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# RECOGNITION AWARDS

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST AND  
ONLY RECOGNITION  
AWARDS FOR MONTESSORI  
EDUCATORS



# ABOUT



## ABOUT US

Montessori Australia is the leading national organisation dedicated to promoting and advancing the Montessori philosophy and education system in Australia. Our goal is to provide comprehensive support and guidance to Montessori schools, centres, educators and families to ensure that every child in Australia has access to a high-quality Montessori education. We support a 'whole of life' approach, sharing how Montessori principles can support independence and self-esteem, from birth to the elderly.

## ABOUT THE AWARDS

The Montessori Australia Recognition Awards are Australia's first and only awards to promote, recognise and celebrate Montessorians. The awards acknowledge extraordinary accomplishments in areas relevant to the Montessori Movement.

The inaugural awards were presented at the Recognition Awards Dinner at the Transforming the Adult national conference in Sydney 28 & 29 October 2023. Congratulations to the awardees.

The 2024 awards will be presented at the Recognition Awards Dinner on 2 November in Sydney.

# AWARD CATEGORIES



The Montessori Recognition Awards acknowledge extraordinary accomplishments in the following areas relevant to the Montessori Movement.

There are 6 award categories:

## LIVING LEGEND

- honours an individual for their lifetime of dedication and service to the Montessori Movement.
- the Living Legend is a respected model of Montessori values such as grace and courtesy, respect, integrity, responsibility, enthusiasm, and promoting diversity and inclusiveness.
- appreciated based on the following criteria: personal attributes and their adherence to Montessori values; years of Montessori experience and their role as an educator, including their inspiration and noteworthy accomplishments and contributions; and their wider world work in advancing the cause of Montessori education, including their organisational involvement and volunteerism.

## INNOVATOR AWARD

- celebrates an individual or organisation who has been visionary in advancing Montessori pedagogy or has developed new and innovative ways of implementing Montessori philosophy in their work, whether it be in education, eldercare, research or advocacy.
- honours the work of individuals in a variety of arenas to increase access and equity by advancing Montessori education in the public school sector, intergenerational communities, eldercare, and service delivery to remote and regional Australian communities or marginal areas that are under-resourced in Montessori education, or in areas of research or advocacy.





## BARBARA STEPHEN EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD

This award celebrates an individual or organisation who has:

- dedicated their career to promoting social justice and made significant contributions to marginalised or low socio-economic communities.
- served as a volunteer to contribute to the social progress of the Montessori Movement.
- worked to eliminate systemic barriers to access education and have made a significant impact on improving the lives of children and families in low socio-economic communities.
- made significant contributions to promoting Montessori education within Australian Indigenous communities, working in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to ensure that Indigenous children have access to culturally appropriate Montessori education and have made a significant impact on improving educational outcomes for Indigenous children.
- increased access and equity by advancing Montessori education in the public school sector, intergenerational communities, eldercare, remote and regional Australian communities or marginalised areas that are under-resourced in Montessori education in the early years.
- made advances in raising the profile of Montessori education with service, culturally approved resources and/or research.



## WILLEMEN DUYKER-DE-VRIES COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

This award recognises a Montessorian who has made significant contributions to their local or global communities through their work in Montessori education or advocacy. This award could also recognise Montessorians who have worked to bring Montessori philosophy to underserved or marginalised populations.

Montessori Australia recognises those who generously contribute resources to the sustainability and development of the services provided by Montessori Australia. The resources can involve sponsorships, volunteer time, and donations of goods and services.

This award celebrates an individual or organisation that has advanced and developed Montessori pedagogy. They hold a passion for authentic practice in promoting and growing Montessori in Australia (and/or the world) and have demonstrated exceptional excellence in their field, whether it be in Montessori education, research, or advocacy. This contribution should be sustained over time (minimum of 3 years).



## JOSY LUDWIG “QUIET ACHIEVER” AWARD

This reward recognises the unsung heroes of Montessori education: those who have dedicated their lives to shaping the future of our children. Imagine a simple yet heartfelt Montessori educator award that celebrates the tireless efforts of classroom teachers or support staff who have devoted themselves to the betterment of their students. These are the everyday educators who have not necessarily made groundbreaking innovations or achieved extraordinary feats, but have simply poured their hearts and souls into their work, helping children grow into the amazing adults they are meant to be. These are the educators who are loved by their community and cherished by their students and parents. Let us come together to honour them and show our gratitude for their selfless service. Let alumni students, parents, and administrative staff nominate these heroes and have their impact recognised and celebrated.



## BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATOR AWARD

This award celebrates individuals who demonstrate outstanding leadership and innovation in the Montessori education sector. This prestigious award honours professionals who have made significant contributions to advancing Montessori principles, fostering holistic child development, and promoting organisational excellence within Montessori schools and organisations. From visionary directors to innovative business leaders supporting Montessori education, this award recognises individuals who excel in strategic planning, resource management, and creating nurturing learning environments rooted in Montessori philosophy. By honouring their dedication, creativity, and impact, the Business and Administrator Award aims to inspire and empower Montessori leaders to continue driving positive change and shaping the future of Montessori education.



# AWARD PROCESS



- Do you know a Montessorian whose tireless dedication and leadership over many years have made an impact on the Australian Montessori community?
- Have you been personally affected by a respected or beloved mentor who embodies Montessori values in Australia?

Here's your opportunity to help recognise the contributions of respected role models of Montessori values in Australia.

The tributes are to honour the often invisible work of the many Australian Montessorians who work tirelessly for children, often without recognition and sometimes with only minimal compensation.

We enthusiastically invite members of the Australian Montessori community (including educators, leaders, staff, trainers and parents) to submit nominations for these 5 award categories, according to the timetable below:

**NOMINATIONS OPEN 1 JUNE 2024**  
**NOMINATIONS CLOSE 31 JULY 2024**

**[MONTESSORI.ORG.AU/RECOGNITION-AWARDS](https://montessori.org.au/recognition-awards)**

# RECOGNITION AWARDS DINNER



The Recognition Awards will be presented at the Recognition Awards Dinner on Saturday, 2 November at the Novotel Brighton Beach, Sydney.

The Gala Dinner includes a sumptuous 3 course dinner including beverages and features live entertainment. The award finalists, their family, friends and colleagues are invited to book a table to celebrate their achievements.

Only those attending in person at the Recognition Awards Dinner are eligible for the presentation of the awards and accompanying gifts.

Refer to Montessori Australia's Recognition Awards Terms and Conditions for full details.

**DRESS: COCKTAIL ATTIRE**





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## **NOMINATIONS (1 June - 31 July):**

[conference.montessori.org.au/recognition-awards/](https://conference.montessori.org.au/recognition-awards/)

**MONTESSORI AUSTRALIA**

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