

Sarah Catherine Bourke

Summary biography for the Parmigiani Spirit Award

Nationality: Australia

Date of birth: 31.07.1989

University: Australian National University (ANU), Canberra

University course: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science (Psychology)

Rowing club: Australian National University Boat Club

Bourke is an active volunteer at the Australian National University Boat Club and trains up to nine times per week during the season. In 2012 Bourke won silver in the pair at the Australian University Games and subsequently was awarded the Australian National University Half Blue Award for sporting achievement.

Academically Sarah Bourke excels. She has a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science with first class honours in biological anthropology. In 2011 Bourke received the Chancellor's Letter of Commendation for academic excellence and became a Golden Key Honour Society member in 2013. She has received numerous other awards and scholarships including the Neville Bonner Memorial Scholarship for Honours in Political Science.

An Aboriginal Australian, Bourke was named Australian Scholar of the Year by the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC). This award highlighted not just Bourke's academic achievements but also her contribution towards the Australia's indigenous communities and wider communities.

Bourke is involved in voluntary work both at the national and international level. Internationally she has raised funds for a Red Cross Development School in the Solomon Islands. Nationally she is an ambassador for the Australian National University Regional Partnerships programme. In this role Bourke tutors indigenous school students and also works with students in regional areas of Australia to help them understand the opportunities available to them in higher education to improve their lives and livelihoods.

In 2008 Sara was selected as the ANU representative to the World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Education. She was also selected for the ANU Vice Chancellor's Student Leadership Programme as a student with the potential and motivation to become a leader. In 2012 she was a leader and mentor at a National Indigenous Youth Leadership Conference.

Bourke's goal is to become a leader in her field and make lasting changes to how governments, organisations and individuals address improving the health of all indigenous Australians.

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