her a great role model to others, and she is a valued member of our NASCA programme.

I know that Nan and Pop, your family, school staff and our local community are extremely proud of you. Please join me in congratulating Laveda in receiving one of the Integrity Awards for 2023.

Prerecorded interview with Laveda, Misty Kelly, and her Nan (Aunty Rosie) and Pop (Uncle Eddie).

Q. Where do you think you would be without NASCA and without your Nana and Pop?

Laveda: "Lost. Completely lost if I'm being honest."

"My name is Laveda. I've been a part of the NASCA programme for four years."

Uncle Eddie "When she first came to us, she was one troubled girl in in a mixed-up world. She was two or three years' old. We looked at her and she was in a mess. Now look where she is today."

Aunty Misty "A lot of our kids have challenging backgrounds and have come from trauma and intergenerational trauma. So I think just sort of having that support and structure and stability can make that whole difference."

Laveda "My Nan and Pop and NASCA have taught me to be a role model by showing me I just got to believe in myself and if I want to be somebody I can."

"I wanted to make them proud because they make feel safe and that. So, they're pretty special to me because they gave me that special feeling and family love."

Aunty Rosie "It makes me feel proud. to think that I did something good for her. I'm very proud you know."

Laveda "I think it's important for young indigenous people to have a safe place because they can always come into NASCA and always know that they can be who they are and be proud of who they are."

(Aunty Misty) Please join me in welcoming Laveda to the stage.

Good afternoon. My name is Laveda. I am a student at Kempsey High School. I'm currently in Year 10. I'm a proud young Dunghutti and Gumbaynggirr woman. I'd like to pay my respects to the Gadigal people of this land and extend those back to past, present, and emerging. I would also want to give a special thanks to my amazing Nan and Pop. Thank you for always being there for me. Supporting me through everything and believing in me. Your belief in my abilities has given me the confidence to believe that I can achieve anything I want.

I'm forever, grateful for your love and support, and I know I can be a handful and a bit of a devil sometimes when I want to be so I'm so grateful for everything you have done for me since day one and to today. I'm always going to be so grateful for everything you do for me and everything you have done for me and my siblings. You're the best nan and pop and I wouldn't change it for the world.

Nan and Pop, you're like a mum and dad to me. Thanks for taking me in and giving me the best life.

I would also like to give Aunty Misty a huge thank you. I want to thank you for always standing by me since Year 7 through to today. I want to thank you so much because you have made me realise that I have changed and that I can also rely on you and that NASCA is a safe place for me. I know I was a little rat bag when I was in Year 7, 8 and 9, but I have changed growing up and I'm so thankful for your help getting me out of my shell. I remember when I first got to say the acknowledgement to country in assembly and I was too shy and got you to stand up with me. And now I can get up by myself, stand tall and proud and say it in front of my peers, school and teachers and be a role model for the kids younger than me.

You're like a second Mum to me, a big sister and Auntie to me. I'm extremely proud of myself for winning this award. I'm so happy and proud of myself because I know I have changed and that I know I can be whatever I want. I just got to put my head down and believe in myself and work hard.

I don't even have words for how proud I am of myself. I know I deserve this incredible award because I have come so far, and I know I can accomplish anything I want. I just got to keep my head high, believe in myself and I know I got support behind me if I ever need help and when I see myself in a few years I will achieve my goals. My goal is to finish year 12, go to university and become an occupational therapist, and I know I can become that. I know I can achieve that goal with the help of the people who support me the most. Nan, Pop, Aunty Misty, and my sister.

I want to be somebody. I feel like I am a good role model to years younger to me. I want to show my siblings that they can be whatever they want to be. They just have to put their heads down and start slowly and put their minds to it and they can be whatever they want. Thank you for listening.