

# Dandenong Schools Lead the Way



GREATER Dandenong schools shone at this year's Victorian Education Excellence Awards, announced on 17 May.

Dandenong North Primary School won the School Leadership Team of the Year prize and Chandler Park Primary School's Mary Hannett was named the Business Manager of the Year. Dandenong North principal Kevin Mackay said he had a large leadership team at 13 people, but had a large staff base to draw from – 84 full and part-time staff.

"You can't make people be leaders," he said. Mr Mackay said any teacher could put their hand up to lead and have the opportunity to learn the skills required.

"We're approaching world's best practice in terms of teaching," he said.

The win included \$25,000 in grants, which will go toward a project about peer observation and coaching. Mr Mackay said the school was looking to share its skills with other schools.

"We've got really high-quality staff. They work really hard and in a direct way with focused skills,"

"To have a team around like that says a lot about the school and about the team."

Teaching Profession Minister Peter Hall said the awards highlighted the creativity and innovation.