

New South Wales' Top Talker Wins National Title of 2008 Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award

Congratulations to James Stancliffe from Trinity College, Sydney, who has taken out this year's Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award (LJPSA). In second place speaking on World War nurses 'The Roses of No Man's Land' was Catelyn Richards of Scottsdale High School, Tasmania, and third place speaking on 'Caring & Comradeship' was Jennifer Inverarity from Immanuel College, South Australia.



Ten competitors from across Australia journeyed to Sydney for the chance to claim the National trophy and to represent their state at the event held at the Australian National Maritime Museum on Monday 10 November. On Saturday evening Sydney Legacy was pleased to host students and their parents to a welcome dinner on Sydney Harbour, as well as a weekend of excursions to Sydney's iconic sites. For many it was their first opportunity to see some of Sydney's delights.

Speaking on 'A New School for Camden', fifteen year old and one-time Camden resident, James spoke about his shock over the recent upheaval in response to plans for an Islamic school in the region. 'Camden is a special place for me having grown up there. What I hoped to encourage

through my speech was for people to broaden their views by seeking multicultural experiences and then form their own opinions, rather than follow the mainstream.'

'Legacy has been great about putting on this event which is a chance for our generation to speak out and be heard. Best of all, I've really enjoyed meeting new friends from across Australia. We were able to support each other to calm our nerves and expectations. Getting to know the competitors made the competition all the more personal and enjoyable to share.'

Runner-up Jennifer Inverarity said she was delighted all her hard work in English and debating had paid off and joined with the other competitors in expressing their appreciation for the adjudicators. 'The adjudicators' comments have really helped me grow personally. For all of us here it's great to have Legacy support an academic competition rather than just all-time popular sport.'

The adjudicators were looking for speeches which exhibited a good use of language, organisation and research, as well as intonation, articulation and pace. One of three adjudicators Ivan Ah Sam, finalist of the Plain English Speaking Award and coach of the NSW Debating Team said that the adjudicators were unanimous in their decision of James for first place.

'James showed another side of an issue which was prevalent in the news. He was also able to tie in his personal experience which made for a well structured, clear and serious speech. Legacy has done a great job with this event, especially in that it gets kids thinking about service and the values for which Legacy stands.'

All competitors delivered a 5 minute prepared speech and a 2 minute impromptu speech on the topic 'A Change We Can Believe In'. The adjudicators praised the high standard of public speaking of all competitors and noted that James in particular was the most consistent in both sections of

the competition, as he demonstrated an ability to weave history into his topics as well as tell a story.

The opinions expressed by this year's selection of 13 and 14 year-old competitors clearly illustrated that they are switched on to the world around them and concerned to find proactive solutions to some of today's biggest social issues. The optimism and quality of this year's young speakers had many remarking that they felt assured Australia's future was in good hands.

James' win now sees the perpetual trophy pass from Queensland to New South Wales, with the winners also respectively pocketing a \$500, \$200 and \$100 prize for their hard earned efforts.

To take part or enquire about the 2009 LJPSA please contact your local Legacy Club for competition dates and enrolments.