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*photos by Classic Color Studios*

**A NIGHT OF STARS**



*Everyone's a Winner*  
By **Des Kelly**

There is an old saying, "Everyone loves a winner", and basically that's true. But not everyone loves, **only** a winner.

Some people would have to try hard not to win. Take for example George Clooney or Michael Douglas. They both had very famous actors as parents. They were around movie people all their lives. They mixed with the most influential people in the movie industry and would have learned a lot of the industry by default. Why would they not be successful actors?

Other people have to scratch and claw for survival whilst trying to become a winner at anything. I once was recommended to read a story of a man who swam down a river in Canada, rapids, gorges and all. This man came second. I wondered why it was important for me to read about the second placegetter rather than the winner. Well not too far into the article it was declared that this man only had one arm. He was the only one who had a physical challenge but he beat almost the entire field.

Was he a winner?

What about Eric? Do you remember Eric? Eric was the swimmer from Equatorial Guinea at the 2000 Olympic games, who won his heat after the other swimmers were disqualified for "breaking". He didn't set any records. He wasn't the fastest time of the day. He competed. Because of that he has gone down in the history books as a winner. And so he should.

That is like the nominees for KIC awards. They don't have to break records or do the most, or do the best thing for the community. They just have to be there and do something worthwhile. Because of that they have gone down in the history of KIC as winners. And so they should.

As a committee member I have the privilege of reading the nominations. Some of the nominees face incredible challenges. Just to face the day with a half decent attitude would be an accomplishment, much less help someone else who is doing it tough, or has similar challenges. To do this they must be winners and we, as a community, must acknowledge them.

All of us need to applaud the winners. Not only the 16 category winners but the whole 106 nominated and the members of their various groups, which brings the number of individuals positively affecting someone else's life or achieving against all odds to over 400.

Congratulations and well done.

These are only the ones recognised at our 2009 awards. How many more are out there and how can we give them the recognition they deserve? They need to be nominated for next year's awards. Our nominations are open year round so you don't have to wait until April 2010. Do it now.



## Cat. 1 Young People supporting Youth in General

Division 1 – Sponsored by Thomas Noble & Russell & Ballina RSL Club

### Luke Hayward

Nominated by Evans River K-12 School



Luke was nominated for *a selfless individual whose caring manner embraces difference*. He seeks out and befriends students who are "different" and may otherwise be isolated or excluded from school social activities. He is also mindful of how distance and limited finances can hinder some students' inclusion and offers support with overcoming these barriers wherever he can.

## Cat. 3 – Young People supporting Diverse Youth

Division 1 – Sponsored by CASPA and wandAVision

### Sarah Lane

Nominated by Hayleigh Johnston



Sarah is studying at St John's College Woodlawn and is nominated for *her passionate and caring support for a student with severe physical disabilities*. She spends every lunch and recess and many non-school days with this student, sharing friendship and also supporting her with some learning activities. She also challenges those being unkind and tries to educate them about the physical condition.

Division 2 – Sponsored by Southern Cross Credit Union & Hurford Hardwood

### Amelia Hosseini

Nominated by Jacky Wells



Amelia is studying at Southern Cross University and was nominated for her *wide-ranging contributions in support of local youth*. These include being an active member of Southern Cross Lads, volunteering with the Red Cross, visiting local nursing homes and running a youth group and youth camps.

## Cat 4 – Young People Supporting the Community

Division 1 – Group – Sponsored by Bennett Constructions & Mayne Investments

### Young People Big Voice

Nominated by Robyn Fitzgerald



This group of young people from SCU's Centre for Children and Young People are nominated for *their passionate belief in and commitment to improving the lives of young people*. By volunteering on this unique youth consultative group, they have contributed a youth perspective to influence various research projects, community initiatives and government policies – within our region, in NSW and nationally

## Cat. 2 – Young People supporting Indigenous Youth

Division 1 – Sponsored by Lismore Workers Club & Centre for Children & Young People

### Sara Ballard

Nominated by Evans River K-12 School



Sara is studying at Evans River K-12 School and is nominated for *being a compassionate girl who creates a link in the chain between home, school and community for many younger Aboriginal students*. She is a kind of mother figure to many of these students through her various peer support and leadership roles, as well as her involvement in Aboriginal dance groups within and outside the school.

Division 1 – Individual – Sponsored by The Northern Star and TMG Computing

### Ashleigh Pringle

Nominated by Graham & Janelle Pringle



Ashleigh is studying at Richmond River High School and is nominated for *being a very loving and caring young woman who goes out of her way to help anyone she can*. She actively raises funds for the Cancer Council, Salvos, Legacy and Westpac Rescue Helicopter. She also delivers library books to people with mobility limitations and has played a huge part in supporting the many foster children who spend time with her family

Division 2 – Sponsored by Trenches McKenzie Cox and The Koori Mail

### Rodney Cameron

Nominated by Dyonne Anderson



Rodney works and volunteers at Cabbage Tree Island Public School and is nominated for *being an exceptional, inspirational and genuine young man prepared to generously give his time*. Proud of his Bundjalung heritage, he teaches Aboriginal dance to young boys at the school and motivates them to attend school. He is also a Rural Fire Brigade volunteer, recently travelling to help with the devastating Victorian bushfires.

