

YOUNG ACHIEVER AWARDEES 2022

Laura McArthur

Medical Research and Student Leadership



Laura McArthur completed a Bachelor of Biomedical Science and Doctor of Medicine at Monash University. While undertaking her degree as a recipient of a Monash Scholarship for Excellence, she was awarded numerous academic prizes including the Harriet Power Prize in Clinical Medicine and the John Cade Medal. Laura was selected for the University's prestigious Vice-Chancellor's Ancora Imparo Leadership Program, and, has been awarded the Victorian Rhodes Scholarship for 2022. Laura is currently working as a junior doctor at the Alfred Hospital. She aims to focus on the elimination of infectious diseases such as ending trachoma, and hepatitis.

With a keen interest in health equity driving her to pursue a career in medicine, Laura volunteered with the Burnet Institute on research relating to rapid diagnostics for infectious diseases and with the Australian Red Cross on mental health, community connectedness and loneliness. Also, while at University, she launched a global health newsletter in her role as Ignite Global Health Group's Education Officer, and enjoyed acting as a mentor for junior medical students

through the Academic Mentoring Program. Building on interests recognised by her receipt of a Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, she continues to enjoy swimming and writing.

Inspired by patients, clinicians, researchers and volunteers, Laura hopes to continue to work towards her passion for health equity. With her Rhodes Scholarship for 2022 she will be traveling to Oxford University in the UK in September to undertake an MSc in Evidence- Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation. Through this, she looks forward to having the opportunity to learn from academics and peers, developing knowledge and skills around the design and implementation of effective interventions for health inequities. On her return to Australia, she looks forward to pursuing her career in Medicine.

Berat Kaya

Advocate for Community Service



Currently Berat is completing his double degree in Bachelor of Criminology and Psychology from RMIT. In 2020 he has successfully completed his Certificate IV in Community Services and in 2021 he completed a Diploma of Youth Work at RMIT. His commitment to his studies is testament to the work that he has undertaken with the Brotherhood of St Laurence and other partnered organisations. Berat has actively participated in ongoing community engagement where he has enthusiastically and willingly wanted to support young people of likeminded to engage in the community projects. He continues to pursue his interest in photography

In 2019, he was awarded Youth of the North Award and in 2021, he received two awards for the Young Legends Award for his

insights about the importance of Keeping Victoria Beautiful and raising value among young people to respect their living standards. Last year, he also received the Hume Council Young Citizens Award.

Joseph Alkarra

Community Service Leadership



Joseph was a refugee from Syria when he came to Australia. Currently Joseph is completing his Masters degree in Mechatronics from The University of Melbourne. Due to his outstanding academic achievements, he was nominated for Ormond College Scholar in Melbourne University. Recently he also attained Dafydd Lewis Scholarship and Melbourne Access Scholarship. He is also passionate about the volunteering work and currently is part of Youth Without Borders Non-for-Profit initiative. Delivering a life-changing opportunity for around 120 participants per year who are year 10-12 students to see what experiences are offered by universities, particularly in engineering. He is also a recipient of Western Chances Scholarship. He is involved with the Atlas Programme linked to Lord Somers Camp and a range of other organisations.