



## **RACHEL NOLAN MP**

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28 June 2004

#### **IPSWICH YOUTH PROMOTE OLYMPIC IDEALS**

The 2004 Olympic Games took on added significance for five high school students in the Ipswich electorate today when they were honoured as recipients of the 2004 Pierre de Coubertin Awards.

The awards, named after the French nobleman who founded the Modern Olympics in Athens in 1896, recognise high school sporting achievers who embody the spirit of the Olympic movement.

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan congratulated Skye Leach, Sara Rogers, Daniel Linde, Jason Hauser and Jessica Cole on winning a Pierre de Coubertin award. Education Minister Anna Bligh and Olympian Ashley Callus, gold medallist in swimming at Sydney 2000, presented the awards at a ceremony at the La Boite Theatre at Kelvin Grove in Brisbane.

Ms Nolan said the students were recognised for their sportsmanship on and off the field.

“Skye Leach from Bremer State High School, competed in national kayaking, state triathlons in 2002, 2003 and 2004 and state orienteering,” she said.

“Sara Rogers from Ipswich Girls Grammar School, competed in the open interschool badminton team, and interschool cricket and tennis.

“Daniel Linde from Ipswich Grammar School, competed in national swimming, the GPS 1<sup>st</sup> fifteen and the Queensland Reds Development Squad.

“Jason Hauser from St. Edmund’s College Ipswich, competed in regional athletics and interschool volleyball and soccer.

“Jessica Cole from St. Mary’s College Ipswich, competed in state athletics, cross-country and basketball.

“This is a great honour for these students. They should be proud of being named one of 197 award winners this year.

“The Pierre de Coubertin Awards recognise young sportsmen and women who have performed well on and off the field. This year’s award winners have displayed not only a keen competitive spirit but also strong sportsmanship and leadership skills.

“They are excellent representatives not only for their schools but also for sport in Queensland,” Ms Nolan said.

The Awards are an initiative of the Queensland Olympic Council in partnership with the Department of Education and the Arts.

Every year the Queensland Olympic Council invites all Queensland schools to nominate a Year 10, 11 or 12 student who has represented their school in sport.

Those students then submitted an original literary or artistic work that illustrated their appreciation of the Olympic movement.

The State Government has been a partner in the Awards since 1998, annually providing \$9500 in funding.