

## **RSL MEDIA RELEASE**

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FOR RELEASE - WEDNESDAY APRIL 23 2008

### **GOLD COAST'S HIGH ACHIEVING STUDENTS CONGREGATE ON GOLD COAST FOR RSL YOUTH FORUM**

Eleven high achieving senior school students from the Gold Coast travelled to Bond University at Robina for a one day leadership forum on Sunday April 20, 2008.

The Gold Coast students are 11 of the 128 recipients of a 2008 RSL Youth Development grant, sharing in \$500,000.

The RSL has awarded these grants to students who have excelled in community leadership, academic, and sporting pursuits and range from aspiring Olympic athletes to community conscious youth ambassadors.

The students are the Gold Coast's first representatives to receive grants to the value of \$5,200 in the programs first year.

The leadership forum gave the students the opportunity to develop their leadership skills through educational and leadership activities, as well as listening and talking to some of Queensland's most successful and influential leaders.

Guest speakers to the students included Indigenous founder of the Rosemary Bishop Indigenous Education Scholarship Program, Mr Waverley Stanley and Australia's first and only female Commanding Officer of a flying squadron in the Royal Australia Air Force, Wing Commander Linda Corbould.

RSL (Qld Branch) State President, Mr Doug Formby, said that the response to the leadership forum was overwhelming, and was pleased that the Gold Coast students could attend the weekends activities.

"The Leadership Forum aimed to foster the growth and development of these successful young students to ensure a brighter future for our community," Mr Formby said.

"As well as offering outstanding leadership and educational opportunities, the *RSL Youth Development Program* aims to promote awareness of the sacrifices our veterans have made, and of the ANZAC values they strived to defend," He said.

From Monday April 21, 2008, students currently completing Year 10 and 11 will have the opportunity to apply for a 2009 RSL Youth Development Grant via [www.RSLyouth.com.au](http://www.RSLyouth.com.au)

With over half a million dollars worth of grants available, each grant is worth between \$2,600 (for students studying Year 11 in 2009) and \$5,200 (for students studying Year 12 in 2009).

**Applications for the 2009 *RSL Youth Development Program* open on Monday April 21 2008 and close on Tuesday November 11 2008.**

*ENDS*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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## Mr Waverley Stanley:

*Indigenous founder of the Rosemary Bishop Indigenous Education Scholarship Program*

Mr Waverley Stanley is the founding director of Yalari. A not for profit company established to provide Indigenous students from disadvantaged communities across the Nation with the chance to attend some of the best boarding schools in Australia. Waverley was the first Indigenous student to be offered a scholarship at Toowoomba Boys Grammar and was the first Aboriginal student to graduate from the school. Understanding the importance of educating the Indigenous community is what has inspired Waverley to work toward his goal of raising \$12 million to put 250 Indigenous students through boarding school by 2015.

## Wing Commander Linda Corbould:

*Commanding Officer, 36 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force*

Wing Commander Linda Corbould is the first and only ever female to command a Royal Australian Air Force flying squadron. Having joined the Air Force in 1981, Linda has participated in deployments around the world including Mogadishu, Somalia, Timor and the Middle-east. Linda assumed command of 36 Squadron in 2006 and piloted the new C-17 Globemaster 111 on its arrival flight into Canberra in December 2006. Linda is one of the female pilots leading the way in the Australian Defence Force.