YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

2026

Nunawading Rotary Club

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Youth Achievement Awards

This year Rotary awarded our 48th **Rotary Youth Achievement Awards**.

A unique initiative of the Rotary Club of Forest Hill, this award was established nearly 50 years ago. The Rotary Club of Nunawading conducted this program for the very first time in 2024.

The purpose of this award - affectionately referred to as the *'Unsung Hero Award'* - is to recognise a grade 6 student who may not ordinarily be acknowledged for his/her contributions to their peers and the school community. Twelve local primary schools chose to participate this year.

The school selects the most appropriate candidate for this award and pens the citations published herein.

A child who receives this award

- is a wonderful role model who upholds the school's values
- can be called upon to help the school or colleagues at any time
- has achieved success through application and determination throughout the year
- has made a worthwhile contribution to the school community and/or the environment
- may not have received many academic or sporting awards, but has excelled in other ways - i.e. is an *'unsung hero'* who strives hard to succeed and to help others

The prize consists of a framed Certificate, a laminated printout of the citation provided by his/her school, a $50.00 gift voucher from Rotary Nunawading and a 'goodie bag' from Bendigo Bank Blackburn South.



UNSUNG HEROES 2026

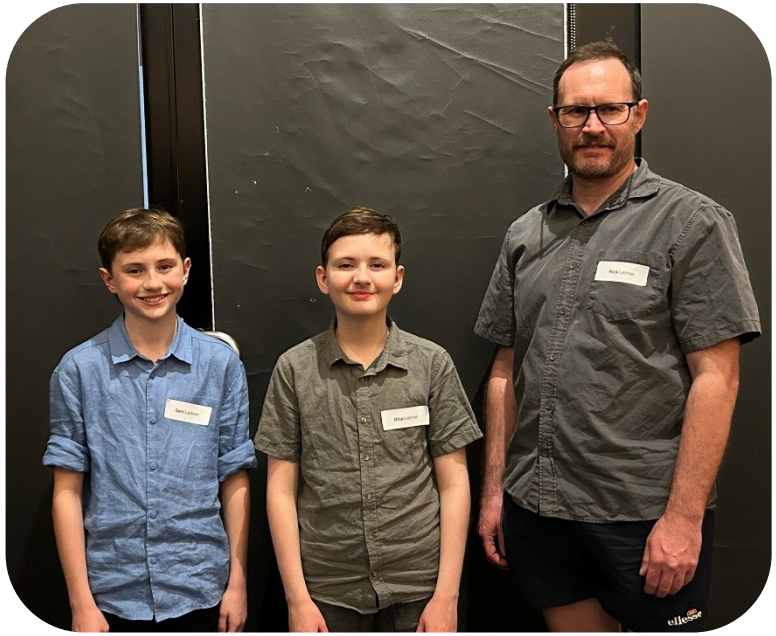


Introducing our UNSUNG HEROES for 2026

Oliver Leitner	Blackburn Lake PS
Lilly Kirk	Burwood Heights PS
Cohen Rowell	Livingstone PS
Mia Binoy	Mt Pleasant Road PS
Gurnaaz Bajwa	Nunawading Christian College
Madison Walford	Orchard Grove PS
Ryan Hall	Parkmore PS
Santiago Tuchinsky	Rangeview PS
Khloe Simpson	Vermont PS
Sarah Imran	Vermont Sth. Special School
Gargi Chetan Kadam	Weeden Heights PS
Yvette Hoare-Roper	Whitehorse PS

Please Note: The following pages are designed to be viewed as a two page spread.

Oliver Leitner



‘ **Oliver** *is a student who always does the ‘little things’ that often go unnoticed.*

This could be picking up rubbish, helping other students with work, staying after class to do extra tidying up and demonstrating kindness and empathy when his peers are struggling. ‘



YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
2026

Oliver Leitner

Blackburn Lake Primary School

Oliver Leitner is a true unsung hero of our community. He is a student who always does the 'little things' that often go unnoticed. This could be picking up rubbish, helping other students with work, staying after class to do extra tidying up and demonstrating kindness and empathy when his peers are struggling.

