CAMBEWARRA showjumper Jamie Priestley is quickly becoming a household name.

The 16-year-old was named the Junior Sports Award Winner at Nowra Showground on Australia Day.

Priestley began riding from a young age, competing at royal show level at six and shortly after represented NSW as a member of the Junior Talent Squadron with Equestrian Australia.

Priestley became a keen show jumper at 14 and has since represented Australia on several occasions.

Her biggest achievement was at the international showjumping event in the Netherlands, where she placed second.

Riding a four-year-old grey horse, Priestley had never met before, she took the silver in the open age group, 90cm to a metre indoor showjumping competition in Prins Willem Alexander Manège, Asten against 40 other riders from around the world.

Nominated by Bernie Regan Sporting Trust, Priestley said she was shocked to receive the award because she felt the other nominees had accomplished so much.

"I wasn’t expecting it at all,” she said.

“I think [Bernie Regan Sporting Trust] helped me a lot with my sport in giving me opportunities to further my sporting career, funding a lot of my travel to competitions.

“Receiving this award is definitely going to keep me going.

"It means a lot to me and it will push me to keep going where I'm going because now I can see that I'm being noticed.”

Miss Priestley offered some advice to any other young sport stars slogging their way through the day-to-day stuff to get on top.

"I say, when you are having a rough day, try not to think about it too much,” she said.

"Keep practising because it pays off and the taste of success pushes you even harder.

"That’s what I think of when I’m going through a rough spot and the taste of success pushes you even harder.”

Miss Priestley is now gearing up for the Berry and Nowra shows and hopes to continue doing well with her horses.

Meanwhile, Kyah Gray won the open Australia Day sports award.

Gray captained the NSW under 18 indoor hockey team to a gold medal at last year’s Australian championships.

Gray, in the last 12 months, represented the NSW open women’s indoor hockey team at the national titles where she won a silver medal as well as being a member of the NSW under 21 field hockey team which also received a silver medal at the national titles.

Gray is also a member of the NSW (Open Women’s) Arrows AHL Field Hockey team that won bronze at the national titles.

Congratulations to both winners.

GOOD SPORT: Jamie Priestley with her sport award she won on Australia Day.