Tori's HSC award speaks for itself

By TRACEY PRISK

NSW Premier's Award winner Tori Cook says despite "immersing" herself in the French language in the lead-up to this year's Higher School Certificate (HSC), she was still surprised to learn she scored the state's highest mark in the extension French course.

"I hoped I'd do well, but I really didn't expect anything like this," she said.

The Kinross Wolariol School student, who was dux of the school this year, was presented with her award at a ceremony in Sydney yesterday.

Tori attended the event with her father Sam Cook, who was thrilled by her win and unable to contain himself.

"He spilled the beans and sent an email to my French teacher," she said.

Tori said a five-month cultural exchange to Brittany, France, in year 10 proved great for refining her French as did conversing in French as often as possible.

"My French teacher Bev West was my mentor and helped me so much," she said.

Despite the accolade Tori does not plan to turn her French language skills into a career and instead plans to work in arts, science research or academia.

"I see French as just an extra skill I have," she said.