

Thursday 23 October 2025

## **FORMULA FOR SUCCESS: HUNTER STUDENTS SHINE IN NEWCASTLE PERMANENT MATHS COMPETITION**

The Hunter's top young problem-solvers took centre stage on Tuesday as the winners were announced for the 2025 Newcastle Permanent Primary School Mathematics Competition.

Almost 17,000 students from more than 350 schools across the Hunter, Central Coast, Mid North Coast, Northern Rivers, Central West, North West and New England regions took part in the iconic competition in its 45<sup>th</sup> year.

In the Year 6 Division, New Lambton South Public School's Ahmed Sajjad and Kian Lim from Newcastle Grammar School received first place awards. New Lambton Public School's Aayush Gangadharan and Nicholas Kim from Jewells Primary School earned second place, while Safana Mehwish from Wallsend South Public School received a third place award.

In the Year 5 Division, Callan Nash from St Kevin's Primary School was awarded first place and St Paul's Primary School – Gateshead's Eden Watts earned second place. Julian Pham-Vaughan from Tighes Hill Public School and Hunter Valley Grammar School's Thinuja Hewamasmulla earned third place.

Newcastle Permanent representative Jessica Burgoyne presented the major award winners with their prizes at the Newcastle Permanent Centre of Excellence on 21 October.

"Congratulations to the students and their teachers for the outstanding efforts. We are thrilled to see a significant increase from last year of students and schools participating in our 2025 competition from across the state," Ms Burgoyne said.

"We are incredibly proud to continue our support of a competition that tests student's problem-solving and critical thinking skills, while also encourages resilience and curiosity in mathematics."

The Newcastle Permanent Primary School Maths Competition began in 1981 and continues to be one of Australia's largest and longest-running maths competitions of its kind.

To date, more than half a million students have taken part in the Newcastle Permanent Primary School Maths Competition.

### **Year 5 Winners – Newcastle**

Third: Julian Pham-Vaughan, Tighes Hill Public School

### **Year 5 Winners – Hunter**

Third: Thinuja Hewamasmulla, Hunter Valley Grammar School

## **Year 5 Winners – Lake Macquarie**

First: Callan Nash, St Kevin's Primary School

Second: Eden Watts, St Paul's Primary School - Gateshead

## **Year 6 Winners – Newcastle**

First: Ahmed Sajjad, New Lambton South Public School

First: Kian Lim, Newcastle Grammar School

Second: Aayush Gangadharan, New Lambton Public School

Third: Safana Mehwish, Wallsend South Public School

## **Year 6 Winners – Lake Macquarie**

Second: Nicholas Kim, Jewells Primary School

## **DISTRICT AWARDS**

### **Year 5 District Awards – Newcastle**

Simon Ryder, Tighes Hill Public School

Hesandu Senanayake, New Lambton South Public School

Pavan Kudagamage, New Lambton Public School

### **Year 5 District Awards – Lake Macquarie**

Liam Arthur, Charlestown South Public School

Senwei Wang, Macquarie College

Archer Brooks, Biraban Public School

### **Year 5 District Awards – Hunter**

Simon Lloyd, St John the Baptist Primary School – Maitland

Elijah Clibborn, Hunter Valley Grammar School

Grace Morgan-Nischang, St Paul's Primary School – Rutherford

### **Year 6 District Awards – Newcastle**

Darshan Lakhani, Maryland Public School

Max Dorain, New Lambton South Public School

Yousaf Badar Jamal, New Lambton South Public School

Simon Yu, Newcastle Grammar School

### **Year 6 District Awards – Hunter**

Heath Muir, Morpeth Public School

Payton Solomons, St Patrick's Primary School – Cessnock

Nicholas Johns, St Joseph's Primary School – East Maitland

Muhammad Arham, Ashtonfield Public School

### **Year 6 District Awards – Lake Macquarie**

Mikaere Te Rangi, Arcadia Vale Public School

Maximo Beattie, Jewells Primary School

Alois Madden, St Mary's Primary School – Warners Bay

**Year 6 District Awards – Port Stephens**

Luca Melia, St Brigid's Primary School – Raymond Terrace

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**ABOUT NEWCASTLE PERMANENT**

Newcastle Permanent is one of Australia's largest and most trusted customer-owned banks, committed to serving its customers and community. Established in 1903, Newcastle Permanent provides banking products including home loans, deposits, everyday accounts, business solutions, and financial planning plus has a strong branch presence, and a broad ATM network.