

Congratulations to all the winners of the 2025 Aurora Energy Science and Technology Fair!



For 21 years, we've proudly supported the region's brightest young minds to ponder big questions, make discoveries, and solve the problems of tomorrow. This year's winners impressed with creativity, curiosity, and a drive to make a difference. We applaud the winners and all participants, as well as their dedicated teachers, and supportive families.

Aurora Award for Excellence in Energy Research		
Name	Year	School
Benji Davidson	7	Mt Aspiring College
Elizna Van Rooyen	7	Mt Aspiring College
Isaac Wood	7	Mt Aspiring College
Olive Johnstone	7	Mt Aspiring College
Sasha Milne	7	Mt Aspiring College
Allan Lin	9	King's High School
Fergus Byrne	9	Logan Park High School
Hadlee Taylor	9	Cromwell College
Kydan O'Keefe	9	Cromwell College
Inge Erasmus	10	St Hilda's Collegiate

Aurora Energy Award		
Name	Year	School
Amelie Wilson	7	Mt Aspiring College
Charlie Pagan	7	Arrowtown School
Cipreana Bligh	7	Mt Aspiring College
Cole Thomson	7	Arrowtown School
Colin Adams	7	Taieri College
Connor Waugh	7	Arrowtown School
Daniel Collins	7	Taieri College
Dexter Chalmers	7	Arrowtown School
Ella Appelton	7	St Hilda's Collegiate
Emily de Lacey	7	Arrowtown School
Fraser Lawrence	7	Balmacewen Intermediate
Henry Hammond	7	Arrowtown School
Isabel Crawford	7	Tahuna Normal Intermediate
Isabella Bambery	7	Arrowtown School
Isla Ansell	7	St Hilda's Collegiate
Jacques Pienaar	7	Arrowtown School
Jamie Coppola	7	Tahuna Normal Intermediate
Jax Anggow-Strange	7	Tahuna Normal Intermediate
Kenzie Anderson	7	St Hilda's Collegiate
Kiara Edwards	7	Dunedin North Intermediate
Koa Shanks	7	St Hilda's Collegiate
Mason Cossey	7	Mt Aspiring College
Om Dixit	7	Tahuna Normal Intermediate
Paige Frith	7	Taieri College
Pippa Thomas	7	St Hilda's Collegiate
Reyansh Jain	7	Dunedin North Intermediate
Rufus Irons	7	Arrowtown School
Sylvie Wardell	7	Dunedin North Intermediate
Alexia Rhodes-White	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Alyssa Hughes	8	Taieri College
Amy Jackson	8	Arrowtown School
Ava Ryan	8	Rosebank School
Ben Walker	8	Balmacewen Intermediate
Clara Clark	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Dev Kandath	8	Balmacewen Intermediate
Eve Jones	8	Arrowtown School
Freda Clark	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
George Worswick	8	Arrowtown School
Isobel Sinclair	8	Fairfield School
Julia Croce	8	Arrowtown School
Lagifagaloa Malae	8	Balmacewen Intermediate
Lillie Lucas	8	Arrowtown School
Maeve Connaughton	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Maisy Taylor	8	Arrowtown School
Méabh Russell	8	Columba College
Mia Reardon	8	Mt Aspiring College
Milly Tate	8	Arrowtown School
Nina Funnell	8	Fairfield School
Reina Wilkinson	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Rosie Hebden	8	Columba College
Sento Kodera	8	Arrowtown School
Syd Boden	8	Arrowtown School
Talia Hargreaves	8	Balmacewen Intermediate
Theo McKillop	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Zahra Blakey	8	Arrowtown School
Amber Egan	9	Taieri College
Aston Lawrence	9	King's High School
Caitlin Charleson	9	Cromwell College
Connor Ridder	9	Cromwell College
Emma Collins	9	Taieri College
Evie Gerling	9	Cromwell College
Isobella Crossen	9	Cromwell College
James Henshaw	9	John McGlashan College
Leo Casey	9	John McGlashan College
Lily Te Ngahue	9	Columba College
Liv Schiller	9	Taieri College
Mackley Adams	9	John McGlashan College
Max Smith	9	John McGlashan College
Meelah Maddox	9	Cromwell College
Millie Scott	9	Cromwell College
Neve Van Lierop	9	Cromwell College
Noah Konia	9	John McGlashan College
Riya Rasika Kishor Kumar	9	Columba College
Sephanne Respicio	9	Taieri College
Shriansha Chand	9	Taieri College
Annabelle Wilson	10	Columba College
Carlotta Schwefel	10	Otago Girls' High School
Julia Hodgson	10	Otago Girls' High School
Hedy Sun	11	Columba College
Jasmine Low	11	Columba College
Jerome Byrne	11	Logan Park High School
Jenny Petegem Thach	12	Taieri College

