**EMBARGO: To be released from 2am, 15 August 2022**

**Hensman Street Elementary puts STEM in the spotlight through 2022 Little Scientists** **Awards**

Hensman Street Elementary has been recognised as a winner in the prestigious [Little Scientists Early STEM Awards](https://littlescientists.org.au/stem-award-winners-2022/), being named as the Western Australia State winner for 2022.

The Awards celebrate the commitment and dedication of early childhood educators to

inquiry-based learning in early STEM education, providing opportunities for children to learn

as they explore, discover, create, improvise, test theories and imagine.

Centre Director Tanya Steers and Educational Leader Christy-Lee Antonas gained the attention of the judges for their project “Ramps and Pathways”.

This STEM project used inquiry based and child-led learning pedagogies as its core, then added loose parts and materials to it to spark the children’s investigative nature. Wooden ramps of varying lengths, marbles of differing sizes and weight and ample time to play and experiment with the new materials allowed the team to springboard this STEM project.

Not every ramp and pathway construction held up to the scrutiny of the budding engineers but failure only spurred them on and allowed them to understand that unsuccessful ramps and pathways are a natural part of the learning process. Children built, tested, shared success and failures, then recorded and reflected on their play with the Little Scientist Inquiry Cycle as a visual cue to focus the progression of learning with a STEM lens.

“Each of our winners, and indeed all those who took the time to make a submission, reflects the dedication and passion found within the early childhood sector,” Sibylle Seidler, Project Director for Little Scientists Australia said.

“We are delighted to be able to recognise Hensman Street Elementary as one of the nine winners in this year's awards.”

“I’d like to thank Tanya Steers and Christy-Lee Antonas for their contribution to ensuring tomorrow’s leaders grow up to be resilient individuals, capable of the critical thinking and problem solving they will need to be successful leaders, today and in the future.”

The Awards received 72 submissions for the Best STEM project category, and 14 submissions for the Outstanding STEM leader, a new category in 2022.

Judging the entries in 2022 was a panel of cross sector researchers, representatives from [FROEBEL Australia](https://www.froebel.com.au/), and independent consultants, all of whom agreed the standard of projects submitted in 2022 was outstanding.

“Congratulations go to all those who were recognised as finalists, and indeed to all our nominees,” Ms Seidler said.

[Learn more about Little Scientists here](https://littlescientists.org.au/). For more information about the Awards [please visit the dedicated Awards page, here](https://littlescientists.org.au/stem-award-winners-2022/).

**- ENDS-**

**Notes for editors**

\*STEM – science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Website: [www.littlescientists.org.au](http://www.littlescientists.org.au)

Little Scientists Early STEM Award for 2022, national and state winners, Outstanding STEM Leader:

**Outstanding STEM Leader**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **State** | **City & postcode** | **Educator** | **Position** | **Service name** |
| WA | South Perth WA 6152 | Christy-Lee Antonas | Educational Leader | Hensman Street Elementary |

**2022 National Winner**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| State | City & postcode | Service name | Project name |
| VIC | Parkville VIC 3072  (Melbourne) | The Professor Lynn Corcoran Early Learning Centre: FROEBEL Parkville  Director: Steph Simopoulos  Project led by:  Laura Kerr (Ed Leader) and Jess Branca (Educator) | “It takes a 100 years to grow a tree” |

**2022 State & Territory Winners**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **State** | **City & postcode** | **Service name** | **Project name** |
| WA | South Perth WA 6152 | Hensman Street Elementary  Director: Tanya Steers  Project led by:  Christy-Lee Antonas | Ramps and Pathways |
| TAS | Bagdad TAS 7030 | Bagdad Education and Care  Director: Tammy Bennett | Parks and Parts |
| SA | Modbury North SA 5092 | Good Shepherd Lutheran School (Curiosity Early Learning)  Director: Jacqui Gliddon  Project led by:  Demi Ikonomopoulos (co-supporting Nicola James Uni Student & Karen Bloffwitch Educator) | Air – How do we get things to fly? |
| QLD | Glass House Mountains QLD 4518 | Glass House Early Education Centre  Director: Dee Shaw  Project led by: Mandy Collins | Can we save Humpty Dumpty |
| NSW/ACT | Oyster Bay NSW 2225 | The Point Preschool  *Highly commended*  Director: Catherine Lee  Project led by: Catherine Lee and Jenny Isherwood | The Spectacular Find |
| NT | Nightcliff NT 0811 | St. Paul's Early Learning Centre  *Highly commended*  Director: Anna-Lea Higgins (has since left)  Project led by: Mini Purshotham | Little Gardeners |
| VIC | Carlton VIC 3053 | FROEBEL Carlton Early Learning Centre  Director: Emma Veliscek  Project led by: Laura Cetina and the nursery team | Little scientists with big senses |

Little Scientists’ hands-on workshops combine inquiry-based learning with age-appropriate STEM exploration and encourage daily scientific exploration with children aged 3 to 6 years.

Little Scientists Australia is a not-for-profit initiative of FROEBEL Australia Limited. The Little Scientists program is supported and funded by the Australian Government through its Student Support Package.

For more information about Little Scientists to support this release [please see here](https://littlescientists.org.au/about/), or contact Ms Seidler by phone 02 8080 0065 or email sibylle@littlescientists.org.au.