



Heather Butler, MP

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier

Sunday, 5 April 2009

Tasmania's Young Achiever of the Year Announced

Tasmanian doctor and Olympic gold medallist Doctor Scott Brennan was last night named as the 2009 recipient of the prestigious Premier's Young Achiever of the Year award.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier Heather Butler said Dr Brennan, 25, had won international recognition in his chosen sport of rowing while also completing his medical degree.

"Scott Brennan is an example of a young man whose energies know no boundaries," Ms Butler said.

"He made his Olympic debut in Athens and placed seventh and was determined to improve on this performance in Beijing, where he went on to win his first Olympic gold in the men's double scull.

"Scott's sporting achievements have thrilled and inspired many people and he is still giving back to his community as a practising doctor.

"His determination and dedication make him a fantastic role model for all Tasmanians."

Dr Brennan received his award at a gala dinner for the Southern Cross Young Achiever Awards in Hobart.

The Premier's Award winner was selected from the following eight category winners:

- Jan Zika, 25, of West Hobart - Hydro Tasmania Environment Award
- Brad Smith, 20, of Legana – O Group Trade & Career Achievement Award
- Scott Brennan, 25, of Lindisfarne – Print Applied Technology Sports Award
- Finegan Kruckemeyer, 26, of West Hobart – MyState Financial Arts Award
- Jessica Jacobson, 19, Of Ulverstone – Rio Tinto Alcan Community Service Award
- Melissa Krushka, 25, of Scottsdale - Forestry Tasmania Regional Initiative Award
- Peter While, 26, of Hobart - TEMCO Science & Technology Award

- Josh Sutton, 22, of Devonport - Spirit of Tasmania Award

Ms Butler said the Young Achiever Awards played a vital role in identifying and paying tribute to some of Tasmania's finest young people.

"They are talented artists, enquiring scientists, inspiring athletes, highly motivated business owners and tireless community workers," she said.

"Many of the nominees are not just working or studying for their own benefit, but also for the benefit of others – whether it is to improve the health and quality of life of others, to protect our natural environment or to share their knowledge and experience.

"Today's young people will determine the future direction of Tasmania, Australia, in fact, the world and when we see what they are achieving already, it certainly fills you with confidence.

"The Tasmanian Government is committed to supporting and encouraging young Tasmanians through these awards and other initiatives that provide an opportunity to express opinions, share ideas and make a real difference."