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Chelsea Aminde spent four years working for the Duke of Edinburgh gold award.

# Hard work gets top gong

A COBURG girl has spent the past four years as a volunteer barista, saxophonist and bushwalker to earn one of the world's leading achievement gongs.

Chelsea Aminde received her gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award this month in recognition of hundreds of hours of community work and self-development activities.

"I taught myself the saxophone and then got lessons. I trained to do an open-water race," Chelsea said.

"I volunteered as a barista and helped with fundraisers

(for a local football club). They acquired a coffee machine, but no one could use it, so I said I would help out.

"A lot of revenue for the club has come from that. I would be on my feet all day, busting out coffee and hot chocolates on cold days."

The Santa Maria College Year 12 student received her award at a gala dinner at Melbourne Town Hall on Saturday, December 6.

She said completing the award made her realise she wanted to make a career out of helping people.

"I just had such good fun

connecting with my community and people around me, it was one of the highlights for me," Chelsea said.

The award, established in 1963, has bronze, silver and gold levels of achievement.

The gold requires completion of skills, community service, physical recreation, adventurous journey and recreational project categories.

Eighty young people this month received the gold award, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

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