Oliver always displays a calm, kind and positive disposition and is a student others look to for support. He has volunteered his time to assist with the lighting at our school musical and has completed his official duties as a Daily Manager with responsibility and enthusiasm.

Oliver is a trustworthy, reliable, generous student who a role model in the truest sense of the word.

Congratulations, Oliver!

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Award Presented : 21.10.2026

Lilly Kirk





*‘**Lilly** is a student who tries her best in everything she does.*

Her positive attitude to all tasks is highly commendable, as is her kindness and understanding shown to others. There are many instances where her kindness has made an incredible difference to her peers.’

YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
2026

Lilly Kirk

Burwood Heights Primary School

Lilly Kirk is a student who tries her best in everything she does. Her positive attitude to all tasks is highly commendable, as is her kindness and understanding shown to others. There are many instances where her kindness has made an incredible difference to her peers.

Lilly is a dependable, conscientious and responsible student who has carried out the role of House Captain responsibly. These are certainly qualities that we should all aspire to.

Lilly is polite, trustworthy and helpful and is respected by her peers and staff.

Lilly is appreciated by all for her cheerful attitude, for her willingness to do whatever is asked of her and by her positive approach to all school life.

She is a highly valued member of the school community.

Congratulations Lilly!

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Award Presented : 21.10.2026

Cohen Rowell





*'**Cohen** shows kindness and inclusiveness when interacting with others and ensures that everyone has a say and plays a role when working collaboratively. This student never seeks recognition or rewards for his endeavours and is extremely humble in his achievements.'*

YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

2026

Cohen Rowell

Livingstone Primary School

The recipient of this award is a dedicated member of the Livingstone school community, epitomising the school values of Pride, Responsibility, Respect, Integrity, Optimism and Resilience.

He is an outstanding role model for his peers, modelling positive behaviours and learning habits. He is a shining example of what can be accomplished with hard work and determination.

This student has applied themselves with 100% effort to all learning activities and has achieved excellent results along the way. This student is caring, funny, and kind, and shows responsibility and integrity at all times.

He carefully listens to others when they are speaking and provides valuable responses and feedback to his peers to assist them in taking the next steps in their learning. He consistently cleans up and often volunteers to help around the classroom without being asked. All teachers feel confident in asking this student to assist with tasks.

He shows kindness and inclusiveness when interacting with others and ensures that everyone has a say and plays a role when working collaboratively. This student never seeks recognition or rewards for his endeavours and is extremely humble in his achievements.

Congratulations on your outstanding efforts, Cohen Rowell.

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Award Presented : 21.10.2026

Mia Binoy



*’ **Mia** is a true representation of our school vision and demonstrates a deep understanding that they are **empowered to change the world**.*

They recognise that even small actions can create meaningful change and consistently look for opportunities to make a difference.’



YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

2026

Mia Binoy

Mount Pleasant Road Primary School

The recipient of this year's Rotary Youth Achievement Award is a compassionate, humble and deeply caring student who consistently demonstrates an outstanding commitment to community, service and social connectedness.

A true advocate for our community and for those who may be less fortunate, this student goes out of their way to include, support and uplift others. They have a genuine understanding of the importance of giving back and are always looking for ways to make a positive difference. Their distinctive style of leadership is evident in their ability to recognise opportunities for change and then turn their ideas into meaningful action.

They played an integral role in supporting the Pleasant Play Out school fete by promoting, collecting, sorting and organising a successful second-hand clothes and toy stall. They have also been actively involved in our Kinder Buddy program for three years, demonstrating an ongoing commitment to supporting younger students and building connections across our school community. Their passion for service extends beyond simply getting involved; they have independently researched a range of charities for the school to support and are continually thinking of new initiatives that could make our school an even better place.

Continued on last page

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Award Presented : 21.10.2026

Gurnaaz Bajwa

‘**Gurnaaz** truly exemplifies compassion and respect in all that she does…….

She leads by example through her strong sense of responsibility, always stepping up to assist others, encouraging her peers, and serving the wider community with deep kindness and humility.

Students and staff alike admire her uplifting, positive attitude and steadfast, quiet leadership.”





YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

2026

Gurnaaz Bajwa

Nunawading Christian College

We are proud to recognise Gurnaaz for her outstanding dedication, integrity, and exceptional service to our school community.

Gurnaaz consistently demonstrates quiet commitment through her active involvement in the school choir, performing with enthusiasm, confidence, and grace at both school and community events. She also played a role in our school production, showcasing her creative talent, collaborative spirit, and determination to overcome challenges.

Gurnaaz truly exemplifies compassion and respect in all that she does, faithfully supporting our chapels and worship with genuine care and reverence. She leads by example through her strong sense of responsibility, always stepping up to assist others, encouraging her peers, and serving the wider community with deep kindness and humility. Students and staff alike admire her uplifting, positive attitude and steadfast, quiet leadership.

Congratulations, Gurnaaz. Your unwavering dedication, generous spirit, and caring heart make you a truly deserving recipient of this award!

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Award Presented : 21.10.2026

Madison Walford

*'**Maddy** is the unsung hero who is always the last at an event when packing up, constantly taking care of her fellow students no matter what the age,*

……a rock that will never quiver from the truth and can be relied on for always reporting accurately and is so easily missed as she is such a humble, respectful and quiet achiever."





YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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Madison Walford

Orchard Grove Primary School

Maddy has demonstrated exceptional leadership throughout the year and has been an outstanding JSC Captain.

She has shown initiative, maturity and a strong sense of responsibility, confidently taking charge of organising events, coordinating the JSC committee and ensuring tasks are completed successfully.

Maddy leads with kindness and purpose, listening carefully to others, valuing different perspectives and ensuring every committee member has an opportunity to contribute.

She consistently leads by example and embodies our school values of integrity, diversity, respect, working together and fostering growth. Her dedication, organisation and genuine care for our school community have made her an inspiring and highly respected leader.

All three Year 6 teachers agree that Maddy is the unsung hero who is always the last at an event when packing up, constantly taking care of her fellow students no matter what the age, a rock that will never quiver from the truth and can be relied on for always reporting accurately and is so easily missed as she is such a humble, respectful and quiet achiever.

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Award Presented : 21.10.2026

Yvette Hoare-Roper

*'**Yvette** embraces opportunities, faces challenges with confidence, and supports those around her.*

Her strong values, leadership, and hard work have made a lasting impact on our school community, making her a highly deserving role model for all.'





YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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Yvette Hoare-Roper

Whitehorse Primary School

Throughout her time at Whitehorse, Yvette has consistently gone above and beyond in all aspects of school life.

As School Captain, she has led with integrity, kindness, and respect, setting an outstanding example for others through both her actions and achievements. She always strives for excellence, approaching every task with dedication, perseverance, and a commitment to doing her best.

Yvette embraces opportunities, faces challenges with confidence, and supports those around her. Her strong values, leadership, and hard work have made a lasting impact on our school community, making her a highly deserving role model for all.

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Award Presented : 21.10.2026

Ryan Hall

‘**Ryan** *is an incredibly talented and hardworking individual who personifies perseverance and resilience.*

Ryan has faced many challenges over the years, some of which were out of his control, yet he continues to be a determined and diligent worker who has gone from strength to strength physically and mentally. ’





YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
2026

Ryan Hall

Parkmore Primary School

Ryan Hall is an incredibly talented and hardworking individual who personifies perseverance and resilience.

Ryan has faced many challenges over the years, some of which were out of his control, yet he continues to be a determined and diligent worker who has gone from strength to strength physically and mentally.

This year, he achieved phenomenal success in Cross Country, completing it with a personal best after training in his own time by sacrificing his Recess and Lunch time.

Moreover, he has achieved fantastic learning outcomes, developing wonderfully in both Numeracy and Literacy. Ryan exemplifies inspiration, as his “can do” attitude always brings the best out of himself and those around him.

Congratulations, Ryan

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Award Presented : 11.11.2026

Santiago Tuchinsky

Santiago *"consistently demonstrates our school values through kindness, politeness, patience and respect for others. He is someone we can rely on, always willing to help and support those around him.*

Gifted musically and academically, Santiago has achieved success through determination and hard work. He also shows resilience and a fantastic sense of humour, even when faced with challenging situations."





YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
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Santiago Tuchinsky

Rangeview Primary School

This year the Rotary Club of Nunawading Youth Achievement Award (for Unsung Heroes) award is proudly presented to Santiago for the wonderful contribution he makes to our school community.

Santiago consistently demonstrates our school values through kindness, politeness, patience and respect for others. He is someone we can rely on, always willing to help and support those around him.

Gifted musically and academically, Santiago has achieved success through determination and hard work. He also shows resilience and a fantastic sense of humour, even when faced with challenging situations.

This year, Santiago truly stepped outside his comfort zone on camp, embracing many different challenges throughout the week.

Congratulations Santiago, you are a true all-rounder!

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Award Presented : 11.11.2026

Khloe Simpson

'What makes Khloe especially deserving of this award is that she never does these things for recognition or reward.

She simply wants to do the right thing and help others.

Khloe's care, effort, patience and quiet generosity enhance our school community and make her so deserving of the recognition that this award brings.'





YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
2026

Khloe Simpson

Vermont Primary School

Khloe is a wonderful example of what it means to live by our school values. She consistently tries her hardest, treats others with kindness and is always willing to lend a helping hand.

What makes Khloe especially deserving of this award is that she never does these things for recognition or reward. She simply wants to do the right thing and help others.

Khloe's care, effort, patience and quiet generosity enhance our school community and make her so deserving of the recognition that this award brings.

Congratulations, Khloe!

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Award Presented : 11.11.2026

Sarah Imran



***'Sarah** is a friendly and conscientious student who always has a big smile on her face. She shows persistence and determination in her schoolwork, always trying her best and never giving up when things get challenging.*

She approaches new experiences with an open mind and a willingness to give things a go.'



YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
2026

Sarah Imran

Vermont South Special School

Sarah is a friendly and conscientious student who always has a big smile on her face. She shows persistence and determination in her schoolwork, always trying her best and never giving up when things get challenging.

Sarah approaches new experiences with an open mind and a willingness to give things a go. She is a friendly and caring member of our school community who builds positive relationships with both staff and students.

Sarah is always ready to lend a helping hand and show kindness to others. Her positive attitude, perseverance and willingness have made her a pleasure to teach over her time at Vermont South Special School.

Congratulations Sarah!

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Award Presented : 11.11.2026

Gargi Chetan Kadam

‘**Gargi** *approaches learning with enthusiasm, embraces challenges and strives for excellence across all curriculum areas.*



Her consistently high achievements in ICAS assessments reflect her academic dedication, particularly her flair for Mathematics.

Equally admirable are her kindness and willingness to support others, fostering positive relationships and strengthening connections among her peers.

Gargi is a wonderful role model for all students and a highly deserving recipient of the Rotary Club of Nunawading’s Youth.’



YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
2026

Gargi Chetan Kadam

Weeden Heights Primary School

Gargi is a valued and committed member our school community and is recognised for her outstanding leadership as a House Captain. She consistently demonstrates our school values of respect, personal excellence, collaboration, curiosity and creativity.

Gargi approaches learning with enthusiasm, embraces challenges and strives for excellence across all curriculum areas. Her consistently high achievements in ICAS assessments reflect her academic dedication, particularly her flair for Mathematics.

Equally admirable are her kindness and willingness to support others, fostering positive relationships and strengthening connections among her peers.

Gargi is a wonderful role model for all students and a highly deserving recipient of the Rotary Club of Nunawading's Youth Achievement Award.

Congratulations Gargi!

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Award Presented : 11.11.2026

Recipients of the awards, accompanied by parents and other family members, attended a presentation evening and dinner at The Blackburn Hotel.

