



2024 Junior State Debating Championships

The Women's College,
University of Sydney

Monday 2 to Wednesday 4
December 2024

Past champions		
Year	Neil Gunther Shield	Lily Gunther Shield
1981	Western Sydney	Not awarded
1982	Riverina	Not awarded
1983	Western Sydney	Not awarded
1984	Western Sydney	Lisa Cooper (WS)
1985	Sydney	Danny Sekel (S)
1986	South Western Sydney	Stephen Gurney (W)
1987	Northern Sydney	Nikki Bambrick (NS)
1988	Western Sydney	Katherine Fagan (WS)
1989	Northern Sydney	Sinead Campbell (SWS)
1990	New England	Donna Thibault (NE)
1991	Western NSW	Fiona Woodburn (SWS)
1992	Western Sydney	Shona Mairi Dawes (S)
1993	Western NSW	Joel Franks (W)
1994	Northern Sydney	David Eden (NS)
1995	Illawarra & South East	Stephen Simpson (ISE)
1996	Western NSW	David Smith (S)
1997	Sydney	Andrew Charlier (NE)
1998	Sydney	Oscar McLaren (S)
1999	Sydney	Michael Long (S)
2000	Western Sydney	Amy Knox (WS)
2001	South Western Sydney	Jacqueline Furtado (SWS)
2002	Sydney	Julia Bowes (S)
2003	Northern Sydney	Anya Poukchanski (NS)
2004	Western Sydney	Melissa Brooks (WS)
2005	Sydney	Michael Coutts (S)
2006	Northern Sydney	Dominic Bowes (S)
2007	Sydney	Justin McMahon (NS)
2008	Hunter/Central Coast	Alexander Wynn (HCC)
2009	North Coast	Caitlin Gordon-King (NC)
2010	Northern Sydney	Amelia Loughland (NS)
2011	Illawarra & South East	Natalie Buckettt (WS)
2012	Riverina	Marcus McCulloch (S)
2013	North Coast	Brendan Ma (WS)
2014	Sydney	Madeleine Bosler (NS)
2015	Sydney	Indigo Crossweller (S)
2016	Sydney	Brianna Hefren (R)
2017	Western Sydney	Charlie Yang (WS)
2018	Sydney	Luca Charlier (S)
2019	Sydney	Alex Garman (S)
2022	Western Sydney	Nara Gong (WS)
2023	Sydney	Salam Khalil (S)



Introduction

This competition began in 1981 as the “Neil Gunther Inter-Regional Debating Competition” involving Year 10 students from across the state. The Lily Gunther Shield was introduced in 1984 to recognise the tournament’s best speaker. In 1991 it was decided to incorporate the competition into a camp to enable a change in focus on developing skills in effective communication, while also concentrating on enhancing teamwork.

In this package you will find details of organisation, information on the camp, the rules of the competition and forms for completion. Please contact your regional coordinator at any time to discuss details of the championships.

Each regional coordinator is responsible for:

- Their team’s travel arrangements. Some funds are available to assist regional areas with transport costs. Please contact the Speaking Competitions Officer about this assistance.
- Ensuring that the parent/caregiver of each team member completes the student permission form which makes up the final 2 pages of this package. These forms should be scanned and emailed to Tony Davey, the 2024 chief adjudicator, as soon as possible (contact details below).
- Completing risk assessments for travel to and from the championships.
- If applicable, preparing a parent/caregiver permission to cover permission to travel to and from the camp as per each team’s arrangements.

The Arts Unit will provide:

- Three relief days for each regional coordinator
- Part of the accommodation costs
- Fees and accommodation expenses for adjudicators
- Palm cards, pens and paper etc for use in all debates
- Completed risk assessments for the venue and accommodation

Camp fees

The cost for the camp is \$350.00 TBC (GST-free) per participating student. This covers accommodation, meals, trophies, and certificates. Each student should make this payment to their own school. The department will then charge each school after the championships using the intercompany journal process.

Relief for the accompanying teacher

Relief will be paid to each coordinator’s school via the intercompany journal process. Please let the office at your school know to look out for a payment of \$1,599 TBC (GST-free, includes oncosts) with the description ‘Debating relief x 3 days 2 to 4 Dec 24.’

Look forward to seeing you there!

