



NDCO Western Metropolitan Region Excellence Awards 2011

Community Runner up – Katie Blackberry

Nominated by: Saide Cameron and Catherine Mullen, Sunshine Special Developmental School



Katie Blackberry is a student at Sunshine SDS who is highly committed to make a real and positive contribution to her school and wider community. Over this year in particular she has also shown increasing confidence in her ability to speak to and on behalf of the school community.

Katie is a member of the Later Years 2 class at Sunshine SDS. Katie is interested in all aspects of her learning. She is keen to make contributions to classroom discussions and decision making; she presents her suggestions in a thoughtful manner and is prepared to listen and accept others ideas.



One of the key programs is the Sunshine Café. As a group LY2 decided to participate in the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea. Katie assisted in setting up a personal page on the BMT website and checked it regularly to track the donations, excitedly reporting whenever a new donation was made. She also personally responded to the majority of our online donors. We raised almost \$1,000 through a combination of online, staff & Morning Tea donations.

The school was privileged to have Chef Ian Curley come and work with the LY2 class to prepare a luncheon for Family & Friends. After the meal in front of close to 100 people Katie eloquently thanked Ian and his assistant Josephine for working with the students to help prepare the meal and teach the students new skills.

Katie also participates in the school Work Experience program. For their project they chose to raise funds for Daffodil Day, selling merchandise and offering a morning tea to staff. Katie designed bright and colourful posters for the event inviting staff to get involved.

Katie is also a member of the Sunshine Big Gigs Choir. She enjoys singing at school based and public events. Katie was selected to be the spokesperson for our school when the choir sang for the recent Opening of the Myer Christmas Windows. She spoke confidently with the media and the CEO of Myers.

Katie's teachers say "Katie is a credit to our school and deserves the recognition of the wider community for the great effort she puts in to speaking well and making a positive and active contribution to her community."