## Cat 5 – Role Models

Division 1 – Sponsored by Uniting Church (FNC) & Richard Marlin's Success Martial Arts

### Simone Feletti

Nominated by Jodie Crowther



Simone is studying at Ballina High School and is nominated for *inspiring others to work hard and achieve their goals*. As an active member of the SRC, she contributes to many school events and is always willing to put her hand up to assist both staff and students, including supporting students with disabilities.

# 2009 KiC Awards



Division 2 – Sponsored by Radio 900 2LM and Radio ZZZ FM

**Tegan Blanch**

Nominated by Samantha Bruggy



Tegan is nominated as *a valuable role model as a deaf adult who is working, studying and competing in sport at a national level.* She has proved wrong all those who said she couldn't and is an inspiration to the deaf children she supports twice a week at Lismore Public school. She also supports members of the broader deaf community with her swimming and soccer coaching.

**Cat. 8 – Groups Supporting Youth**

Sponsored by Duck Creek Mountain Travel and North Coast Conference Equipment

**Northern United Rugby League Club**

Nominated by Stephen Roberts



This Rugby Club is nominated for *demonstrating that if you keep pushing and striving, you can achieve the outcomes you and your community deserve.* Despite numerous rejections, they persevered and have now established themselves in all grades of the Northern Rivers rugby league. Teams include Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth, helping to build better relationships between different cultural groups.

**Cat. 6 – Against All Odds**

Division 1 – Sponsored by The Northern Rivers Echo and PRIME

**Paula Avery**

Nominated by Christine Locton



Paula is nominated for *overcoming adversity to emerge as a role model for other children in her community.* Despite growing up within a community deeply troubled by the consequences of trans-generational trauma, she has harnessed an inner strength to achieve well at school and win a place at a prestigious boarding school. Her achievements have inspired other children in the community, with an increased sense of possibilities, encouraging them to aim higher at school.

**Cat. 9 – Media Reporting on Youth**

Sponsored by Quality Plus Printers and Southern Cross University

**Georgina Bible**

Nominated by Jessica Kellett



Georgina writes for the Northern Star and is nominated for *regular articles highlighting the achievements and contributions of local young people.* One article featured Ahri Tallon, a young man with a strong commitment to the Lismore PCYC and helping the environment. Another article featured Isabel Nutts, a young woman who won a competition to design an anti-problem gambling coaster that will now be distributed through pubs and clubs across NSW

Division 2 – Regional Express and Rachel Ward

**Matur Thionkol**

Nominated by Lizette Twisleton



Matur is studying towards becoming a Life Guard and is nominated for *the huge impact from his willingness to engage as a leader within the Sudanese community and to build bridges within the wider community.* Since arriving four years ago, after a harrowing time in Kenyan refugee camps, he has completed his high school studies, become an honorary older brother to many younger African children and volunteered as a "Living Book" through Lismore library.

**Judges' Choice Encouragement Award**

Sponsored by Catholic Diocese of Lismore

**Molly Wood**

Nominated by Belle Arnold



Molly is studying at Byron Community Campus and is nominated for *being an excellent role model and fantastic ambassador for reconciliation.* After family challenges and school exclusion, she has taken back control of her life and is again studying. She is highly involved in many forums and activities at Byron YAC and recently represented local Koori youth in a meeting with the Aboriginal Affairs minister.

**Cat. 7 – Individual Supporting Youth**

Sponsored by LJ Hooker (Northern Rivers) & Flexible Learning Development Services

**Julian King-Salter**

Nominated by Johanna Qualmann



Julian works and volunteers at Richmond River High School and is nominated for *recognising each of us for who we are and inspiring us to reach our full potential.* Students in the school's Equity Group particularly appreciate his constructive mentoring and his passionate advocacy for students' right to have their voice heard.

**Judges' Choice Bronwyn Donaghy Memorial Award**

Sponsored by Catholic Diocese of Lismore

**Jacob Rodgers**

Nominated by Glenn Varcoe



Jacob is studying at Lismore High School and is nominated as *a tireless leader who enriches and inspires the lives of staff and students alike.* He is a long-term SRC member and currently represents the SRC on the School Council. He also founded the Leadership Impact Committee, sings in the choir, contributes to all fundraising activities and sits on many school committees.

**a night of Stars**



## THANK YOU

Another successful Awards program was made possible by the following sponsors and supporters

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Quattro Classic Lennox Head  
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Sidney & Hacking Plumbing  
The Left Bank Café  
The Point Restaurant & Bar, Ballina  
Wollongbar BP "Little Bottler"  
Zoom Coffee

### We also gratefully acknowledge and thank:

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**Special thanks to the nominees and nominators: Without you, there would be no Awards.**

### Congratulations to our Raffle Winners (drawn 8.7.2009)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Gold Coast Getaway – J van Nispen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Australia Zoo Package – Neil Marks
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Ballina Romance for 2 – Ian McDonald

