

Arthur Hamilton Award Winner

Ricki Cocliff – Game On! Coordinator Fair Game WA

Arthur Hamilton Award for Outstanding Contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education

Since 1999 the AEU has conducted an annual award process for AEU members who demonstrate a commitment to the process of Reconciliation through education.

The 2005 AEU Annual Federal Conference determined to re-name the award the 'Arthur Hamilton Award for Reconciliation in Education' in honour of Arthur who passed away in 2004 after a short struggle with cancer.

Arthur was a proud Palawa man, unionist and educator from Tasmania whose leadership within the AEU will be sorely missed.

The award has now been renamed the Arthur Hamilton Award for Outstanding Contribution to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Education.

Growing up in the outback has shown Ricki Cocliff what it's like to come from a disadvantaged background.

After leaving his small home town of Newman he pursued his passion for health, fitness and education and completed a Sports Science degree and teaching Diploma.

Having taught both at Churchlands and Bullsbrook SHS, Ricki's desire is about helping people from all walks of life to have access to healthy lifestyles.

In 2010, Ricki helped to develop Fair Game, an award winning grass-roots organisation which has had a positive impact on the teaching and learning needs of West Australian Indigenous and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) children.

He now balances a full time teacher load with coordinating Fair Game WA's Game On! program which has landed him as the worthy recipient of the 2014 Arthur Hamilton Award.

Fair Game, a voluntary not for profit organisation, uses recycled sports



Ricki with his Year 12 Bullsbrook students running Fair Game Game On! programs in Wiluna last year.

equipment to deliver unique health education and fitness programs to underserved WA communities.

It's provided over 8,000 items of recycled sports equipment to communities in need, inspired over 4,000 participants, donated over 900 'Healthy Communities' backpacks alongside health education to reduce communicable disease and lifestyle-related illness, visited 41 of remote, regional and metropolitan communities and travelled over 20,000 kilometres to deliver programs.

In addition to developing the Game On! program manual for teachers, Ricki runs volunteer training camps and donates his school holiday time volunteering in remote Indigenous communities.

During the school term he dedicates evening and weekend hours to wellness programs for CALD youth in the metropolitan area along with engaging his students in running annual Fair

Game equipment fundraising activities.

Ricki has led a cultural immersion program for his student councillors which saw his students partake in a school holiday trip to run sport and wellness activities for the kids in Wiluna.

His work has been integral in forming partnerships between Fair Game and communities at risk of adolescent substance abuse, lifestyle related illness and mental health problems.

It's Ricki's drive for equity and social justice that has helped hundreds of kids to build a brighter, healthier future. ■

