

Camden students excel in science despite nationwide decline

Eighteen Year 11 students from the Camden region will be awarded a Victor Chang School Science Award for their passion and outstanding achievements in the field of science.

Nominated by their teachers, these bright students are being acknowledged for their tenacity and commitment in the classroom, despite a nationwide decline of participation in school science. Enrolments in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects are currently at the lowest level in over two decades¹.

Named after the late cardiac surgeon and pioneer of modern heart transplantation, the Victor Chang School Science Awards were established to celebrate young, gifted students and to foster growth in scientific studies.

Now in its 13th year, the awards also encourage the next generation of scientists to pursue a career in medical research.

According to Dr David Humphries from the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, nurturing the future of Australian research is vital.

“Australia has such a proud science history, and through acknowledging these young students we’re giving the next generation of scientists the opportunity to see how research can directly touch people’s everyday lives,” Dr Humphries said.

“As a scientist, not only are you contributing to building knowledge, but you are constantly solving problems and seizing opportunities while improving the wellbeing of society,” he explained.

The students will be acknowledged at a ceremony at Camden Council Administration Building attended by Mayor Lara Symkowiak and Dr David Humphries from the Victor Chang Institute.

“Council is proud to partner with the Victor Chang Institute and local high schools to recognise the outstanding achievements of students in the field of science,” Cr Symkowiak said.

“Through these awards, we hope to encourage students to pursue their interest in science and make valuable contributions to research and medicine into the future,” she said.

The winners from Camden schools will join more than 200 students from across NSW on a tour of the Victor Chang Institute, and have the opportunity to learn firsthand from our world-renowned scientists.

Event Details:

What:	Victor Chang School Science Awards, Camden region
When:	Monday, 20 November 2017
Where:	Camden Council Administration Building – 70 Central Avenue, Oran Park
Time:	Ceremony commences at 11am, interviews to follow
Who:	18 students from 8 schools across Camden (see attached list) Dr David Humphries, Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute Mayor of Camden, Cr Lara Symkowiak

¹ Australia’s national science statement 2017 <http://www.science.gov.au/scienceGov/NationalScienceStatement/index.html>

MEDIA RELEASE



About the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute: The Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute is dedicated to finding cures for cardiovascular disease and has earned its place on the global stage as one of the most respected heart research facilities in the world. Renowned for the quality of its breakthroughs, the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute uses innovative transplantation techniques and conducts complex molecular and genetic analysis, to discover better ways to diagnose, treat and ultimately prevent the onset of heart disease. www.victorchang.edu.au

Recipients from Camden City Council

School Name	Student Name
Camden High School	Daniel Moussa
Elderslie High School	Mitchell Oyston
Elderslie High School	Marialee Truong
Elizabeth Macarthur High School	Billal Khan
Elizabeth Macarthur High School	Travis Chin
Elizabeth Macarthur High School	Marvin Ramirez Junior
Macarthur Anglican (Secondary)	Wenzhe (Frank) He
Macarthur Anglican (Secondary)	Taylor Drayton
Magdalene Catholic High School	Brandon Shaw
Magdalene Catholic High School	Siobhan Suters
Magdalene Catholic High School	Luke Summers
Mount Annan High School	Matt Hall
Mount Annan High School	Calista Turner
Mount Annan High School	Joel Garcia
Mount Annan Christian College	Alexander Willes
Mount Annan Christian College	Kiarry Peterson
Mount Annan Christian College	Kyle Wyber
St Benedict's Catholic College	Angelique Pallar