



Redeemer Baptist School (Proof)

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REDEEMER BAPTIST SCHOOL

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Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta) [6.38 p.m.]: I bring to the attention of the House the strong culture of original scientific research at Redeemer Baptist School. For eight consecutive years there has been at least one Redeemer finalist in the prestigious national BHP Billiton Science and Engineering Awards. Six Redeemer students have been honoured with the New South Wales title of Young Scientist of the Year. Nine Redeemer students have won awards, representing Australia overseas at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. In many cases, the students' research has proposed relevant solutions to important issues.

Redeemer's hall of science fame is inspirational. Afework Assefa designed an innovative thermal monitoring device that detects the presence of a child left in a car—neglect that could lead to tragic loss of life and criminal prosecution. Abdul Kassem set a clinical blind trial that compared the nutritional value of microwaved pre-packaged food with other cooking methods. A significant finding from the blood tests of Abdul's subjects implied that microwaving increases the bad to good cholesterol ratio by 7 per cent.

Ellenore Forrester demonstrated that electrical power is available anywhere a temperature differential exists. She proposed development of wearable devices using environmental temperature gradients to produce continuous energy outputs. Chaneg Torres mapped sound levels in classrooms to find optimum seating positions, in particular for hearing impaired students. His isobel contour maps demonstrated that classroom shape, furnishings and structural features all affect the way sound travels. Ian Cannon and Rickystan Savaiko developed a portable device to measure luminance contrast. Their device was used by building consultants to assist with compliance to Australian standards.

Marcus Cannon and Simeon Cannon undertook 3,660 ultrasound examinations to analyse the factors that increase the risk of deep vein thrombosis during long-haul air travel. They discovered that venous blood flow was reduced by almost 40 per cent with immobile, seated subjects. They published their results in a joint scientific paper with researchers from the University of Sydney. In their tertiary studies, this year Redeemer alumni Joel Poyitt and Mursell Cannon have been awarded Dean's medals in the School of Science and School of Education at the University of Western Sydney. Another Redeemer alumnus, Dr Anthony Conn, was a finalist in the 2013 Eureka Science prize. His research revealed dwarf galaxies orbiting Andromeda.

Redeemer's past and present leadership and teachers are to be commended for their dedication to inspiring students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics [STEM] subjects. I have previously informed the House about some of Redeemer's ongoing achievements in literacy and humanitarian projects. I understand that Redeemer students this year have purchased and shipped a motorised slasher to the remote Barai Tribe in Papua New Guinea to enable effective maintenance of the village air strip, which is a vital link for healthcare emergencies and educational supplies.

At the end of each year Redeemer showcases the achievements of its students. The night is a fantastic celebration and demonstrates student proficiency scholarship, humanities and social justice. Student music, choral and dance performances are a feature of the night, and always welcomed by parents, friends and the wider community. It is little wonder that Redeemer Baptist School is held in such high esteem by the whole community and has developed a reputation to deliver a holistic approach to education for our young people—the future leaders of our community. Redeemer Baptist School is committed to a Christian worldview in education and, in terms of science, this has meant following Francis Bacon's dictum that we cannot be "too well studied in the book of God's word or the book of God's works". I commend Redeemer's ongoing inspirational student outcomes in the science key learning area.