Justine Clarke
Speaking Competitions Officer
T: 8512 1172
M: 0418 412 218
E: justine.clarke@det.nsw.edu.au

Tony Davey
2024 Chief Adjudicator
Locked Bag 1500, PETERSHAM 2049
M: 0405 181 178
E: anthony.r.davey@det.nsw.edu.au



Camp organisation

Registration

Please fill out the 'Team registration form' included in this package and email it to The Arts Unit as soon as possible so that we can begin work on room allocation. Ensure that all names are correctly spelt and printed, as this form will be used to print the certificates which will be presented at the end of the championships. Please send the form as soon as you have the names of your team, and then resend as soon as you have the necessary dietary and health information.

Student accommodation

Students will be allocated to either single or twin rooms. Every effort will be made to ensure that team members are able to room with each other, but male and female students will be accommodated in nearby but separate parts of the college. Separate bathrooms will be allocated to students.

Teacher accommodation

Teachers will be accommodated in rooms at the end of the student sections. Separate bathrooms will be allocated to teachers.

Recreation time

Recreation time will be supervised by the regional coordinators. The organisers will brief the coordinators before the tournament as to recreational options for the camp.

Travel

Teams are responsible for their own travel to the championships. The Women's College is located within the grounds of the university, with an entrance on Carillon Ave, Newtown. Parking will be available at the college.

Meals

All meals will be taken together in the dining room. The first meal will be lunch on Monday, and the last will be morning tea on Wednesday. Each day will include a morning and afternoon tea and a supper along with regular meals. If any member of your team or any adult has special dietary requirements, please contact The Arts Unit as soon as you're aware and then include that information on the registration form.

Health requirements

Please notify The Arts Unit immediately if any member of your team has special health needs like severe allergies that will need to be managed. Note that a risk assessment for the camp will be sent to the regional coordinator.

2024 JSDC state final

Don't forget that parents, families and friends are welcome to come to the JSDC final on Wednesday at 10.00am. The final will be recorded for use as a teaching aid in schools, and a video of the final will also be posted online for the public to view and download.



Rules of the championships

- Competitors must be from Year 9 or Year 10 and attending a NSW government school. Only one student may be selected per school and each student may compete at state level only once.
- It is expected that team members will be students who have debated in the Premier's Debating Challenge for Years 9 and 10 this year.
- The regional representative squad can consist of up to 5 members.
- In each debate there will be only 4 members per team of which only 3 will speak. Only the 4 participating members will be allowed into preparation.
- All teams are required to be present at the designated meeting place 10 minutes prior to scheduled preparation time.
- Debating teams are to be attired in a team uniform.
- For every debate there will be a choice of 3 topics. Topics will be set by the chief adjudicator in consultation with the adjudicators. All teams will choose from the same list of 3 topics in each round.
- During topics selection, only the 4 team members involved in the debate will be involved in the ranking of the topics from 1 to 3.
- Both 3rd choices will be eliminated, and the highest-rated topic chosen. Where two remaining topics are equally popular, a coin toss shall decide between them.
- The toss of a coin will determine affirmative/negative. The winner of the toss is the affirmative.
- For each round there will be a period of 60 minutes for preparation. There will be no adult present in the room during this time.
- The only materials allowed in preparation will be a timer, blank palm cards, paper and pens.
- Dictionaries will not be provided for preparation, and will not be allowed in the preparation rooms.
- Students may not take bags, mobile phones, or preparation aids into preparation.
- Teams will prepare in the same preparation room on any given day.
- Each regional coordinator will supervise the opposition team during preparation. They are responsible for ensuring the team remains undisturbed and for escorting the team to the debate once the 60 minutes has passed.
- Each speaker has 8 minutes to speak. There will be a warning bell at 6 minutes with two bells at 8 minutes. There will be a continuous bell if a speaker exceeds the speaking time by more than 1 minute.
- Each team will debate 5 times in the round-robin section.
- An adjudicator appointed by The Arts Unit will adjudicate all debates. Their decision will be final.
- The teams will be placed into two pools of 5, and will debate the other 4 teams in their pool plus one team from the other pool. The two highest-ranked teams from each pool will proceed to the semi-finals, where the winner from one pool will face the runner-up from the other pool.
- In the event that teams draw for semi-final spots, tiebreakers will be applied in the following order: head-to-head, strength of win, strength of schedule, adjudicator ranking. If more than two teams are drawn, the tiebreakers are applied in order until one team is eliminated and the process is restarted.
- The winners of the semi-finals will proceed to the state final on Wednesday. All teams are expected to attend the state final.