Earth Sciences Institute		
Name	Year	School
Cole Thomson	7	Arrowtown School
Connor Waugh	7	Arrowtown School
Isla Manson	7	Mt Aspiring College
Olive Johnstone	7	Mt Aspiring College

Echelon Award for Earth Science		
Name	Year	School
Matthew Lindsell	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Monty Read	8	Dunedin North Intermediate

Echelon Award for Energy Efficiency		
Name	Year	School
Aston Lawrence	9	King's High School

Echelon Award for Marine Science		
Name	Year	School
Theo McKillop	8	Dunedin North Intermediate

Echelon Award for Mātauranga Māori Award		
Name	Year	School
Hedy Sun	11	Columba College
Jasmine Low	11	Columba College

Echelon Award for Science Communication		
Name	Year	School
Jerome Byrne	11	Logan Park High School

Echelon Award for Science Education		
Name	Year	School
Ruthren Senthil Kumar	8	Balmacewen Intermediate

Keith Dawber Alternative/Renewable Energy Award		
Name	Year	School
Elizna Van Rooyen	7	Mt Aspiring College
Jack Lusk	7	Dunedin North Intermediate
George Worswick	8	Arrowtown School

New Zealand Institute Food, Science & Technology with Saperex Award		
Name	Year	School
Oscar Chapman	7	Lee Stream School
Paige Frith	7	Taieri College
Fletcher Webster	8	Fairfield School
Freda Clark	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Noah Schönleben	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Henry Copland	9	John McGlashan College
Lachie Baker	9	John McGlashan College

New Zealand Institute of Chemistry Award		
Name	Year	School
Jamie Coppola	7	Tahuna Normal Intermediate
Jax Anggow-Strange	7	Tahuna Normal Intermediate
Jazeel Vivar	7	St Mary's Mosgiel
Kiara Edwards	7	Dunedin North Intermediate
Xylina Tiburcio	7	Rosebank School
Amy Jackson	8	Arrowtown School
Julia Croce	8	Arrowtown School
Lillie Lucas	8	Arrowtown School
Maisy Taylor	8	Arrowtown School
Milly Tate	8	Arrowtown School
Sydney Boden	8	Arrowtown School
Meelah Maddox	9	Cromwell College
Neve Van Lierop	9	Cromwell College
Annabelle Wilson	10	Columba College

Australasian Corrosion Association (NZ Branch) Award		
Name	Year	School
Amelie Wilson	7	Mt Aspiring College
Jazeel Vivar	7	St Mary's Mosgiel
Reyansh Jain	7	Dunedin North Intermediate
Xylina Tiburcio	7	Rosebank School
Amy Jackson	8	Arrowtown School
Aroha Brunt	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
James Hemmings	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Matthew Lindsell	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Monty Read	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Syd Boden	8	Arrowtown School
Inge Erasmus	10	St Hilda's Collegiate

Bachelor of Information Technology, Otago Polytechnic Award		
Name	Year	School
Em Croft	8	St Hilda's Collegiate
Hazel Scott	8	Balmacewen Intermediate
Louis Pinel	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Miyuki Honjo	8	Balmacewen Intermediate
Ruthren Senthil Kumar	8	Balmacewen Intermediate
Freddy Ma	9	King's High School
Jenny Petegem Thach	12	Taieri College

