

Wellington Speaking Union

Debating in Wellington

<http://www.wsu.co.nz>

Christopher Bishop
18/125 Thorndon Quay
Thorndon
WELLINGTON 6012

February 2009

Debating Convenors
Secondary Schools
Wellington / Porirua / Kapiti Coast / Hutt Valley

Dear Debating Convenor

I am pleased to invite your school to participate in the Wellington Speaking Union intercollegiate debating competition in 2009.

As per previous years, your school may enter one team in the Senior Premier A grade, one team in the Senior Premier B grade, one team in the Junior Premier grade, two teams in the Senior Certificate grade, two teams in the Junior Certificate grade and one additional certificate team, either senior or junior. An entry form is enclosed. Please return it by **22 February** by either emailing it to entries@wsu.co.nz or posting it to:

Stephen Whittington
4 Everest St
Khandallah, Wellington.

At the end of 2008, many schools participated in an internet-based survey of intercollegiate debating. Thank you to those who filled out the survey. Some suggestions and comments have been incorporated into this year's debating programme.

2008 Champions

Congratulations to the following schools and students who won competitions last year:

- Premier A: Samuel Marsden Collegiate School
- Premier B: Chilton St James School
- Senior Certificate: Tawa College
- Junior Premier: Wellington College
- Junior Certificate: Wellington East Girls' College
- Impromptu Cup (Senior): Samuel Marsden Collegiate School
- Impromptu Cup (Junior): Wellington College
- Stockley Cup (Senior): Jacob Diggle, Wellington College
- Stockley Cup (Junior): Taase Pusa, Sacred Heart College

About the Grades

The Senior Premier A grade is designed for senior students who are experienced debaters with well established skills. Typically, students will who have debated in either the Premier B or Senior Certificate grade before entering Premier A. The Senior Premier B grade is appropriate for students with some debating experience and skill.

The Junior Premier grade is for students in years nine and ten who have some debating experience. Certificate grades are for beginners (junior) or for students wishing to gain experience before debating at the premier level (senior). Entry to the junior grades, both premier and certificate, is restricted to students in years nine and ten. Senior grades are open to secondary school students of all ages.

Grade Convenors

The convenors of each grade (and their email addresses) are as follows:

- Premier A: Stephen Whittington (whittington.stephen@gmail.com)
- Premier B: Sebastian Templeton (sebtempleton@gmail.com)
- Senior Certificate: Jane Dewar (jdewar@hibs.school.nz)
- Junior Premier: Kathy Ryan (kryan@stcatherinescollege.school.nz)
- Junior Certificate: David Dewar (djdewar@gmail.com)

Grade Organisation

The Senior Certificate, Junior Premier, and Junior Certificate grades have a dedicated day on which the debating for that round must take place (see the attached calendar). Teams must be ready to debate on that particular day listed in the calendar, but the time of the debate, the venue, and an adjudicator must be arranged by schools. A team that cannot debate on the day listed in the calendar defaults that debate. Each grade convenor has the ability to waive this rule in exceptional circumstances only.

For the Senior Premier A and B grades, all debates happen contemporaneously at the same venue, with adjudicators arranged by the grade convenor. Premier A and B debating nights are held on alternating Tuesday nights throughout the year (see the attached calendar).

The Senior Certificate grade, as in previous years, has been divided into two pools: Northern/Valley, and Wellington. Schools debate other schools within their pool for the preliminary rounds.

The Junior Certificate grade is divided into three pools: Northern, Valley, and Wellington. Schools debate other schools within their pool for the preliminary rounds.

A table summarising grade organisation is on the next page.