Program for the championships

Preparation rooms for Monday debates		
Hunter/Central Coast:	Room TBC	North Coast: Room TBC
Illawarra & South East:	Room TBC	New England: Room TBC
Northern Sydney:	Room TBC	Riverina: Room TBC
South Western Sydney:	Room TBC	Sydney: Room TBC
Western Sydney:	Room TBC	Western NSW: Room TBC
Day 1 – Monday 2 December 2024		
11:00 AM	Arrival and registration	Menzies
12:30 PM	Lunch	Dining hall
1:15 PM	Team training session	Menzies
2:30 PM	Afternoon tea	Courtyard
2:50 PM	Teams gather for topic selection	Courtyard
3:00 PM	Round 1 preparation	
4:00 PM	Round 1 debates – topic area TBC	Debate room
	1. Northern Sydney v Hunter/Central Coast	Room TBC
	2. Western Sydney v North Coast	Room TBC
	3. Sydney v Illawarra & South East	Room TBC
	4. New England v Western NSW	Room TBC
	5. South Western Sydney v Riverina	Room TBC
6:00 PM	Dinner	Dining hall
6:50 PM	Teams gather for topic selection	Courtyard
7:00 PM	Round 2 preparation	
8:00 PM	Round 2 debates – topic area TBC	Debate room
	1. North Coast v Riverina	Room TBC
	2. Northern Sydney v Western Sydney	Room TBC
	3. Illawarra & South East v Western NSW	Room TBC
	4. Hunter/Central Coast v New England	Room TBC
	5. Sydney v South Western Sydney	Room TBC
9:15 PM	Supper	Courtyard
Preparation rooms for Tuesday debates		
Hunter/Central Coast:	Room TBC	North Coast: Room TBC
Illawarra & South East:	Room TBC	New England: Room TBC
Northern Sydney:	Room TBC	Riverina: Room TBC
South Western Sydney:	Room TBC	Sydney: Room TBC
Western Sydney:	Room TBC	Western NSW: Room TBC
Day 2 – Tuesday 3 December 2024		
7:00 AM	Breakfast	Dining hall
8:00 AM	Teams gather for topic selection	Courtyard
8:10 AM	Round 3 preparation	
9:10 AM	Round 3 debates – topic area TBC	Debate room
	1. Sydney v Riverina	Room TBC
	2. Hunter/Central Coast v Illawarra & South East	Room TBC
	3. South Western Sydney v Western NSW	Room TBC
	4. Northern Sydney v North Coast	Room TBC
	5. Western Sydney v New England	Room TBC



Program for the championships continued

Preparation rooms for Tuesday debates		
Hunter/Central Coast:	Room TBC	North Coast: Room TBC
Illawarra & South East:	Room TBC	New England: Room TBC
Northern Sydney:	Room TBC	Riverina: Room TBC
South Western Sydney:	Room TBC	Sydney: Room TBC
Western Sydney:	Room TBC	Western NSW: Room TBC
Day 2 continued – Tuesday 3 December 2024		
10:30 AM	Morning tea	Courtyard
10:50 AM	Teams gather for topic selection	Courtyard
11:00 AM	Round 4 Preparation	
12:00 PM	Round 4 debates – topic area TBC	Debate room
	1. Sydney v Western NSW	Room TBC
	2. Illawarra & South East v Riverina	Room TBC
	3. Western Sydney v South Western Sydney	Room TBC
	4. Northern Sydney v New England	Room TBC
	5. Hunter/Central Coast v North Coast	Room TBC
1:00 PM	Lunch	Dining hall
2:00 PM	Teams gather for topic selection	Courtyard
2:10 PM	Round 5 preparation	
3:10 PM	Round 5 debates – topic area TBC	Debate room
	1. Northern Sydney v Sydney	Room TBC
	2. Riverina v Western NSW	Room TBC
	3. Western Sydney v Hunter/Central Coast	Room TBC
	4. South Western Sydney v Illawarra & South East	Room TBC
	5. North Coast v New England	Room TBC
4:20 PM	Announcement of semi-finals and afternoon tea	Courtyard
4:30 PM	Free time	
6:00 PM	Dinner	Dining hall
6:50 PM	Semi-finalists gather for topic selection	Courtyard
7:00 PM	Semi-finals preparation, free time	
8:00 PM	Semi-final debates	Debate room
	1st North first (TBC) v 2nd South (TBC)	Menzies
	1st South first (TBC) v 2nd North (TBC)	Main
9:15 PM	Supper	Courtyard
Day 3 – Wednesday 4 December 2024		
7:00 AM	Breakfast, finalists to pack and check out	Dining hall
8:50 AM	Finalists gather for topic selection	Courtyard
9:00 AM	State final preparation, other to pack and check out	
10:00 AM	State final debate	Debate room
	Win SF1 (TBC) v Win SF2 (TBC)	Menzies
11:15 AM	Morning tea and farewell	Courtyard