Baking Industry Research Trust Award		
Name	Year	School
Aisha Barezkai	7	Balmacewen Intermediate
Safa Nayle	7	Balmacewen Intermediate
Freda Clark	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Noah Konia	9	John McGlashan College

Dodd-Walls Centre for Research Excellence Award		
Name	Year	School
Benji Davidson	7	Mt Aspiring College
Charlie Pagan	7	Arrowtown School
Elizna Van Rooyen	7	Mt Aspiring College
Finn Milne	7	Dunedin North Intermediate
Jack Lusk	7	Dunedin North Intermediate
Jacques Pienaar	7	Arrowtown School
Kenzie Anderson	7	St Hilda's Collegiate
Scarlett Lane	7	Dunedin North Intermediate
Ameereh McRodden	8	Tahuna Normal Intermediate
Arya Rupasingh	8	Columba College
Audrey Hayde	8	Columba College
Beth Fuller	8	Tahuna Normal Intermediate
Boyang Xiao	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Reina Wilkinson	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Ruthren Senthil Kumar	8	Balmacewen Intermediate
Allan Lin	9	King's High School
Brittany Price	9	Cromwell College
Emma Collins	9	Taieri College
Eva Settle	9	Cromwell College
Freddy Ma	9	King's High School
Inge Erasmus	10	St Hilda's Collegiate
Jerome Byrne	11	Logan Park High School
Jenny Petegem Thach	12	Taieri College

Earth Sciences Institute		
Name	Year	School
Cole Thomson	7	Arrowtown School
Connor Waugh	7	Arrowtown School
Isla Manson	7	Mt Aspiring College
Olive Johnstone	7	Mt Aspiring College

Echelon Award for Earth Science		
Name	Year	School
Matthew Lindsell	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Monty Read	8	Dunedin North Intermediate

Echelon Award for Energy Efficiency		
Name	Year	School
Aston Lawrence	9	King's High School

Echelon Award for Marine Science		
Name	Year	School
Theo McKillop	8	Dunedin North Intermediate

Echelon Award for Mātauranga Māori Award		
Name	Year	School
Hedy Sun	11	Columba College
Jasmine Low	11	Columba College

Echelon Award for Science Communication		
Name	Year	School
Jerome Byrne	11	Logan Park High School

Echelon Award for Science Education		
Name	Year	School
Ruthren Senthil Kumar	8	Balmacewen Intermediate

Keith Dawber Alternative/Renewable Energy Award		
Name	Year	School
Elizna Van Rooyen	7	Mt Aspiring College
Jack Lusk	7	Dunedin North Intermediate
George Worswick	8	Arrowtown School

New Zealand Institute Food, Science & Technology with Saperex Award		
Name	Year	School
Oscar Chapman	7	Lee Stream School
Paige Frith	7	Taieri College
Fletcher Webster	8	Fairfield School
Freda Clark	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Noah Schönleben	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Henry Copland	9	John McGlashan College
Lachie Baker	9	John McGlashan College

New Zealand Institute of Chemistry Award		
Name	Year	School
Jamie Coppola	7	Tahuna Normal Intermediate
Jax Anggow-Strange	7	Tahuna Normal Intermediate
Jazeel Vivar	7	St Mary's Mosgiel
Kiara Edwards	7	Dunedin North Intermediate
Xylina Tiburcio	7	Rosebank School
Amy Jackson	8	Arrowtown School
Julia Croce	8	Arrowtown School
Lillie Lucas	8	Arrowtown School
Maisy Taylor	8	Arrowtown School
Milly Tate	8	Arrowtown School
Sydney Boden	8	Arrowtown School
Meelah Maddox	9	Cromwell College
Neve Van Lierop	9	Cromwell College
Annabelle Wilson	10	Columba College

New Zealand Institute of Physics Award		
Name	Year	School
Emily de Lacey	7	Arrowtown School
Henry McKay	7	Dunedin North Intermediate
Isabella Bambery	7	Arrowtown School
Mason Cossey	7	Mt Aspiring College
George Worswick	8	Arrowtown School
Sam Henderson	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Leo Casey	9	John McGlashan College
Mackley Adams	9	John McGlashan College

New Zealand Microbiological Society Mike Baxter Award		
Name	Year	School
Emilie Oats	7	Dunedin North Intermediate
Juniper McLean	7	Dunedin North Intermediate
Reyansh Jain	7	Dunedin North Intermediate

New Zealand Psychological Society - Otago Branch Award		
Name	Year	School
Ebony Nitis	7	St Mary's Mosgiel
Isabel Crawford	7	Tahuna Normal Intermediate
Kyla Roberts	7	St Mary's Mosgiel
Clara Clark	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Freda Clark	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Caitlin Charleson	9	Cromwell College
Emma Collins	9	Taieri College
Emma Walker	10	Otago Girls' High School

New Zealand Statistics Award		
Name	Year	School
Emerson Mullen-James	7	Balmacewen Intermediate
Mia Reardon	8	Mt Aspiring College
Nikita Henwood	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Lily Te Ngahue	9	Columba College
Riya Rasika Kishor Kumar	9	Columba College
Jerome Byrne	11	Logan Park High School

Otago Institute for the Arts and Sciences General Excellence Award		
Name	Year	School
Fraser Lawrence	7	Balmacewen Intermediate
Theo McKillop	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Kiara Edwards	7	Dunedin North Intermediate
Aroha Brunt	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Luke Scott	8	Dunedin North Intermediate

Otago Medical Research Foundation Award		
Name	Year	School
Victor Calvert	7	Fairfield School
Quinn Mackersy	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Meelah Maddox	9	Cromwell College
Neve Van Lierop	9	Cromwell College
Jerome Byrne	11	Logan Park High School

Otago Museum Hands-On		
Name	Year	School
Charlie Baumgren	7	Mt Aspiring College
Elizna Van Rooyen	7	Mt Aspiring College
Isaac Wood	7	Mt Aspiring College
Lucy Mitchell	7	St Hilda's Collegiate
Renny Ren	7	Dunedin North Intermediate
Ben Walker	8	Balmacewen Intermediate
Lagifagaloa Malae	8	Balmacewen Intermediate
Hadlee Taylor	9	Cromwell College
Kydan O'Keefe	9	Cromwell College
Jenny Petegem Thach	12	Taieri College

Plant & Food Research Award		
Name	Year	School
Emilie Oats	7	Dunedin North Intermediate
Finn Milne	7	Dunedin North Intermediate
Juniper McLean	7	Dunedin North Intermediate
Sylvie Wardell	7	Dunedin North Intermediate
Dev Kandath	8	Balmacewen Intermediate
Luke Scott	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Sento Kodera	8	Arrowtown School
Annabelle Wilson	10	Columba College
Hedy Sun	11	Columba College
Jasmine Low	11	Columba College

Premiere Aurora Energy Best In Fair Award		
Name	Year	School
Ben Walker	8	Balmacewen Intermediate

Premiere Earth Sciences Institute for Water and Atmosphere Award		
Name	Year	School
Matthew Lindsell	8	Dunedin North Intermediate
Monty Read	8	Dunedin North Intermediate

Premiere Echelon Most Promising Year 9-13 Award		
Name	Year	School
Jenny Petegem Thach	12	Taieri College

Premiere Marine Studies Centre Future Scientist Award		
Name	Year	School
Jazeel Vivar	7	St Mary's Mosgiel

Premiere OSTA General Excellence Award		
Name	Year	School
Cipreana Bligh	7	Mt Aspiring College

Premiere Otago Institute for the Arts and Sciences Award - General Excellence		
Name	Year	School
Finn Milne	7	Dunedin North Intermediate

University of Otago, Pacific Sciences, Division of Sciences Award		
Name	Year	School
Lagifagaloa Malae	8	Balmacewen Intermediate

University of Otago Geology Department and Geosciences Society of New Zealand Award		
Name	Year	School