



**Rotary Club of Melbourne
2015 YOUNG ACHIEVER AWARDS**



Michael Keem



Erica Tucceri



Jason Brouwer

The Rotary Club of Melbourne Young Achiever Awards reflect vocational excellence and outstanding community service for Young folk between the ages 18-26. Vocational excellence can be demonstrated through academic or vocational education, business, sport or the Arts. Leadership capabilities and broad interests are also common features of future leaders.

Michael Keem: Medicine, student leadership, domestic and international community service

Michael is a student in the University of Melbourne's new Doctor of Medicine course. He maintained a first-class honours average across all three of his undergraduate years reading for the Bachelor of Biomedicine at the University of Melbourne. He held a Commonwealth National Accommodation Scholarship during his undergraduate degree, was recognised as a Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholar, and has been awarded a major residential scholarship every year of his residency at Newman College (2009 onward).

Throughout his time at university, Michael has shown a strong interest in publications and drama. He is a published author in the 'Tracts' (Newman's academic journal), and also co-editor of the 2012-13 edition. He succeeded in compiling, editing and publishing a 212-page edition of the 'Vestra', the Newman magazine, after a 6 year hiatus. Michael performed in the 2009 Newman College production, 'The Skin of our Teeth', and was a lead actor in the 2011 production, 'A Chorus of Disapproval'. Michael has been extensively involved in a plethora of societies, committees and activities at the University of Melbourne and Newman College, and was recognised by Newman College with the Newman College Students' Club medallion and the Peter L'Estrange Award for Leadership in the Community.

In 2012, he was an Australian Red Cross International Humanitarian Action Training (IHAT) course participant. Michael has a strong interest in mentoring and teaching. He has been a careers and pathways advisor at the University of Melbourne and St Patrick's College Ballarat, and a Melbourne Welcome and Orientation Week Leader at Newman College, on multiple occasions. He has tutored undergraduates at the College for the past 3 years. Michael was recently awarded a number of scholarships to undertake a tropical medicine elective in Vietnam and a neuropsychiatry clerkship at the University of British Columbia. He is currently undertaking research with the Melbourne Refugee Studies Program.

Michael has been extensively involved in community service throughout his time at university. He was elected the Head of Community Service at Newman College in 2011, a position that entails furthering the College's founding pillar of service to others and enriching students' social conscience. This was done primarily by both providing and participating in relevant volunteer opportunities, and engaging students in these. Michael and his committee were successful in significantly boosting community service engagement at the College, increasing involvement from 4% of the College community to 65%.

Michael has also been involved in community development work abroad. In 2011, he led a group of 7 people to the Philippines to work with the Filipino community development organisation, Gawad Kalinga, for 10 days. Michael travelled to Kenya for 3 weeks in 2012 to assist Jesuit Hakimani Centre with its 'Think Positive Alternatives Exist' community development programme. He was endorsed by the Rotary Club of Carlton and selected by Rotary District 9800 as an Australian delegate of a 9-member team to the Rotary Global Peace Forum in Hiroshima. Subsequent to these experiences, Michael became an active member of the Medical Association for the Prevention of War, and is working on its student engagement committee to create university groups and introduce lectures on the ramifications of conflict and war on global health to medical curricula. He has also been appointed the Regional Chairperson of Australia for the Asian Medical Students' Association and has been extensively restructuring and revitalising the chapter to develop its research, global health advocacy and public health campaign potential.

Erica Tucceri: Music and mentoring Sudanese refugees

Erica Tucceri is a young Melbourne-based flautist and composer. Graduating with an Honours Degree in Music Performance (Orchestral) at the VCA in 2011, Erica returned for further study and completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts, specialising in Contemporary Music and Improvisation. Erica worked closely with staff at The Music Place to develop a prototype electric flute, a unique sounding instrument which she now plays in conjunction with various acoustic flutes. Erica also has an interest in extended techniques and contemporary electronic music. Recently the recipient of the Lionel Gell Foundation Scholarship for Improvisation, and the Orloff Family Charitable Trust Scholarship, Erica was awarded first place in the open solo section of the 2011 Leslie Barklamb Scholarship, also winning awards as part of the Tango quartet Muchas Notas. Current performing projects span a range of genres and have seen her playing across Melbourne at venues such as Bennetts Lane and Federation Square. Amongst others, these groups include Brazilian Choro ensemble Altija, Jazz-Fusion group Doctor Moth, an acoustic flute and guitar duo, and Erica's newly formed Latin-Jazz project Bella Wolf. In receipt of the Future Leaders Jazz Award, Erica performed a set of her own music at the Ubud Village Jazz Festival (Indonesia) in August of this year. She is also currently developing material for a recording project of her own compositions.

Erica was one of two VCA students who masterminded the Child's Play program with Sudanese students for the RCM Arts Committee and Baker Foundation. She has been leading the program for its duration and continues to lead and teach in it today. She has written an appraisal of the program which is at a high academic level and a template for future programs with refugee communities. Over this period of time, the way that Child's Play was delivered changed in response to altering circumstances surrounding the program. Difficulties pertaining to location of activities, transport and familial uptake have thrown a spanner in the works on more than one occasion but, like many community-based programs, the ability to adapt one's services became paramount.

Jason Brouwer: Scientific Research and Aboriginal education

Jason Brouwer is a PhD candidate of the University of Melbourne, currently doing his research in the Division of Structural Biology at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute Medical Research. He completed a Bachelor of Biomedical Science at Deakin University, majoring in cell and molecular biology, and in 2010 graduated with a first class Honours in Biomedical Science from Monash University. He was granted an Australian Post-graduate Award from the Australian Government in 2012 and opted to pursue a PhD at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute (WEHI). Jason's research focuses on understanding how cells are programmed to die, a natural process in every organism when it needs to remove unwanted cells, such as infected or cancer cells. Using the Australian Synchrotron beamlines, Jason and colleagues discovered the 3D structure of a key cell death protein providing insights into the design of new drugs to treat diseases such as cancer and degenerative disorders. The project was technically and intellectually challenging, accordingly Jason was rewarded with a first author publication in *Molecular Cell*, one of the world's top science journals. Jason has also co-authored two research papers in *Nucleic Acids Research* and *Biochemistry*. Other recognition of Jason's achievements comes in the form of awards including two travel scholarships, poster prizes at the Lorne Protein Conference and the Society of Crystallographers in Australia and New Zealand Conference, and the Tiley Award for best oral presentation at the Melbourne Protein Group Symposium. An excellent communicator, Jason has been selected as a student speaker at the Asian Crystallography Association Meeting, Hong Kong, and has presented at the Australian Synchrotron User Meet.

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