Grade	Day	Venue	Time	Adjudicator/s
Junior Cert (three pools)	Wednesday	Arranged between teams	Arranged between teams	Arranged between teams
Junior Premier	Wednesday	Arranged between teams	Arranged between teams	Arranged between teams
Senior Cert (two pools)	Thursday	Arranged between teams	Arranged between teams	Arranged between teams
Senior Prem B	Tuesday	Arranged by convenor	7pm	Arranged by convenor
Senior Prem A	Tuesday	Arranged by convenor	7pm	Arranged by convenor

The rounds

In 2009 there will be five rounds of debating in the Junior Certificate, Junior Premier, and Premier A and B grades. Senior Certificate will remain at four rounds.

Successful teams who make the knock-out rounds then debate in quarter, semi and final rounds. Grade convenors will notify successful teams at the completion of round five. Teams who do not make the knock-out rounds are encouraged to attend the Grand Final to see the two best teams in the grade.

Entry fees

Premier A and B teams cost \$30.00 per team, per grade. All other teams cost \$15.00 per team, per grade. Winning speakers (and runners-up) will receive individual trophies and book vouchers.

Adjudicators

Adjudicators are essential to the running of intercollegiate debating. Please supply the contact details of at least four appropriate adjudicators.

Please encourage experienced senior student debaters to act as adjudicators for junior grades. They are vital to the continued vitality of the junior grades, and adjudicating is a great way to improve as a debater.

An intensive training seminar for adjudicators will take place in early March at Turnbull House in Wellington. Please encourage all students and teachers at your school who will be adjudicating this year to attend the seminar. A separate seminar a week later will deal with coaching school debating teams. Please encourage your coaches to attend this seminar, particularly those new to debating or coaching debating teams.

Sending in results

A new method for the collection and collation of results will operate this year. After each debate in the Senior Certificate, Junior Premier, and Junior Certificate grades, the winning school needs to email results@wsu.co.nz with the round number, which schools the debate was between, who won the debate, and who the adjudicator was. The hard-copy of the marksheet then needs to be posted to the grade convenor, or alternatively, a scanned copy can be sent to results@wsu.co.nz.

Please note this method replaces the requirement for teams in Junior Certificate to fill out the results sheet after round four.

Website

The Wellington Speaking Union website is www.wsu.co.nz. This letter, the WSU calendar, draws for all grades, letters from grade convenors, the WSU marksheet, sheets about limited preparation debating, points of information, and other information, will all be posted for download on the website in the next few days.

Results for each grade will be posted on the website after each round is completed. Please encourage coaches and students to use the website to see how other schools are doing.

Defaulting

A default is possible in emergency situations. The defaulting school must contact their opposition and grade convenor as early as possible. A letter should follow listing the reasons for the default. Defaulting seriously disrupts the debating schedule and may contribute to disappointment and disillusionment on the part of new debaters. Therefore, school convenors are asked to carefully consider their entries. A reliable coach and additional "reserve" debaters for each team generally help to keep teams in the competition.

Please note that the WSU will not hesitate to decline entries in the future from schools which regularly default.

Impromptu and Stockley Cup competitions

The Impromptu Cup debating competition for senior and junior students will be held on Sunday 2 August. The Stockley Cup speech competition will be held on Monday 24 August (with preliminaries on Monday 3 August if needed).

Entering teams

Please complete the entry form enclosed before the closing date of Friday 20 February. You can also download the entry form from the WSU website: www.wsu.co.nz.

Send the entry form to either entries@wsu.co.nz or to:

Stephen Whittington
4 Everest St
Khandallah, Wellington.

You will be sent an invoice for the fees later.

On Monday 2 March you will be emailed a finalised calendar of events (draft copy only enclosed), letters from grade convenors for coaches (including their contact details), draws and topics, and a spreadsheet containing the contact details for every team in every grade, convenors at each school, and a list of adjudicators. This information will be sent electronically to the convenor of debating at each school. Draws and letters will also be sent electronically to every team coach. The topics for round one are enclosed.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any enquiries.

Thank you for your interest and effort.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Bishop
President, Wellington Speaking Union
Intercollegiate Convenor 2009

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president@wsu.co.nz