

Media Release

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Perth schools reward their young science stars

Students, parents and teachers from across Perth gathered at Scitech last month for the annual red-carpet Woodside Scitech Science Awards night.

The Woodside Scitech Science Awards recognise and celebrate special graduating year six students from each participating school who have shown excellence and passion in science lessons throughout the year.

In 2017, 775 primary schools across the state registered, and about 1550 students were awarded a special prize pack at their graduation assembly.

“It’s incredible to see such a strong focus on STEM in Western Australian schools with more teachers developing creative, engaging ways to encourage students to enjoy STEM learning,” Woodside Scitech Science Awards coordinator Taylor Bartels said.

“These awards recognise the top students and we hope this encourages them to continue asking questions, solving problems and being curious about the world around them.

“It’s this kind of critical thinking and creativity that leads into big things beyond their studies and we hope to have ignited that fire.”

At the awards night, attendees heard from Woodside Early Career Scientist of the Year Dr Asha Bowen, as she shared her own inspiring STEM career pathway story.

William Hall, Pietro Mafrica and Matthew Crock from Trinity College and Charlotte Smith and Barry Yang from Kardinya Primary School were among the lucky students to receive their special award at Scitech, as well as receive recognition at their school assemblies.

“I was very impressed with the high level of interest in science among the young students, and I felt honoured to explain my work as a clinical researcher to them,” Dr Bowen said.

“I have had many incredible opportunities in STEM in my education and career so I am pleased to pass my experience on.

“It is wonderful that STEM has such a prominent place in WA schools, and I look forward to seeing what the next generation of professionals will discover and achieve.”

Woodside Scitech Science Awards support science growth and interest in the community by providing a greater awareness of the critical role science plays in today’s society.

Each award recipient would be recognised at their graduation ceremony and receive a certificate, free pass to Scitech, science Encyclopedia, and discounted CSIRO Double Helix subscription.

More information

Kaylee Martin | Communications Officer, Scitech | (08) 9215 0705 | kaylee.martin@scitech.org.au

About the Woodside Scitech Science Awards

The Woodside Scitech Science Awards is a free program that provide primary schools with the opportunity to reward two of their top graduating science students for showing a curiosity about the world around them; a desire to experiment and investigate; an ability to use the scientific process to problem solve and extend their knowledge; and for their consistent passion and enthusiasm for science.

Woodside and Scitech seek to recognise, reward and support science in the community by providing a greater awareness of the critical role science plays in today's society through these Awards

About Guest Speaker Dr Asha Bowen

Dr Asha Bowen is a clinician researcher working at Princess Margaret Hospital as a paediatric infectious diseases specialist. Her clinical role informs her research. She has recently completed her PhD at the Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin, a large randomized controlled trial on the treatment of impetigo in remote Indigenous children to find a better treatment option. At Telethon Kids Institute, she is involved in Group A streptococcus research and leads the skin team at Telethon. She also co-leads the Hospital based epidemiology and surveillance with Dr Chris Blyth. Asha is a member of the Australian and New Zealand Paediatric Infectious Diseases committee and the Australasian Society of Infectious Diseases clinical research network.

More information

Kaylee Martin | Communications Officer, Scitech | (08) 9215 0705 | kaylee.martin@scitech.org.au