

AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT BY A COMMUNITY MEMBER

Aunty Nelly Mooney Milton Public School

Through her selfless service to students and the broader Milton-Ulladulla community over many years, Aunty Nelly has made a real and sustained difference to countless Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students and their families.

A strong advocate for Aboriginal education, Aunty Nelly was a founding member of the Ulladulla Local Aboriginal Land Council where she has been a Board member for many years and has held the position of Chairperson for nine years.

Education is close to Aunty Nelly's heart and the area in which she does most of her work. However, her interests are broad and she is an active member of many Aboriginal support networks within the community.

Aunty Nelly was a founding member of the Nowra Aboriginal Medical Service and an inaugural Board of Directors member.

In the late 1980s, she formed the Wandarma Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) in Ulladulla, where she has held the position of President since its inception. This is a voluntary position and includes being a representative of the local Aboriginal community at Regional and State AECG meetings.

Aunty Nelly was recognised for her hard work when she was awarded Life Membership to the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Incorporated in the mid-1990s.

Aunty Nelly was also a founding member of the Aboriginal Homework Centre in 1987 and dedicated countless hours towards supporting young high school students. In 1988, Aunty Nelly formed an additional Homework Centre for primary aged students. Both these programs were very successful to the extent that the model of operation was used as a best practice example for other centres across the state. For over twenty years, Aunty Nelly was instrumental in running these centres and was always on hand to collect and return students home, often travelling many kilometres in her own car and at her own expense.

For many years, Aunty Nelly has visited all Aboriginal students within the local Milton-Ulladulla schools to ensure they are settling well into school. She is a respected and highly valued role model and mentor to many of the students, providing them with encouragement and support, instilling in them a belief that they can achieve anything if they 'have a go'.

Ex-students visit Aunty Nelly regularly to express their gratitude for the guidance and individual support she has provided to them throughout their lives and for supporting them to become recognised by their community as respected citizens, leaders and role models within their community.

Aunty Nelly is a tireless ambassador for the Aboriginal community. She is much loved by all who come into contact with her and is greatly respected as an Aboriginal Elder. Her passion for improved outcomes for all Aboriginal people is infectious and this is reflected in the success she has had in making a significant difference to Aboriginal students and their families over an extended period of time.

Aunty Nelly is a most deserving recipient of this award.



NANGA MAI
AWARDS