



Pass with flying colours: Susan Withers and her pupils. Picture: ANDREW BATSCH

Value in this class act

By MANDI ZONNEVELDT

A TEACHER who condones a "no-rules" environment at school was last night named Victoria's top primary teacher.

Kalinda Primary School teacher Susan Withers topped one of eight categories in the *Herald Sun* Teacher of the Year awards, announced at a gala dinner.

Ms Withers' pupils have ditched rules in favour of a values program, which focuses on real-life situations.

"We talk about how people want to be treated, whether they're in school, at home or down at the shops," Ms Withers said.

The judges said Ms Withers was compassionate and a motivator and role model to other teachers. Secondary teacher of the year was Dean Goodridge from Kangaroo Flat Secondary College.

Mr Goodridge has a particular interest in middle years schooling, which includes Years 5 to 9, and was praised as a hard-working and innovative team leader.

Courtenay Gardens Primary School was named primary teacher team of the year for its

THE WINNERS

Primary Graduate

Natasha Davies,
Heidelberg Primary School

Secondary Graduate

Laura McPhee,
Merbein Secondary College

Primary Novice

Andrea Eales,
Albert Park Primary School

Secondary Novice

Sheridan Long, Berengarra School and
Julia Wake, Penola Catholic College

Primary Team

Courtenay Gardens Primary School Team

Secondary Team

Bayside College Bilingual Team

Primary Teacher

Susan Withers, Kalinda Primary School

Secondary Teacher

Dean Goodridge, Kangaroo Flat Secondary College

Herald Sun

TEACHER
of the YEAR

2002
AWARDS



Dean Goodridge

while Ms Wake has focused on developing work education programs. Primary graduate teacher of the year, Natasha Davies from Heidelberg Primary School, was praised for her passion.

She dressed as a jar of Vegemite to accompany the children she teaches in last year's Ban-yule Festival.

Merbein Secondary College's Laura McPhee was named secondary graduate teacher of the year and was commended for her involvement in school activities outside the classroom.

Andrea Eales from Albert Park Primary was awarded primary novice teacher of the year. The active Year 2 teacher cycles to school to set an example to her pupils.

work to increase literacy skills.

A reading program established by the school has helped 40 previously at-risk pupils excel.

Bayside College, Altona, took out the secondary teacher team for its bilingual program, which was praised for lifting the morale and

achievements of Arabic background students in the school community.

Sheridan Long from Berengarra School and Julia Wake from Penola Catholic College shared the secondary novice teacher of the year title.

Both teachers work with at-risk students. Ms Long teaches woodwork,

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