

Media Release

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MELBOURNE
ARCHDIOCESE
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Students aiming to make the world a better place Inaugural national Catholic schools STEM showcase held today

Student and teacher state finalists from 22 Catholic schools around the country came together virtually today for the inaugural Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths (STEM) national student showcase - STEM MAD (Making a Difference) - and showed they are prepared to push the boundaries to solve problems for the future.

Themed *'Learning from the past to build a better future'*, students were challenged to present solutions designed to make a difference by addressing a service, the environment, or a product, through the lens of Catholic stewardship, solidarity, common good, citizenship, humanity, and wellbeing.

Judges considered design process, innovative application of scientific and mathematical concepts, engineering and communication principles, and the distinction of making a difference in the world by acting for justice and the common good. Students needed to have a working model or a digital prototype to be accepted for the showcase.

Major award winners announced today were:

STEM MAD National – Primary Schools Award

St John's Catholic School, Richmond, Tasmania
'Capaci Carbon Scrubber'

STEM MAD National Secondary Schools Award

St Eugene College, Burpengary, Queensland
'Beach Mate'

***STEM MAD National – 'Future is STEM' Primary Schools Award**

St Vincent's Primary School, Clear Island Waters - Gold Coast, Queensland
'Vision Buddy'

***STEM MAD National – 'Future is STEM' Secondary Schools Award**

Magdalene College, Narellan, Wollongong, New South Wales
'CLT Eco Office'

**(The 'Future is STEM' category recognises and encourages students creating projects which demonstrate all the STEM capabilities but don't quite meet the 'MAD' criteria.)*

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) Acting Executive Director, Dr Paul Sharkey, said Catholic schools aim to not only be innovative and leaders in teaching and learning, but also to make a positive difference in the world.

'What better way to bring this philosophy to life than by challenging students to address real world science and engineering problems in a way that also acts for justice and the common good', Dr Sharkey said.

'I congratulate all of the students and staff involved in today's showcase. The depth of thought, creativity, and compassion on show, provides confidence that the world is in good hands for the future.

'We are pleased to co-ordinate this showcase opportunity for Catholic schools from around the country.'

To participate in STEM MAD National, primary, and secondary student teams participated in their own diocesan or state-wide STEM showcases with each diocese invited to nominate up to three projects per category which best demonstrate their learning and meet the project criteria.

The event was made possible with the generous support of Catholic Network Australia (CNA).

Visit the [STEM MAD National showcase](#) for more information and details of all awards.

Ends....

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