Tasmanian Branch Awards 2017
Awards presented and an inaugural Patron of the Tasmanian Branch announced.

On Thursday evening of June 29 close to 80 people gathered at the University of Tasmania, Hobart Campus, to acknowledge and celebrate the work of leadership by the superb group of ACEL Tasmania Award recipients for 2017. The Awards were presented by special guest the Minister for Education, the Honourable Jeremy Rockliff and assisted by Branch President Mrs Anne Foale.

A very special guest on the night was Emeritus Professor William [Bill] Mulford who can now add to his extremely impressive list of connections and accolades with and from ACEA, ACEL and CCEAM, another first – the first Patron of this State Branch. Bill helped to found ACEA in 1973, which later changed its name to ACEL. Bill was the Secretary, [1975-76], Vice President, [1982-83] and President [1983-86], he was awarded Life Membership in 1976, Fellowship in 1982, the Nganakarrawa Award in 1991 and the Association's Gold Medal for 2000. He is also a Fellow of CCEAM and held positions in this sister association of Vice President [1986-1990] and President [1990-1994].

In his address Professor Mulford challenged teachers and leaders to work intelligently to hold onto and uphold the professionalism of their chosen career and he provoked the gathering to consider the changeable face of the political overseers; Ministers, General Secretaries, Directors, ministerial Advisors ect. of Education in our State – with the data to support his provocation. He challenged us to reflect on how the lack of consistency and stability may have contributed less than positively to educational outcomes. The role of ACEL in offering a stable, consistent, sector blind, apolitical, professional and ethical position on educational leadership and providing a forum for such motivated educators to develop, find support and network, becomes highly critical in the context described by Professor Mulford.

The Award announcements were greeted with unanimous accolades and high regard by the gathering. In summary, the Awardees included:

- Eminent Educational Leader – Robert Phillips- educational consultant who retired five years ago from a position as General Manager of Learning in the Dept of Education Tas.;
- two Honourary Fellowships to Mrs Jenny Cranston [Schools Registration Board] and Mrs Janine O’Hea [Acting Principal Dominic College and formerly Principal of three other schools in Catholic Ed Tas.];
- six Excellence in Educational Leadership Awards to Karen Pape [Sacred Heart College], Mike O’Brien [Dominic College], Emma Puszkar [Guilford Young College], Nicholas Lahey [Sacred Heart College], Rachael Wells Principal, East Derwent Primary School, Bruce Stack [Rosny College]
- two Emerging Leadership Awards to Emilie Clark [Montrose Bay High] and Stacey Cooper [St James Catholic College]
- A special group Award was awarded this year for excellence by a team in improving student outcomes. This Award was presented to the Department of Education’s Vision Services team who are extremely highly regarded for the work they do State wide in supporting children from 0-18 with vision impairment or blindness

The general consensus of feedback and sentiments expressed on the evening were that this Awards event was the best so far and there was undoubtedly a feeling of great affirmation and support for the generous and hard work done by so many in our educational sector. Some of the feedback received included...

"Being surrounded by other dynamic leaders and hearing their achievements has a powerful effect in continuing to motivate and inspire me to keep going!"
"Our team had a great night at the ACEL awards presentation. We were inspired by listening to the contributions of teachers from all sectors."
"It was a classy event. Please pass on my congratulations to the other organisers."