Team registration form

Coordinator:

Region:

Mobile:

Dietary / Health Needs:

1	Student's Name:	School:
	Dietary / Health Needs:	M / F:
2	Student's Name:	School:
	Dietary / Health Needs:	M / F:
3	Student's Name:	School:
	Dietary / Health Needs:	M / F:
4	Student's Name:	School:
	Dietary / Health Needs:	M / F:
5	Student's Name:	School:
	Dietary / Health Needs:	M / F:

Email to: anthony.r.davey@det.nsw.edu.au



Student permission note page 1 of 2

Privacy advice

The personal information provided on this consent form will be used by the NSW Department of Education for general administration and communication and other matters of welfare relating to your child at this excursion. While the provision of this information is voluntary, it is strongly recommended that all details are completed. Failure to do so may impede the resolution of welfare issues if you are not able to be contacted. This information will be stored securely. You may access or correct any of the details at any time by contacting the teacher in charge of your representative team.

Permission

I give permission for my child/ward to attend the 2024 Junior State Debating Championships at the Women’s College, University of Sydney, from Monday 2 to Wednesday 4 December 2024.

Student’s Name:

Student’s School:

I understand that:

- transport to and from the venue will be my responsibility in coordination with representative team’s responsible coach.
- during free time the debaters will have supervised access to recreational activities at the University of Sydney.
- it is my responsibility to provide sunscreen and a hat for my child and to ensure my child understands they need to reapply the sunscreen throughout the day.
- some children at the tournament may have a severe reaction to contact with nuts and I will avoid sending nuts or nut bi-products with my child.
- should my child’s team make the state final, their debate may be broadcast live, and that the debate will be recorded and made available publicly online with subtitles identifying my child.

- I acknowledge that this event is required to be held in accordance with any current NSW Health COVID-19 Public Health Orders and the NSW Department of Education’s policies and procedures.
- I acknowledge and accept that there is a risk that my child may be exposed to COVID-19 whilst attending and participating.
- I confirm that my child will not attend if displaying any symptoms of illness, and/or if directed to isolate under public health orders.
- I understand that my child will complete a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) prior to leaving home on the morning before the start of the program and not attend the event if the test result is positive.
- I understand that I will be required to collect my child from the venue immediately if they become ill and present with COVID-like symptoms.

Parent/caregiver contact details

Name:	Signature:
Address:	
Mobile:	Email:
Home phone:	Work phone:



Student permission note page 2 of 2

Doctor contact details	
Name:	
Address:	Phone:
Emergency contacts (other than the previous parent/caregiver details)	
Name (1):	Phone:
Name (2):	Phone:
List existing medical conditions or illnesses (include asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, allergies etc.). Outline the treatment for each.	
Outline special dietary needs and possible reaction to inappropriate diet.	
List any medication to be administered during the camp. Include name of medication, instructions for administration, and any possible reactions	
Student publication consent	
<p>I hereby consent to my son/daughter/ward being photographed, recorded, and/or filmed at the Junior State Debating Championships from Monday 2 to Wednesday 4 December 2024. I understand that the photographs, recordings and/or films may be used for NSW Department of Education publications, external publications, internet sites, social media, print and electronic mainstream media, television and or other associated promotional material or by sponsors of the departmental program in which the photograph, recording and/or film was taken. I understand that my son/daughter/ward may be identified by name and school with their image on any of these media forms.</p>	
Signature:	Date: