Queen's Young Leader

Her Majesty The Queen presented the Queen's Young Leaders Award to three exceptional young people from Australia at a recent ceremony at Buckingham Palace, London.

The Award celebrates inspiring young people from all over the Commonwealth who are dedicated to driving change in their communities and beyond.

Award winner, 24-year-old Madeleine Buchner from Melbourne, has been acknowledged for her commitment to supporting young carers. Abdullahi Alim, 24-year-old, from Perth, was chosen in recognition of his work to curb the threat of violent extremism amongst young people and 28-year-old Jordan O'Reilly from Sydney, has been chosen for his work to empower disabled people both in the workplace and at home.

Buchner is committed to supporting young people acting as family carers across Australia. Using her own experiences as a young carer, She set up Little Dreamers Australia. The charity supports young people who are caring for parents or siblings with a chronic illness, mental illness, disability or drug/ alcohol addiction.

Buchner manages a team of 15 volunteers and, through a range of initiatives, has helped more than 1000 young carers. She also created the first VIC Young Carers Festival in Australia, which has been running for three years and aims to improve connections between young carers, in order to increase the support they receive and reduce the potential for mental health problems.

The 2017 Queen's Young Leaders Award winners are working to support others, raise awareness and inspire change on a variety of issues from tackling bullying in schools, to preserving the environment, to promoting gender equality.

Photo credit: BCA

Esther Schröder
Monash – *Oxford bound*

The Monash medical graduate is one of only two Australian students to win a major scholarship to study at the University of Oxford, in what is the first time the award has been offered. Dr Schröder has received an inaugural Provost's Scholarship to Worcester College at the University of Oxford worth almost $90,000. Currently working as a medical intern at Bendigo Hospital, Esther leaves for Oxford in January and said she was thrilled at the opportunity.

Sultan, Ezgi, Seher & Berivan Ozonal
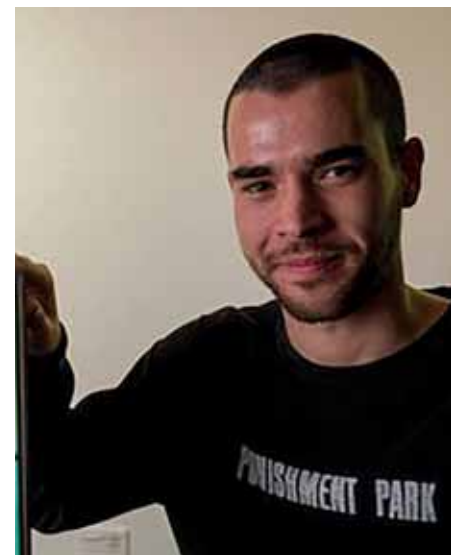**La Trobe –** *living the dream*

Education has always been an important cornerstone of the Ozonal family, daughter Seher notes "because we're the first in our family to go to University, we're living Mum and Dad's dream of gaining a tertiary education. They gave up a lot so we could all go to uni. Education is so important because it gives you the independence to financially provide for yourself and your family." Berivan graduated with a Bachelor of Primary Education, Sultan with a Bachelor of Arts and a Graduate Diploma of Education, Seher with a Bachelor of Social Work with Honours and Ezgi, this year, with a Bachelor of Community Development and Health Promotion Planning. Their parents moved to Australia 30 years ago.

Nathan Pitt
ACU – *remote support*

The second-year Bachelor of Psychological Science student is the inaugural winner of the Frances Xavier Conaci scholarship which will assist him to study at the Australian Catholic University (ACU) Rome Centre this month as part of his International Core Curriculum studies. Pitt is an Aboriginal student from Brisbane, with cultural connections to Yieman country. He plans to pursue a career providing mental health support to remote communities. A particular interest is examining criminal or forensic psychology in order to work with incarcerated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Trent Crawford
VCA - *visuality*

The 2017 Keith and Elisabeth Murdoch Travelling Fellowships, worth $75,000, were awarded to four University of Melbourne graduates from the Victorian College of the Arts and Melbourne Conservatorium of Music. Awarded biennially to theatre, music and visual arts graduates, the Fellowships were established in 1994 by the late Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC DBE to enable young artists to travel and study overseas in the early stages of their careers. The main $25,000 Prize for Visual Art went to Trent Crawford, who graduated from the VCA in 2016, for his video installation work Liquidity.