

## Personal Profile: Jessica Wilson

Jessie is currently studying year 12 at Coomera Anglican College on the Gold Coast. Jessie's focus at school is her seven subjects: English, Maths B, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Graphics and Religious and Values Education. At the end of last year, Jessie was awarded DUX of Year 11, a Gold Award for Academic Distinction, and six subject prizes for obtaining a top score in those subjects through out the year. She also was awarded a Gold Community Service Award for 150 hours work within a 12 month period. Throughout the year, Jessie also participated in a number of academic competitions. In these, Jessie received a Distinction in the University of New South Wales English Competition, a Credit for both the University of New South Wales Mathematics Competition and the University of New South Wales Creative Writing Competition.

The numerous Community Service Awards Jessie has received since year 6 demonstrates how active Jessie is within the community. Jessie was a regular volunteer at the Runaway Bay Gold Coast Council Library for over 2 years, and many other organisations. Her highlight, however, was volunteering for the 8<sup>th</sup> National Special Olympic Games. Here, Jessie volunteered to be a ball girl for tennis. The three days which she participated, gave her the opportunity to meet and understand mentally disabled people. Jessie also co-ordinated the "Athon Week" at her school, for the second year running. This week focused on fundraising for World Vision and the 40 hour famine.

Alongside Jessie's studies and co-curricular activities, she was nominated as the University of Queensland Science Ambassador for her school and was an active member of the Student Representative Council. At the end of the year, Jessie was awarded an Australian Defence Force 2006 Leadership and Teamwork Award. Jessie's leadership qualities were also demonstrated through her appointment as the Student Representative Chairperson this year. As Jessie is an active member of her school and an exemplary student, Jessie is an excellent role model for younger students throughout the college.

Outside of school, Jessie attended many camps to extend her leadership skills and her knowledge of science. Last year, she attended the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (ANZAAS) Youth Residential Science Conference in Adelaide, the Australian Student Leadership Conference (ALSC) held by the Australian Youth Development Programme in Brisbane, and BioFutures which was held by the Australian Biotechnology Students Association and Young Scientists Australia Brisbane chapter. These residential conferences gave Jessie the opportunity to learn more about the science industry, refine her leadership skill, and socialise with more than 400 students effectively improving her communication and socialising skills. It also allowed her to meet like minded students who are also interested in the science industry, giving her many contacts throughout Australia and the world.

Jessie is also very passionate about her sports. Although she doesn't play AFL, Jessie is an avid Brisbane Lions supporter. Her main sport, however, is tennis. Jessie represented her school for 2 years in the Open A Team, winning the premiership for both years. Although not an extremely athletic person, Jessie enthusiastically participates and encourages all students to do like wise.

Jessie's busy life has encouraged her to demonstrate excellent organisational, leadership and communication skills. Her achievements, her enthusiasm for her mentioned attributes, helped Jessie to be selected to attend the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) in January of 2007, paving the way for a career in science. From over 300 students, Jessie has been selected as one of six to represent Australia at the 44<sup>th</sup> National Youth Science Week (NYSW) held in Pretoria in South Africa in June. This amazing opportunity will allow Jessie to socialise with many budding scientists in South Africa, giving her the chance to experience a different society from her own, whilst broadening her outlook on life. Jessie will be a fantastic ambassador for Australian Youth as she is so enthusiastic and motivated about science. Through Jessie's participation in the NYSW in South Africa, she will bring home knowledge and experiences which will benefit not only herself but her community, whilst also allowing her to encourage her peers to also look into the science industry for a career.

