

# Chris is a real achiever

A YOUNG man who is not only academic but motivated to help his school community has been awarded the 2012 Regional Director's Excellence in Student Achievement award.

Christopher Diessel, in year 11 at Chatham High School, was nominated by his careers advisor Neil Locker.

"He's not only academic but he just gets himself involved in just about everything more than any other student that I've seen in a lot of years," Mr Locker said.

"He's an outstanding student but the complete package, he's always helping people, students and teachers.

"As a teacher and careers advisor since 1978, I have never encountered a student like Chris who is so prepared to use his considerable abilities and energies to both excel in his subjects and to help others.

"Staff love Chris as he's always helping people and looking to solve problems."

Chris said he was thrilled to receive the award and proud of his achievements.

Part of his motivation for being so involved in his school community is the example set by his father, who is heavily involved in the Manning community.

"Mum has always encouraged me to do things as well and to try new things to see what I'm good at."

He said sometimes he puts his hand up because there is a lack of anyone else willing to do anything.

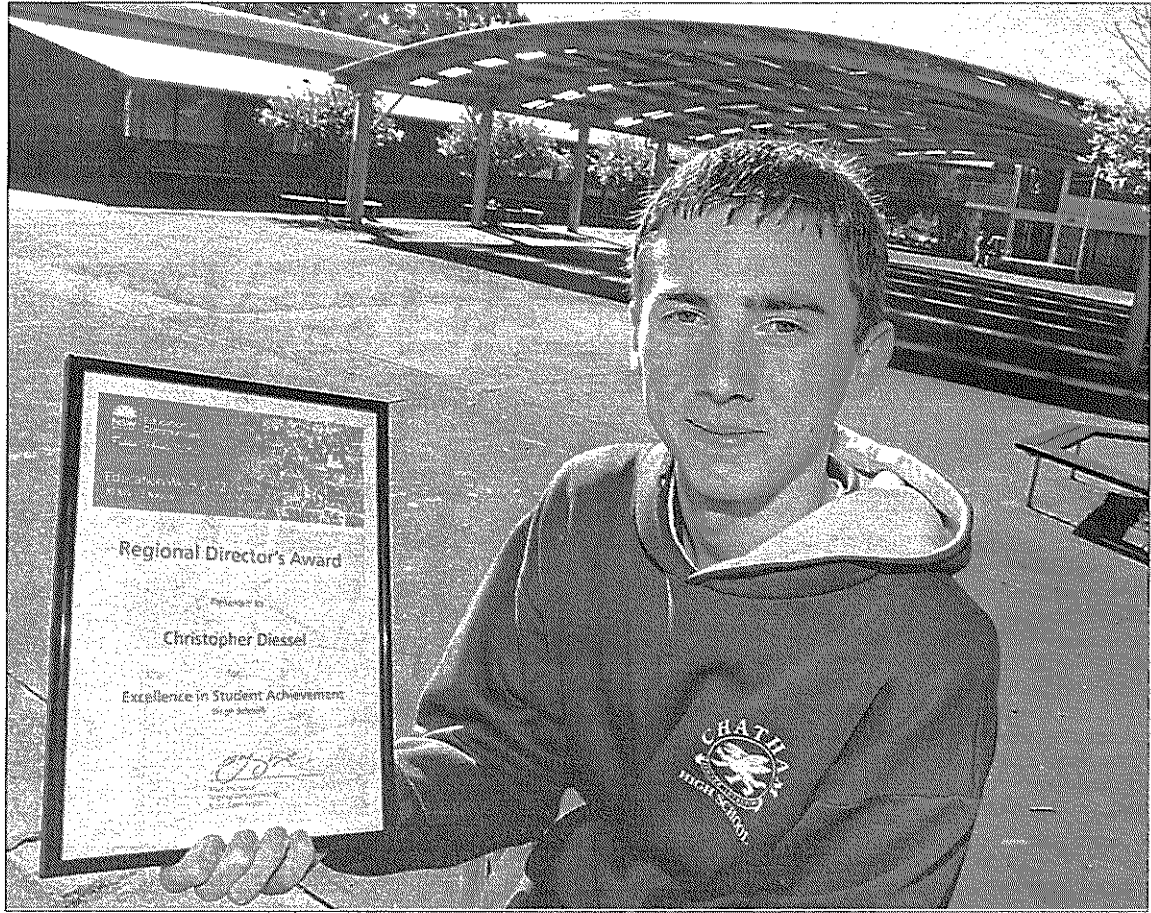
"That's why I'm on the SRC this year."

He is also called on by staff because he is very reliable.

"When the music teacher was leaving he trained me in sound so I would take over, because he knew I would do it.

"I run the sound for school assemblies, presentations and variety nights at the MPC (multi-purpose centre)."

Chris also helps out with the



**Chatham High School's Chris Diessel with his award. He has been nominated for the Regional Director's Excellence in Student Achievement award.**

school's breakfast program most morning.

This includes cooking toasted cheese sandwiches for students who can't get breakfast at home.

His best subjects are hospitality, biology, chemistry, English and maths.

He's keeping his options open about what university degree he would like to pursue but is considering chemical engineering, psychology or science and business.

Chris is one of three young people in the region to receive the regional director's award. The other two are from the Great Lakes.

## An excellent record

CHRISTOPHER Diessel's impressive CV reads:

- 1st in chemistry and hospitality, 2nd in English (advanced), advanced maths and extension 1 maths, 3rd in biology.
- Chris has also:
  - won an award for Student of the Decade in June 2012
  - helped create and maintain the careers website for Chatham High
  - Year 1.1 SRC representative
  - helps organise school musical events and repairs and maintains equipment
  - is an elite career support leader ie: trains the leaders
  - assisted students and organisers in the Newcastle University Challenge.
  - head ambassador in the Careers Expo Ambassador Program
  - profile developer for the Chatham High hall of fame website
  - key helper and organiser in breakfast club for disadvantaged students
  - is the school technician for assemblies and special events
  - a school debater.