



MEDIA RELEASE

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AUSTRALIA'S HARD WORKING SCHOOL PARENTS RECOGNISED IN NATIONAL AWARDS

STATE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Dedicated school parents across the nation have been recognised by judges including Federal Minister for Education and Deputy Prime Minister The Hon. Julia Gillard MP in this year's The Australian Women's Weekly Paradise Foods P&C Awards, with a list of state winners and runner-ups released on 22 October.

State winners will receive a crystal trophy, \$2000 prize money, a \$1000 voucher from Rebel Sport, a Tefal Quick Cup and airfares to attend a special awards ceremony hosted by Paradise Foods and The Australian Women's Weekly at the Sydney Harbour Marriot on Tuesday January 27, 2009.

A national winner, selected from the eight state and territory finalists, will be announced at the ceremony and will collect a further \$10,000 and \$2000 voucher from Rebel Sport.

Over 200 entries were received for the national awards program which celebrates the vital work of Parents and Citizens associations and their equivalents that help deliver quality education facilities and resources to students.

Entries were assessed by an expert panel of judges chaired by Deborah Thomas, Editorial Director of The Australian Women's Weekly and including Karl Stefanovic, co-host of the Nine Network's *Today* show, and Jenny Branch, President of the Australian Council of State School Organisations, together with representatives from principals and parents organisations.

Deborah Thomas said that with growing budget pressures and the school system increasingly looking to parental support and philanthropy, the P&C Awards have an important role to play in acknowledging the role of parents.

"Our aim is to honour and reward those P&C Committees that have gone beyond the norm to make a proven difference to their school and their children's futures," she said.

Marie Reushle, Paradise Foods marketing manager and mother-of-two, said parents really are the unsung heroes of our education system and go beyond the call of duty to help provide superior resources to give their children the best possible start to life.

“Active involvement from parents groups and the broader community ensures the best educational outcomes for students. The Australian Women’s Weekly Paradise Foods P&C Awards are important because they honour parents’ dedication and hard work,” said Ms Gillard.

State and Territory Winners and Runners-up, The Australia Women’s Weekly Paradise Foods P&C Awards 2008

VIC: *Winner* Woolsthorpe Primary School, *Runner-up* Merino Consolidated School

ACT: *Winner* Arawang Primary School, *Runner-up* Palmerston District Primary School

NSW: *Winner* St Brigid’s School, *Runner-up* Mowbray Primary School

NT: *Winner* Clyde Fenton Primary School, *Runner-up* Malak School

QLD: *Winner* Greenlands State Primary School, *Runner-up* Meringandan State School

SA: *Winner* Mypolonga Primary School, *Runner-up* Edwardstown Primary School

TAS: *Winner* Spreyton Primary School, *Runner-up* St Leonards Primary School

WA: *Winner* Deanmore Primary School, *Runner-up* Mosman Park Schools

About Paradise Foods

Paradise Foods is the largest Australian made and owned biscuit manufacturer with a 22 year tradition of producing high quality, tasty snacks and treats for the whole family. Its range includes Australia’s favourite cookies, Cottage Cookies, Vive’s better-for-you snacks and the Veri Deli range of gourmet savoury snacks.

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