



**VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**

144 Westbourne Grove, Northcote 3070 ph. 9481 0800 fax 9481 4072

P.O. Box 113, Northcote 3070 Email: vaeai@vaeai.org.au

Registration No: A3874 ABN 26 922 788 278

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**Victorian Koorie Community celebrates success in Vocational Education and Training, at the annual Wurreker awards ceremony.**

This year marked the **15<sup>th</sup> Annual VAEAI Wurreker Awards**, celebrated on the 13<sup>th</sup> September at the Aborigines Advancement League in Thornbury, Melbourne.

Hosted by the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated (VAEAI), in partnership with the Department of Education and Training (DET), Attended by over 200 people, including nominees, invited guests and **Ms Gayle Tierney Minister for Training and skills and Minister for Corrections.**

The evening featured a breathtaking expression of culture by One Fire dance troupe, captivating acoustic performance by Matthew Walker and a delicious modern bush food inspired menu by Charcoal Lane.

The ceremony highlighted and celebrated excellence in Koorie community, acknowledging outstanding results by individuals, training providers, community and organisations who work tirelessly to create outcomes for Koorie learners.

Geraldine Atkinson, President of VAEAI, spoke about the importance of VET to Koorie people, as it provides a pathway that offers many opportunities for employment and further education and training.

The following individuals and organisations were winners across the 11 categories;

**Public Sector Employee Award**

Bronwyn Pickford

DHHS

**Public Sector Employer Award**

Greater Shepparton Communities for children, One Village

***Community Based Employee Award***

Joanne Harrison- Clarke

Wimmera Primary Care partnership

***Community Based Employer***

The Torch

***Teacher/Trainer Award***

Eva Ponting

GO TAFE

***Dr Mary Atkinson award -Koorie Organisation Award***

Moogji Aboriginal Council East Gippsland Inc

***Innovative Koorie learner Pathways – TAFE***

Federation Training, Aboriginal Education Centre

***Innovative Koorie learner Pathways – Non-TAFE***

AFL Sportsready

**Private sector Employer**

Wan Yaari, Aboriginal Consultancy

**Private sector Employee Award**

Shane Munro

Woolworths, Lakes Entrance

Elijah Bux

Schiavello Ganbu Pty Ltd

**Special Acknowledgment Award**

Robert Saunders

***The Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated  
wishes to congratulate all nominees, and award winners.***

***For further media enquiries, contact:***

Tina Sahin on (03) 94810800 or [tina@vaeai.org.au](mailto:tina@vaeai.org.au)