

A Leading Voice of Mutual Banking

Media Release

Monday 21 October 2024

SUM OF THE BEST: HUNTER STUDENTS EXCEL IN NEWCASTLE PERMANENT MATHS COMPETITION

Last week, the brightest young minds from across the Hunter came together as winners were announced for the 2024 Newcastle Permanent Primary School Mathematics Competition.

Challenging students to solve 35 questions without the use of calculators or rulers, the iconic competition drew entries from over 300 schools spanning the Hunter, Central Coast, Mid North Coast, Northern Rivers, Central West, Riverina, New England and North West regions.

In the Year 6 Division, first place was jointly awarded to New Lambton South Public School's Wenhao Wei, Kai Tran and Rongda You, as well as Maryland Public School's Haoru Jin. Second place was shared by Seth Withanage from Newcastle Grammar School and Ella Myers from New Lambton South Public School.

In the Year 5 division, Safina Mehwish from Wallsend South Public School took out first place, with joint second place awarded to Newcastle Grammar School's Kian Lim.

All first-place winners across both year levels scored 100% on their tests – an astounding achievement.

Newcastle Permanent Chief Distribution Officer Paul Juergens presented major award winners with their prizes in a ceremony at the Newcastle Permanent Centre of Excellence on 17 October, while District Awards were presented at local branches across NSW.

Reflecting on the competition's enduring legacy, Mr Juergens expressed pride in how the event continues to celebrate and nurture the talents of primary school students across the region.

"It's inspiring to see so many students take on the challenge each year, demonstrating not only their mathematical abilities but also their problem-solving skills – skills that are vital to their future success.

"We're proud to support a competition that encourages resilience, critical thinking, and a love for learning. Watching these students excel reminds us how important it is to invest in education and create opportunities for young people across the Hunter to grow and thrive."

Participants were awarded high distinction, distinction, merit or participation certificates based on their performance. District award winners received an additional reward of a Newcastle Permanent account credit.

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The Newcastle Permanent Primary School Mathematics Competition, which began in 1981, remains one of Australia's largest and longest-running maths competition of its kind.

To date, it has engaged over half a million students in enhancing their mathematical skills and knowledge.

Year 5 Winners – Newcastle

First: Safana Mehwish, Wallsend South Public School

Second: Kian Lim, Newcastle Grammar School

Year 6 Winners – Newcastle

First: Haoru Jin, Maryland Public School

First: Rongda You, New Lambton South Public School

First: Kai Tran, New Lambton South Public School

First: Wenhao Wei, New Lambton South Public School

Second: Seth Withanage, Newcastle Grammar School

Second: Ella Myers, New Lambton South Public School

Third: Steven Zhao, Newcastle Grammar School

Third: Ved Arunkumar Chhanya, Maryland Public School

Third: Sophia Sinnaduray, St Philip's Christian College Waratah

Third: Kevin Zhang, Wallsend Public School

Year 6 Winners – Lake Macquarie

Third: Ben Taliana, Eleebana Public School

Third: Aarav Vijay Agarawal, Macquarie College

Year 6 Winners – Port Stephens

Third: April Turner, Soldiers Point Public School

DISTRICT AWARDS

Year 5 District Awards – Newcastle

Zara Rahman, Newcastle Grammar School

Ahmed Sajjad, New Lambton South Public School

Alex Zhong, Mayfield West Demonstration School

Year 6 District Awards – Newcastle

Xavier Crosby, St Joseph's Primary School The Junction

David Evdeev, Maryland Public School

Year 5 District Awards – Lake Macquarie

Levi Peterson, Valentine Public School

Taym Tohala, St Mary's Primary School Warners Bay

Calvin Nazarea, Biddabah Public School

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Year 6 District Awards – Lake Macquarie

Henry Bowen, Eleebana Public School
Jack Butler, Warners Bay Public School
Alexander Metcalfe, Teralba Public School

Year 6 District Awards – Port Stephens

Luke Elsegood, St Philip's Christian College Port Stephens
Julian Pham-Vaughan, Medowie Public School

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ABOUT NEWCASTLE PERMANENT

Established in 1903, Newcastle Permanent is committed to serving our customers and their communities by providing trusted banking through home loans, deposits, everyday accounts, more than 40 branches, and a broad ATM network. Proudly customer-owned, Newcastle Permanent provides millions of dollars each year in community grants, support and sponsorship.