

EXCELLENCE IN DISABILITY SUPPORT AWARDS – 2007

Each year at Monash University Gippsland Campus, the Excellence in Disability Support Awards are presented at a breakfast, which was held on Thursday 6th September. Staff and students are invited to nominate an academic and general staff member and/or faculty, school or department for exceptional support to a student or staff member with a disability, or for supporting disability issues on the campus.

The Jenny Hill Memorial Award for Innovative Practice is also awarded from these nominations. Jenny was an employee at Gippsland Campus who championed disability issues. Jenny sadly died shortly after her retirement and this award was set up in memory of her.

This year the General Staff recipient was Angeline Wilson (Examination Branch), Academic Staff recipient, Cathy Haigh (HUMCASS) and the Faculty, School or Department recipient was IT Services. The most outstanding nominee was Brian MacKenzie (Former Pro-Vice Chancellor, Gippsland), this year's recipient of the Jenny Hill Award for Innovative Practice.

Through the generous support of departments, schools and faculties at Gippsland Campus and the Acting Pro-Vice Chancellor, Associate Professor, Harry Ballis, two student awards are also made. Students with a long-term medical condition or disability often excel at University but are hindered by their condition in attaining scholarships. In recognising this, such students can apply for one of two awards. This year the recipients were; HUMCASS student, John De Sousa-daw (Encouragement Award) and Education student Di Hammond (Academic Excellence Award).

Seventy people attended the awards presentation breakfast, the guest speakers were Judy Woods and Emma Priest. Judy, a Cancer Care Nurse from the new Cancer Care Centre at Latrobe Regional Hospital, spoke about the Centre, its services and the effects a diagnosis of cancer has on the individual, family and community. Emma, a nursing student, honoured the audience with a very personal story about coping with palliative care of her mother while continuing study at university.



Guest Speaker : Emma Priest,
Nursing student



Guest Speaker :
Judy Woods, Cancer Care Nurse, Latrobe
Regional Hospital



General Staff Award Recipient:
Angeline Wilson – Exams Branch



Academic Staff Award Recipient : Dr Cathy Haigh, -
HUMCASS



Faculty/Department Award Recipient: Austen Rickell
receiving award on behalf of Information Technology
Services



Professor Brian Mackenzie : Winner of the Jenny
Hill Memorial Award for Innovative Practice in
Disability Support



Student Award Recipients: HUMCASS student, John De
Sousa-daw (Encouragement Award) and Education student Di
Hammond (Academic Excellence Award).