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| **The TJ Ryan Memorial Medal and Scholarships** | |
| *Student* 1: | What does it mean to be excellent? |
| *Student* 2: | Well, I guess it means giving an outstanding performance… |
| *Student* 3: | Bringing you’re A game; |
| *Student* 4: | Never giving up; |
| *Student* 5: | Bringing others along with you; |
| *Student* 6: | The TJ Ryan Memorial Medals and Scholarships are awarded to students who have achieved academic excellence in their year 12 studies… |
| *Student* 4: | And who have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities within the school and the broader community. |
| *Student* 6: | The award’s namesake, Thomas Joseph Ryan, was the embodiment of excellence. |
| *Student* 2: | Born the son of an illiterate farm labourer, TJ Ryan’s keen interest in politics was born as he read the newspaper to his father. |
| *Student* 5: | But it was the recognition of his potential by a teacher at his local primary school that opened the door of opportunity… |
| *Student* 6: | and TJ Ryan walked on through. |
| *Student* 4: | You see, he received a scholarship that allowed him to go to high school. Education unlocked careers in teaching, law and eventually politics… |
| *Student* 6: | He represented the state in various courts, was elected to state parliament and was Queensland's Premier from 1915 until 1919. |
| *Student* 4: | An innovative law-maker we can thank him for leaps including… |
| *Student* 3: | a worker’s compensation scheme… |
| *Student* 5: | a system for resolving workplace disputes… |
| *Student* 2: | and the birth of the public trustee. |
| *Student* 1: | TJ Ryan wasn’t just a legend in Queensland. He entered Federal parliament in 1919 and by 1920 was Deputy Leader. |
| *Student* 3: | But Australia lost a leading light when, in 1921, TJ Ryan succumbed to pneumonia whilst on a campaign tour. |
| *Student* 4: | As you’d imagine, he was remembered for his leadership and extraordinary accomplishments. |
| *Student* 5: | But he was also remembered for his humility |
| *Student* 2: | and his ability to connect with people from all walks of life. |
| *Student* 4: | A 3 metre bronze statue of TJ Ryan was erected. |
| *Student* 6: | It stands today in Brisbane’s Queen Park. |
| *Student* 1: | The inscription reads |
| *Student* 5: | ‘scholar, |
| *Student* 6: | jurist, |
| *Student* 1: | statesman’. |
| *Student* 3: | Like TJ Ryan, |
| *Student* 5: | these exceptional students have not reached for academic excellence simply to get an award. |
| *Student* 4: | We acknowledge the honour they bring to themselves, |
| *Student* 1: | their families, their teachers |
| *Student* 3: | and their schools. |
| *Student* 6: | The awards date back to 1927 and a long-standing tradition of recognising educational excellence in Queensland. |
| *Student* 1: | They are now presented to Queensland students who, in their final school years… |
| *Student* 3: | demonstrate academic excellence… |
| *Student* 4 | and outstanding leadership in their school and local communities. |
| *Student* 5: | The TJ Ryan Memorial Medal and Scholarship is a big deal. |
| *Student* 1: | Just being nominated is a great honour. |
| *Student* 4: | To be a recipient is something to be extremely proud of. |
| *Student* 6: | So, a final word to our nominees: |
| *Student* 1: | In the spirit of TJ Ryan, enjoy your success, share it humbly with your supporters and walk through the next door of opportunity. |