18 September 2008

**Computer whiz kids win technology awards**

Education Minister Verity Firth today recognised the next generation of computer whiz kids for their success in using new technology in learning.

Ms Firth paid tribute to the students for their achievements in using new technology to develop online learning resources, websites and digital media.

"More than 1000 teams from 249 schools submitted entries for this year’s Connected Learning Awards, which are proving to be a highly successful learning experience for students," Ms Firth said.

"About 2500 students took part in creating the entries for these awards, making excellent use of new technology to produce work that is of the highest standard.

"The Connected Learning Awards is an initiative that challenges students to explore new technologies.

"I congratulate today’s winners and commend all the students whose hard work and dedication has contributed to the quality of their submissions."

Ms Firth said the Rees Government understood the importance of providing students with access to new and emerging connected learning technologies.

"That is why we have committed $158 million to the Connected Classrooms program, which aims to provide each school in NSW with state of the art learning facilities over the next four years," she said.

Ms Firth said the quality of the entries demonstrated the Government’s investment in new technologies was paying off.

"By introducing new technologies into our schools we are allowing students to engage creatively with information and communication technology to produce real products that other students can also benefit from," Ms Firth said.

"Every year the entries for the Connected Learning Awards are more innovative.

"This year they include interactive elements such as podcasts, quizzes, animations and flipcharts – all of which can all be used by students from various schools through the interactive whiteboards and video conferencing facilities.

"They have also used a greater variety of software tools to create their entries, demonstrating their strong grasp and understanding of the power of technology.

"Participating in these awards also helps students learn teamwork and negotiation skills – all essential to learning for life in today’s world."

The Minister also thanked the industry sponsors for their generous support of students and teachers across NSW.
“The sponsors have been particularly generous this year. As well as prizes for the award winners they provided additional prize draws for participating schools in a number of categories,” Ms Firth said.

**Principal Sponsor**: Adobe Systems  
**Major Sponsors**: Wacom, Electroboard Solutions  
**Supporting Sponsors**: Hewlett-Packard, Intouch Consultancy, Microsoft Australia and Scholastic New Media.

The 2008 Connected Learning Awards winners are:

**Digital Story Awards**

**Primary**
- **Winner**: Reid McManus, Tacking Point Public School
- **Runner Up**: Corvan Hall, Moama Public School
- **Highly Commended**: J-crash, Niagara Park Public School

**Secondary**
- **Winner**: Nadine Denten, Woolooware High School
- **Runner Up**: Samuel Holcombe, Gosford High School
- **Encouragement**: Will Adams, Glen Innes High School

**Short Film Awards**

**Primary**
- **Winner**: Reid McManus, Tacking Point Public School
- **Runner Up**: The Redbacks, Quakers Hill Public School
- **Highly Commended**: C.H.I.P Productions (Cinemagraphic Heroes in Putney), Putney Public School

**Secondary**
- **Winner**: Little Tramp Productions, Cranebrook High School
- **Runner Up**: Jai Appleby, Kym Brown, Jarrad Ferrier and Bronte Hanson, Moruya High School
- **Encouragement**: Tim Seager Super Potato, Carenne School

**Web Design Awards**

**Primary**
- **Winner**: Treemendous Spud Diggers, Five Mile Tree Public School
- **Runner Up**: Natural Nine, Lindfield East Public School
- **Encouragement**: A.S.K. Blue, Dural Public School

**Secondary**
- **Winner**: INTELigence, Taree High School
- **Runner Up**: Earthlings, Marrickville High School
- **Encouragement**: Living Green, North Sydney Girls High School; and JRAHS, James Ruse Agricultural High School

**Digital Art Awards**

**Primary**
- **Winner**: Oliver Green, Jerrabomberra Public School
- **Runners Up**: Avalon McGregor, Chillingham Public School; and Dominic Montanari and Ethan Phillips, New Lambton South Public School
- **Encouragement**: Max Davy, Lindfield East Public School
**Secondary**  
Winner: Samantha Barker, Riverside Girls High School  
Runner Up: Natsuki Robertson, Riverside Girls High School  
Encouragement: Leona Mitchell, Riverside Girls High School

**Learning Resource Awards**  

**Primary**  
Winner: Sebastian Clutterbuck and Hussein Naji, Bexley North Public School  
Runner Up: Petra Matic and Lisa Huynh-Le, Cabramatta Public School  
Highly Commended: Reading Circle 1 (Imogen D’Souza, Gemma Tierney and Joshua Kulkarni), Manly West Public School  
Encouragement: Dane Green, Copacabana Public School

**Secondary**  
Winner: Matwix – Richard Mattey and Liam Wicks, Kotara High School  
Runners Up: Sharon Singh, Iqra Hoda, Alina Yasin and Vivian Ma Casula High School; and John Lam, Taree High School  
Encouragement: Ben Graham, Taree High School; and Brett Tyrpenou, Taree High School

**Greeting Card Design Awards**  
Winner: Kate Morris, Valentine Public School  
Award for Animation: Melanie Chiu, Riverside Girls High School