Image below: *template for award certificate*



YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

2026

Nunawading Rotary Club

(name of student)

(name of school)

In recognition of the outstanding contribution, they have made to the life of their school and within their community

Shia Smart
President and Youth Committee Chair 2026-2027

With sincere thanks to the Principals and Staff of the participating schools,

Blackburn Lake Primary School	Blackburn VIC
Burwood Heights Primary School	Burwood East VIC
Livingstone Primary School	Vermont South VIC
Mt Pleasant Road Primary School	Nunawading VIC
Nunawading Christian College	Nunawading VIC
Orchard Grove Primary School	Blackburn South VIC
Parkmore Primary School	Forest Hill VIC
Rangeview Primary School	Mitcham VIC
Vermont Primary School	Vermont VIC
Vermont Sth. Special School	Vermont South VIC
Weeden Heights Primary School	Vermont South VIC
Whitehorse Primary School	Blackburn North VIC

Hosts :

Oct 21

Carol Page	**Oliver Leitner**	Blackburn Lake PS
Erin McCulloch	**Lilly Kirk**	Burwood Heights PS
Janette Etherington	**Cohen Rowell**	Livingstone PS
Bob Davis	**Mia Binoy**	Mt Pleasant Road PS
Rob Jackson	**Gurnaaz Bajwa**	Nunawading Christian College
Stuart Williams	**Madison Walford**	Orchard Grove PS
Gabby Knaepple	**Yvette Hoare-Roper**	Whitehorse PS

Nov 11

Stuart Williams	**Ryan Hall**	Parkmore PS
Carol Page	**Santiago Tuchinsky**	Rangeview PS
Erin McCulloch	**Khloe Simpson**	Vermont PS
Gabby Knaepple	**Sarah Imran**	Vermont Sth. Special School
Rob Jackson	**Gargi Chetan Kadam**	Weeden Heights PS

Photographs **Glenys Grant, Rob Jackson & Peter Koens.**

Learn more about the Rotary Club of Nunawading at

https://www.rotarynunawading.com.au/

With sincere thanks to:

Blackburn Hotel *for their cooperation at this very busy time*

Bendigo Bank Blackburn South *for their contributions to the 'goodie bags'*

Rotary Club of Monash Glen Waverley and their Op Shop *for their grant.*

Emma Clark	District Governor 9815
Murray Wilson	District Governor Elect 9815
Shia Smart	President of RC of Nunawading

Principals:

Shia Smart	Chairperson	*Youth Committee*
Glenys Grant	Co-ordinator	*Youth Committee*
Althea Barr	Support	*Youth Committee*
Judith Eadon	Fund collection & labels	
Bob Williams	Fund collection, goodie bags	*Youth Committee*



Pictured above : Chelsea Deacon, Community Engagement Consultant for Bendigo Bank, presenting an 'unsung hero' with his 'goodie bag'.

Our sincere thanks to Bendigo Bank Blackburn South Branch for their generous contributions and ongoing support to this project.

Mia Binoy

Continued from page 13.

This student is a true representation of our school vision and demonstrates a deep understanding that they are empowered to change the world. They recognise that even small actions can create meaningful change and consistently look for opportunities to make a difference.

Known for their kindness, caring nature and wonderful sense of humour, this student is always willing to lend a hand and acts with integrity, even when no one is watching. They demonstrate resilience, embrace new challenges and understand the value of contributing meaningfully to the lives of others. They respectfully share their ideas and perspectives in the classroom and have developed strong and lasting connections with both students and staff. Their genuine care for others, quiet determination and willingness to take action have earned them the respect and admiration of our school community.

This student is a wonderful example of the spirit of service, leadership and community that the Rotary Youth Achievement Award recognises. They truly embody the values and vision of Mount Pleasant Road Primary School, demonstrating that through kindness, initiative and a commitment to others, we are all empowered to make a difference.

Congratulations to Mia Binoy, a truly deserving recipient of this year's Nunawading Rotary's Youth Achievement Award.

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