

2024 Australia Day honouring high achieving HSC Students and University Graduates

Date: Sunday 21 January 2024 (5:00-8:30) pm

Address: Starz Hall, Mounties Club, 254 Humphries Road, Mt. Pritchard, NSW



The 2024 Australia Day celebration, HSC Students & University Graduates Award presentation organised by the Iraqi Australian University Graduates Forum in collaboration with the Association of Iraqi Academic in Australia & New Zealand, assisted by The Australian Government through the National Australia Day Council. The event commenced with the formal welcome to the country delivered by Caroline Barton, Community Projects and Partnerships Officer – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands followed by student march to the stage and the recitation of the Australian National Anthem.

The event was attended by members of the Iraqi community, Lebanese, Egyptian, Syrian and other middle eastern communities, Parents, Community Leaders, Members of Federal and State Government, Diplomats, Mayors, Councillors. Distinguished guests including The Hon Anne Stanley Federal Member for Werriwa, Consul-General for Iraq Ms Intissar Al-Dawoodi, Mr David Saliba State Member for Fairfield, Mr Nathan Hagarty State Member for Leppington, Mr. Charbel Saliba, Deputy Mayor for Fairfield, Ms Charishma Kaliyanda, State Member for Liverpool and Ms. Fiona Macnaught, Deputy Mayor for Liverpool.

The program highlight was the award presentation to 13 high achieving HSC students in 2023 and 9 University Graduates from first and second generation Iraqi refugees and migrants.



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The event covered a very inspiring success story to Ms Roan Al Kalmashi, a solicitor graduate from UTS who spoke about her story of arcing in Australia with her family as refugee when she was 8 years old. Roan is a practicing solicitor and volunteer in SSI, UNHCR and other community organisations. Ms Roan was also the MC for the event.

A celebration of rich indigenous culture and multicultural Australia. It included an extraordinary exhibition, featuring the rich heritage of Aboriginal arts, handcraft and storytelling as well as the exquisite arts and crafts of the Iraqi community. There were stalls that showcase the beauty and significance of these cultural expressions. Curated by:

1. Dr Ayad Al-Hakak
2. Akram Tawa
3. Sameer Dakhil

Program highlight:

- 🇺🇸 Welcome to Country
- 🇺🇸 Exhibition of Aboriginal Arts & Craft, Floral display, Visual Arts Stalls
- 🇺🇸 Australian National Anthems
- 🇺🇸 Officials Speeches Federal & State MPs, Mayors, Almunada
- 🇺🇸 Aboriginal Cultural Performance
- 🇺🇸 HSC Students Awards Presentation
- 🇺🇸 University Graduates Awards Presentation
- 🇺🇸 Migrants and Refugees Success Stories
- 🇺🇸 Ballet Performance by Pistachio Entertainment
- 🇺🇸 Cake cutting and Entertainment

The list of high achieving HSC Students 2023, School and ATAR:

Student Name	School Name	ATAR
Rawan Azeez	Casula High School	90.25
Leen Alber	Freeman Catholic College	91.00
Maryam Shawki	Australian International Academy Strathfield	92.55
Aniela Shemon	St Narsai Assyrian Christian College	92.65
Breteil Esho	John Edmonson High School	94.00
Elena Habib	Freeman Catholic College	94.90
Dalia Alsaad	MLC	95.30
Sajjad Kuba	Sarah Redfern high school	96.30
Dania Jaber	The Illawarra Grammar School	96.60
Christopher Jarjees	St George Christian School	97.50
Rose Zoori	Mary MacKillop Catholic College	97.50
Estella Michael	Clancy Catholic College	98.80
Nuha Khaleal	Alpha omega senior college	99.80



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List of university Graduates awards recipients:

Graduate Name	Degree	University
Minerva Jazrawy	Bachelor of health and medical science (therapeutic recreation)	University of Western Sydney
Mariam Abbas	Bachelor of Fine Art	National Art School
Raneen Shamon	Bachelor of Visual Arts	The University of Sydney
Teeba Al-Shididi	Bachelor of Pre-Medicine, Science and Health	University of Wollongong
Dana Odish	Bachelor of Medical Studies/ Doctor of Medicine	Bond University
Sylvia Mikha	Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Laws (Combined)	University of New South Wales
Hoda Al Hassani	Bachelor of Social Work	University of Western Sydney
Rooan Al Kalmashi	Bachelor of law	University of Technology Sydney
Ashwa Al Kalmashi	Bachelor of Business (Finance)	University of Technology Sydney

Selected photos from the event



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Report compiled by: Husam Shkara
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